FRONTIERS OF CRIMINOLOGY

EUROCRIM 2026

EUROCRIM2026

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

13.09.2026

Final version

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER, 9

001. Pre-conference meetings

WG Meetings
Pre-Conference Meeting
9:00 to 5:00 pm
Other Venues - see description: Faculty of Applied Languages (55 Dobra Street) - See description for the room each meeting

European Society of Criminology Working Group on Policing: Technologies in Policing: Policy, Practice and Research Room 0.410 (Aula) Time 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Organized Crime and Criminal Networks: Peter Reuter's contribution to the study of organized crime, money laundering, drug markets, and policy Room 1.120 Time 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. The European Working Group on Radicalization, Extremism, and Terrorism (WG-EXTREME): The Evolving Landscape of Extremism in Europe: Actors, Manifestations, and Responses Criminological and Empirical-Legal Perspectives Room 2.014 Time 02:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. International Self-Report Delinquency (ISRD): Network ISRD Network Meeting (open to all members, 13:30–16:00) and SC Meeting (9:00–12:30) Room 1.158 Time 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Community Sanctions and Measures Working Group - annual meeting Room 1.510 Time 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Narrative Criminology Working Group: Theorizing in Narrative Criminology Room 1.162 Time 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. European Network for Open Criminology (ENOC): ENOC's General Assembly & CRIMLabs: Collaborative Replication Initiative for Many-Labs Evidence in Criminology Room 2.164 Time 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. EUROC: EUROC member Meeting - 2nd Edition of the Routledge Handbook of White-Collar and Corporate Crime Room 2.130 Time 2:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m. GREEN - Green Criminology European Working Group: Environmental Crime: from Micro-Victims to Macro-Harms Room 2.116 Time 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Gender, Crime and Justice Gender, Crime and Justice Working Group: meeting Room 1.616 Time 2:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m. ESC Working Group on Balkan Criminology: Academic Freedom, Academic Corruption and Political Boycotts Room 1.516 Time 02:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. The European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research: New Horizons for the European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research Room 1.147 Time 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Victimology Working Group: pre conference meeting of the victimology working group Room 2.136 Time 2:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m. Criminology of Mobility: Criminology of mobility at the ESC and beyond? Room 1.616 Time 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. EuroCrim Hate Research Working Group (in organisation): Inaugural meeting of EuroCrim Hate Research Working Group Room 1.172 Time 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Restorative Justice: Meeting of the ESC Working Group on Restorative Justice Room 1.168 Time 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. CIROC 25th Anniversary Meeting Room 2.118 Time 4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

002. Opening ESC Plenary Roundtable and Awards

ESC
Plenary Session
5:00 to 7:00 pm
Auditorium Maximum of the University of Warsaw: Auditorium Maximum

2026 ESC European Criminology Award — Nigel South 2026 Services to the ESC Award — Chris Eskridge 2026 ESC Early Career Award — Dr Jade Levell 2026 ESC Young Criminologist Award — David Buil-Gil 2026 ESC Book Award — Anne-Marie McAlinden, Marie Keenan and James Gallen EJC Best Article of the Year 2025 Award — Johann Koehler and Friedrich Lösel

Chair:
Michele Jane Burman, University of Glasgow

Presenters:
Dagmara Woźniakowska, University of Warsaw
Krzysztof Krajewski, Jagellonian University Krakow
Beata Gruszczynska, University of Warsaw
Anna-Maria Getoš Kalac, University of Zagreb Faculty of Law

003. Welcome Reception & Cocktail

ESC
Social Events
7:15 to 9:00 pm
Other Venues - see description: University of Warsaw Library Garden (Welcome Reception & Cocktail)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER, 10

004. Gender, Crime and Justice Working Group Panel 2: Criminal Justice responses to criminalised women

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Feminist Criminology (Gender, Crime and Justice WG)
Paper Session
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.110

Chair:
Loraine Gelsthorpe, University of Cambridge

Participants:

Participatory Research with Criminalised Women: Lessons for meaningful involvement *Tammi Walker, Durham University; Carolyn Chew-Graham, Keele University; Hannah King, Durham University; Paula Harriott, UNLOCK; Fleur Riley, Durham University*

Co-production is widely recognised as good practice in research, yet its implementation with criminalised women remains underdeveloped and often difficult in practice. Many criminalised women are themselves victims, navigating trauma, social exclusion and long standing structural disadvantage. This presentation examines co production as a situated, context dependent practice shaped by the constraints of criminal justice environments, intersecting inequalities and the enduring impacts of criminalisation. Drawing on UK based studies and reflections from two National Institute for Health and Care Research funded projects working with a Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG), we offer practical recommendations for delivering co production that is ethical, inclusive and effective. Across our case examples, we identify recurrent challenges and ethical tensions, including institutional gatekeeping, inflexible research infrastructures and risks associated with disclosure and dissemination. These risks include the possibility that participation may reinforce stigma or fix identities in ways that carry lasting implications. Our work highlights the importance of research processes that prioritise trust, safety and adaptability through iterative consent, flexible engagement formats and ongoing negotiation of authorship, anonymity and

representation. Findings emphasise the centrality of relational work and feminist ethics in enabling meaningful participation. Building trust, sharing power, supporting emotional wellbeing and recognising lived experience as expertise are essential to sustaining engagement. Practical approaches such as flexible participation methods, financial support, shared decision making and tailored capacity building strengthen inclusion and impact. We also map common barriers—including trauma, social exclusion, caring responsibilities, reduced confidence and power imbalances—onto actionable strategies for equitable involvement. We argue that without feminist ethics, intentional design and adequate resourcing, co production risks becoming tokenistic. When implemented with care, however, co production enhances research relevance, generates richer insights and supports more positive outcomes for participants.

Operationalising gender-specific and trauma-informed principles in women's prisons in Scotland: aspirations, perceptions and reality *Michele Jane Burman, University of Glasgow; Loraine Gelsthorpe, University of Cambridge; Margaret Malloch, University of Stirling; Annie Crowley, University of Glasgow /SCCJR; Mhairi Mackenzie, University of Glasgow; Lisa Mary Armstrong, University of Glasgow*

The push for broader gender-specific understandings of women's experiences and needs in the criminal justice system prompted a range of penal policy and practice developments designed to improve the approach to, and care of, women in custody in Scotland. Key principles of the Scottish Prison Service Strategy for Women 2021-2025 were that women's custodial facilities should be designed for women (that is, gender-specific) and take account of their likely experience of trauma and adversities (that is, trauma-informed). Central to this are the health and wellbeing of the women, the quality of the relationships established within custodial establishments, the skills and knowledge of staff, and the services, approaches and tools available to help to address the individual needs and risks of the women. Major reforms to the women's prison estate in Scotland led to the introduction of two Community Custody Units (CCUs), small custodial establishments located in residential areas and accommodating 16 and 24 women respectively and designed to be gender-specific and trauma-informed. Drawing on recently-completed qualitative in-prison research, this paper critically addresses the aspirations of policy-makers in relation to the CCUs, the perceptions of prison officers and delivery partners working within them and reveals the realities of life for women living in the CCUs. It attends to questions of whether and to what extent the CCUs can be considered to embody gender-sensitivity and a trauma-informed approach and whether the aims of the CCUs can ever be fully met.

Intersections and Impacts: The effects of gendered expectations, stereotypical perceptions of Autism Spectrum Condition and accumulative vulnerabilities on autistic women within the criminal justice system *Laura Naegler, University of Liverpool*

Recently, more scholarly attention has been drawn to the gendered differences in Autism Spectrum Condition, alongside the growing awareness that autistic women have been historically under-recognised and under-diagnosed. However, research remains nascent when it comes to autistic people's experiences in the criminal justice system. Drawing from qualitative interviews with UK police staff, members of autism advocacy groups and autistic people with experience in the UK criminal justice system, this paper explores how gendered differences impact on the experiences of autistic women during arrest and custody. While many autistic people who enter the criminal justice system hold vulnerabilities and face specific challenges that can negatively impact criminal justice responses and potentially induce traumatising experiences, the paper argues that attention must be paid towards how these vulnerabilities can be heightened, or embodied differently, for autistic women. Women are, due to gendered socialisation, more likely to camouflage their neurodiversity, and can display apparently 'neurotypical' behaviours not in accordance with stereotypical ideas of 'how autism looks like'. As the paper argues, this brings several risks for autistic women who enter the criminal justice system, including vulnerabilities remaining undetected in police risk assessment procedures, and (coping) behaviours and stress responses being mis-interpreted, with negative and sometimes severe consequences for the detainee.

Portuguese female prisoners profile and the inadequacy of prison sentences *Andreia de Castro Rodrigues, ISPA & WJCR; Emma de Thouars da Silva, WJCR & Ispa; Sofia Knittel, ISPA; FCUL; Ana Rita Cruz, Universidade Lusófona, HEI-Lab: Laboratórios Digitais de Ambientes e Interacções Humanas, Portugal; Loraine Gelsthorpe, University of Cambridge; Olga Cunha, University of Minho*

Following an international trend, the rate of women's incarceration in Portugal has increased more rapidly than that of men. However, the level and seriousness of criminal behavior among women have not risen substantially, raising questions about the factors underlying this growth. At the same time, the pains of imprisonment appear to be particularly severe for women, especially in relation to prior traumatic experiences, motherhood and its impact on children, and the disruption of family bonds (Gelsthorpe & Russell, 2008). Although the deterrent effects of imprisonment have long been questioned, and its potential criminogenic effects have been suggested for many individuals, gender-specific knowledge remains essential to better understand the different contexts. Drawing on a sample representing 51% of the Portuguese female prison population, this study examines the profile of incarcerated women in Portugal, focusing on sociodemographic characteristics, particularly family and parental circumstances, as well as criminal and judicial patterns. The findings are discussed in light of the potential (in)adequacy of current penal responses for women, considering their implications for the women themselves and for their families.

Gender and Intersectionality Matters in Remote Trial Participation: A literature review *Helena Ester Maria Andersen, Lund University*

This paper presents a literature review and critical discussion on the use of video-links in courtrooms and identifies the much-overlooked area of gender and intersectionality. There is a large and rich body of literature on the use of video-links in court, especially as a reaction to the pandemic-induced acceleration of courtroom digitalization. The contributions thus far, however, seem to focus on benefits and losses of using video-links in court, concerning procedural, organisational, and economic matters, whilst remaining on surface level regarding how people of different groups may be affected differently. Furthermore, there are some who suggest that video-link participation may have significance for how prejudice and bias play out in courtroom settings, which carries potential problems for demeanour and credibility assessments – an already problematized field. The paper narrows in on how female and queer defendants; a group containing a wide variety of demographic characteristics, face normative expectations in trials, whilst not having received much scholarly attention in the discussion on implications of video-links in court, thus far. Therefore, this paper takes the discussion one step further, by arguing that the gap of research on gender, minorities, and intersectionality among defendants participating via video-links should be filled, sooner rather than later, as demographic characteristics and prejudice are inextricably connected. The author questions the neutrality of technological advancements in courts, whilst joining a longstanding tradition of questioning the neutrality of the criminal legal system. This study is part of the ERC project "VIRTUTRIALS", wherein my doctoral research examines the impact remote participation has for female defendants in criminal trials through ethnographic methods. Points of interest here, are obfuscated practices in courtrooms that concern gender, intersectionality, and video-link participation – and not least, how these elements interrelate with demeanour assessments.

005. EHC-WG Panel 1. Interpersonal and Sexual Violence

Topic 7: Comparative and Historical Perspectives/Historical Comparisons of Crime (Historical Criminology WG)

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.120

Chair:

Miikka Vuorela, University of Eastern Finland

Participants:

Insurrection Against the Patriarchal State: Lethal Family Violence in 19th-Century Lithuania Under the Russian Empire *Sigita Černevičiūtė, Faculty of Law, University of Helsinki*

This research analyzes 19th-century lethal family violence in Lithuania as a fundamental contest over sovereign authority and imperial hegemony. By imposing the 1845 Penal Code over the traditional Third Statute of Lithuania, the Russian Empire did not merely reform the law; it reconstructed the domestic sphere as an administrative microcosm of the autocratic state. Within this framework, the male head of household—whether father, husband, or brother—functioned as a vital proxy for imperial power. Drawing on archival criminal cases from the Vilnius Governorate, this study argues that the severity of judicial responses was strictly dictated by the victim's position within the imperial-patriarchal hierarchy. It tests the hypothesis that the state's response to violence was a calculated exercise in maintaining social order: while the murder of a husband or parent was prosecuted as symbolic treason—an assault on the principle of absolute rule—the lethal discipline of wives and children was frequently minimized to safeguard the domestic authority that underpinned the imperial state.

Homicide in Latin America: A Cross Level Scoping Review *Ignacio Eduardo Cid Pozo, University of Lausanne*

: Latin America accounts for approximately one third of global homicides while representing roughly ten percent of the world's population. Despite sustained scholarly attention, empirical research on lethal violence in the region remains fragmented across disciplines, languages, analytical levels, and national contexts. This scoping review maps and synthesizes the empirical literature on homicide in Latin America published between 1990 and 2025, with the aim of clarifying dominant research themes, methodological approaches, and empirical patterns, while identifying persistent gaps that constrain cumulative knowledge. Following PRISMA-ScR guidelines, 133 empirical studies published in English, Spanish, and Portuguese were identified and analyzed. Findings were organized across three interrelated analytical levels: macro-level national factors, meso-level territorial and subnational dynamics, and micro-level individual, social, and situational factors. At the national level, the literature documents highly heterogeneous homicide trajectories and context-dependent associations with structural and institutional conditions. Subnational research converges more strongly, highlighting pronounced spatial concentration, territorial governance dynamics, and the role of illicit economies in shaping local patterns of lethal violence. At the individual level, studies consistently report stable sociodemographic patterns of victimization and offending, particularly with respect to age, sex, socioeconomic disadvantage, and marginalized social groups. Across levels, the review reveals limited empirical integration between structural, territorial, and individual perspectives, as well as persistent challenges related to data comparability, measurement, and uneven research coverage across countries. By organizing a diverse and multilingual body of research within a multilevel framework, this scoping review provides an integrated overview of the current state of knowledge on homicide in Latin America and delineates key directions for more cumulative, comparative, and methodologically integrated future research.

Some global tendencies in the criminalization of rape in XX and XXI centuries, socio legal perspective *Jarosław Utrat-Milecki, University of Warsaw*

I will discuss in brief some historical modern

tendencies in the criminalization of rape and other sexual offences in some countries from all over the world, their evolution in terms of the values which are protected, the importance of violence, threat of violence , contempt and just lack of consent in legal definition of rape and the legal and social factors related to the changes in legal provisions and social and legal practice (prosecution, police and courts), and the question of the sex of offenders and sex of victims, question of social status, special vulnerabilities of victims and their protection and the cultural and legal dimensions of those changes in criminalization and prosecution of rape crimes especially in Europe .

The Non-Existence of Rape in 19th Century Finland *Miikka Vuorela, University of Eastern Finland*

According to official criminal statistics, only 124 men were convicted of rape in Finland in 1842–1893. The prevailing view in previous Finnish legal historical scholarship has been that rapes were almost non-existent in preindustrial Finland. The view has been backed by arguments on the deterring effect of the death penalty, the strict social control of sexuality, the prevailing societal crises reducing the number of men and the low social status of maids providing ample opportunities to instigate non-violent intercourse. In my paper, I will offer an alternative explanation for the lack of rapes in Finnish courts. I thoroughly examine the control of sexuality in the Finnish criminal justice system and the problems it caused for the victims of sexual violence. I conclude that the primary reason for the scarcity of sexual violence convictions was the multitude of barriers to justice inherent in the procedural system. In addition to the lack of adequate legal safeguards for women, the prevailing social and cultural perceptions hindered the ability of victims to seek justice.

006. Is Femicide a Discursive Taboo in Europe? – criminological perspectives on european media and press narratives from Belgium, Denmark, Portugal and Poland

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence (Gender, Crime and Justice WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.128

The panel “Is Femicide a Discursive Taboo in Europe? – Criminological Perspectives on European Media and Press Narratives from Denmark, North Macedonia, Portugal and Poland” brings together four researchers to explore how media discourse across different European contexts frames killings of women in gender-related circumstances. Adopting a comparative criminological perspective, the panel investigates whether the term femicide is normalized, contested, or avoided, and how language choices shape societal interpretations of lethal gender-based violence. Positioned within European policy and human-rights frameworks addressing violence against women, including standards promoted through the Istanbul Convention, the panel highlights uneven conceptual recognition and divergent journalistic traditions. Across the four countries, reporting often reveals a tension between dramatization and normalization: emotionally charged coverage and crime sensationalism coexist with euphemistic framing, romanticized narratives of jealousy or passion, and perpetrator-focused storytelling that obscures structural inequalities and patterns of coercive control. Drawing on feminist victimology and survivor-centred (survivology) approaches, the panel critically examines representation and voice in media accounts. Victims and their families are frequently rendered invisible or reduced to passive figures, while contextual histories of violence remain underreported. At the same time, comparative insights identify emerging reporting practices that foreground lived experience, dignity, and survivor agency, reframing femicide as preventable and socially rooted rather than exceptional. By placing national media narratives within a shared European landscape, the panel seeks to outline elements of responsible reporting that can strengthen victim-centred perspectives, enhance public understanding, and contribute to prevention-oriented discourse.

Chair:

Alicja Serafin, Alicja Serafin University of Warsaw, Femicide in Poland

Participants:

Nordic Misogyny: How Femicide Is Explained in Danish News Coverage (1966-2025) *Ditte Bjerregaard, Center for Voldsforebyggelse, Femicide Watch in Denmark*

The paper examines how Danish news coverage of women killed by men produces a sense of public innocence through recurring narrative tracks, and how these tracks stand in tension with evidence-based knowledge on femicide, risk patterns, and preventability. The empirical material comprises 539 Danish news texts from 1966–2025. The analysis combines discourse-analytical close reading with semantic mapping of frequently occurring word and concept fields, as well as a randomized sample of cases spanning six decades. Two prism cases — the intimate partner killing of Britt Kaiser Palmgren and the non-intimate killing of Mia Skadhauge Stevn — function as analytical lenses to examine the significance of relational proximity in media framing. The findings show that non-intimate killings are often framed through a rapid stabilization of the victim’s innocence and grievability, enabling broad collective identification and, in some cases, political demands for safety in public space. Intimate partner killings, by contrast, are typically explained through a conflict–affect sequence, in which concepts such as “argument,” “disagreement,” and “jealousy” render women’s actions (separation, rejection, boundary-setting) interpretatively salient, while the perpetrator’s actions are psychologized or presented as exceptional. These patterns appear remarkably stable over time, even following changes in legal practice and research knowledge. The presentation argues that media coverage idealizes women’s autonomy in public space but problematizes it in the intimate sphere, thereby framing men’s violence either as an emotional breakdown or as an extreme deviation. Drawing on Kate Manne, it develops the concept of “Nordic misogyny” as an indirect enforcement logic that contributes to reproducing the Nordic paradox and ultimately renders the scope of men’s violence against women in Denmark invisible.

Naming, Framing and Accountability: Portuguese Media

Narratives on Femicide *Camila Iglesias, Centre for Advanced Studies in Law Francisco Suárez - Faculty of Law of Lusófona University; Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies of the Institute of Social and Political Sciences - University of Lisbon; Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Just; Cátia Pontedeira, University of Maia/ CIEG - Center for Gender Studies/University of Minho & UMAR*

This paper examines how femicide is named, framed, and contextualised in Portuguese media between 2018 and 2024, highlighting implications for public understanding and institutional accountability. While the broader study addressed violence against women across the EU (Contextual factors to violence against women in the EU – Gender Equality Index 2024, EIGE/2023/OPER/10), this presentation focuses specifically on femicide in Portugal. The analysis is based on a structured review of peer-reviewed and grey literature, including institutional reports, regulatory documents, and NGO publications. Sources were selected for explicit engagement with femicide or gender-based killings (2018–2024) and analysed in terms of narrative framing, terminology, victim representation, and attribution of responsibility. Findings are organised into two sections: regulatory agencies and guidelines for media reporting and research on media reporting. Results show that coverage remains largely episodic and case- driven, occasionally sensationalist, and often emphasises private motives or interpersonal conflict. Although the term "femicide" is increasingly present in public debate, its use in mainstream media remains inconsistent. During the panel discussion, Portuguese findings will be contrasted with comparable data from 19 EU Member States, highlighting common challenges and emerging promising practices. The study demonstrates that media framing shapes societal perceptions and accountability, and that strengthening structural narratives and responsible reporting is crucial to consolidating prevention efforts and reinforcing femicide as a public, rather than private, concern.

Silencing the Term, Sensationalizing the Crime: criminological analysis of media and press narratives on femicides in Poland (2016-2026) *Alicja Serafin, Alicja Serafin University of Warsaw, Femicide in Poland*

This presentation examines how Polish press and media narratives constructed and communicated femicide between 2016 and 2026, highlighting a paradox: the silencing of the term femicide alongside the sensationalization of the crime. The analysis is based on findings from the published report "Femicide in Polish Press and Media 2017–2023" and related outputs of the Femicide in Poland project. Using qualitative discourse analysis informed by criminological and feminist media theory, the study identifies a dual narrative in coverage. On one level, cases are sensationalized through dramatic detail and emotionally charged storytelling. On another, the gendered nature of the violence is obscured through neutralizing language ("family tragedy"), romanticizing tropes ("it was a mad love"), and perpetrator-centered explanations that individualize the crime ("he was such a nice guy, always saying hello to neighbours"). Inspired by Jane Monckton Smith's concept of "dangerous love" narratives, the presentation shows how media framing can romanticize lethal male violence while detaching it from patterns of coercive control and gender inequality. From the perspective of feminist victimology, such representations reproduce victim-blaming scripts, erase histories of abuse, and obscure structural power relations. At the same time, insights from survivology highlight the absence of survivor agency in media discourse: women are portrayed primarily as passive victims rather than as individuals navigating risk, resistance, and help-seeking pathways. The avoidance of the term femicide contributes to conceptual invisibility, while sensationalist framing reinforces myths of exceptional violence rather than systemic gender-based harm. The study highlights the criminological consequences of media framing and underscores the need for precise terminology, ethical reporting, survivor-centred perspectives, and gender-sensitive discourse.

007. ISRD-5: Launching the Fifth Wave of the International Self-Report Delinquency Study

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Juvenile Crime (ISRD WG)
Roundtable
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.138

The International Self-Report Delinquency Study (ISRD) is one of the world's longest-running cross-national collaborative studies of youth crime and victimisation. Since 1992, it has grown from 13 to over 50 participating countries, producing standardised comparative data on adolescent offending, victimisation, and their risk and protective factors. This roundtable marks the formal launch of ISRD-5, the study's fifth wave. The ESC Warsaw conference is identified in the ISRD-5 timeline as the primary venue for network-wide outreach: the questionnaire is being finalised for September 2026, with data collection projected to begin in 2027–2029. ISRD-5 introduces significant innovations. Theoretically, the new questionnaire integrates Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), symbolic interactionism and labelling perspectives, rational choice approaches to perceived rewards and costs of offending, and measures of hostile and benevolent sexism. The outcome module adds school bullying, criminal exploitation, and sexual harassment/violence — with parallel victimisation and offending wording. Methodological advances include vignette-based survey experiments, inverse follow-up questions (triggered by conformity rather than offending), a self-assessed future offending scale, and enhanced contextual data collection. The roundtable has a dual purpose. For existing network members, it provides a forum to discuss the Wave 5 questionnaire, collaborative infrastructure, and data collection arrangements. For researchers outside the network, it is an open invitation to learn about the study and explore participation. National and regional modules are explicitly supported, and the draft questionnaire is already available for teams seeking funding or wishing to comment. The session combines brief Steering Committee presentations with extended open discussion. Attendees are encouraged to ask about methodology, thematic scope, sampling, ethical requirements,

and the practical conditions for joining the ISRD network.

Chair:

Anna Markina, University of Tartu

Discussants:

Ineke Haen Marshall, Northeastern University

Janne Kivivuori, University of Helsinki

Zuzana Podaná, Katedra sociologie, Charles University Prague

Dirk Enzmann, University of Hamburg

008. Critical Criminology: algorithms and digitalisation

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Critical Criminology

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.141

Chair:

Anita Lavorgna, University of Bologna

Participants:

Critical Criminology Meets Impact Assessment: Repoliticising FRIA and DPIA in Algorithmic Criminal Justice *Wojciech Filipkowski, University of Bialystok*

This paper brings critical criminology into direct conversation with fundamental rights impact assessments (FRIA) under the EU Artificial Intelligence Act and data protection impact assessments (DPIA) under the GDPR in the context of policing and criminal justice. It argues that, although FRIA and DPIA are officially framed as technocratic instruments for ensuring compliance and managing risk, they should be understood as contested sites in which definitions of harm, vulnerability and security are negotiated, depoliticised and, at times, silenced. Building on critical criminology, surveillance studies and digital criminology, the paper develops a conceptual framework for a "critical impact assessment" that foregrounds power, inequality and structural violence in the design, deployment and evaluation of digital systems used by law enforcement agencies and courts. Methodologically, it draws on critical discourse analysis of selected FRIA and DPIA documents and policy guidelines relating to predictive policing, risk assessment tools and data driven policing infrastructures in Europe, examining how categories such as "risk", "data subject", "high risk AI" and "mitigation" are constructed and whose perspectives are rendered visible or invisible. The paper shows how prevailing impact assessment practices may inadvertently reproduce penal expansionism, technocratic governance and algorithmic injustice, even when they are formally aligned with EU fundamental rights standards. It concludes by outlining a set of normative principles and methodological suggestions for embedding critical criminological perspectives – including participation of affected communities and reflexive scrutiny of institutional power – into future FRIA and DPIA processes in criminal justice settings.

From Crime to Post Crime: Mapping Malpractice in the New Digital Order *Michael McGuire, University of Surrey*

The advent of digital connectivity and the compendium of tools which support this has – notoriously - created a range of new criminal opportunities which criminologists have attempted to understand. Less considered has been the way that our perceptions of what constitutes criminality itself has mutated within the new digital order. In this paper I consider a key consequence of these shifting attitudes - a greater readiness to disregard the law and its institutions. Such disregard seems to be especially evident at the level of the state and the digital elites who now exert such a crucial influence over state functions, though ambiguous attitudes towards criminality increasingly permeate every level of society. I argue that the blurrings between legality and illegality which characterise this shift can be characterised in terms of a shift from crime to 'post-crime'. I set out four indicators of a post-crime world and propose some reasons for how and why the advent of a digital society has fostered the conditions for it to emerge.

From hypered harms to hypo-care: framing the contemporary challenges of negligence and responsibility *Anita Lavorgna, University of Bologna; Janos Mark Szakolczai, University of Glasgow*

This paper offers a theoretical contribution into the study of contemporary socio-technical harms, commonly grouped under unstable labels such as cyber, online, digital, technological, and AI-related harms (hereafter, CODT harms). Despite rapid empirical growth in criminology and adjacent fields, the conceptual foundations of these harms remain underdeveloped. Existing terminology reflects disciplinary fragmentation rather than a coherent framework capable of capturing these harms. This gap is intensified by the persistent under-theorisation of harm itself. Drawing on insights from the eDeTox project, which examines antisocial behaviour and toxic communication across multiple jurisdictions and platforms using mixed methods, the paper argues that CODT harms emerge through fluctuating processes of amplification and attenuation. These are shaped by technological hype, moral panics, regulatory agendas, and, conversely, by normalisation and invisibilisation. Such dynamics are increasingly evident as harms hybridise across online and offline spheres, challenging traditional analytical separations. The presentation introduces the critical notion of hypered harms as a normative and analytical response, aimed at rethinking responsibility within complex socio-technical systems. It also identifies the prevailing condition as one of hypo-care as a structurally embedded deficit of care that has enabled harmful processes to persist, proliferate, and remain insufficiently addressed. By articulating this tension between hypered harm and hypo-care, this contribution seeks to reframe debates on CODT harms around questions of accountability, responsibility, and the ethical obligations inherent in the design and governance of platforms.

Moral infrastructures of Big Tech: the Internet of bodies as a medium for social control *Vytautas Kaktinas, Vilnius University*

The Internet of Bodies (IoB) is a socially constructed techno-social network of social actors whose biometric, genetic, social data is externally, internally and

embeddedly collected, and used for (un)stated dataveillance purposes. H. S. Becker (1963) proposes the classical concept of 'moral entrepreneurs': 'rule creators' and 'rule enforces' as social actors capable of shifting social order by their own moral system. In the case of IoB, the Big Tech corporations of Global North – Alphabet (Google), Amazon, Meta Platforms (Facebook), Apple, and Microsoft – are lead by CEOs and corporate boards as 'rule creators'. 'Rule creators' decide to create moral infrastructures – biotechnological devices and digital platforms – as a possible medium of global consumer culture. It is embedded with morality of the powerful that enforces the knowledge of what is considered 'deviant', an '(in)dividual body', 'healthy lifestyle', and a 'normal interaction'. The systems are powered by big data and routinely perform dataveillance based on ML algorithms. Thus, I propose to consider them as modern 'rule enforcers'. In this presentation, I empirically showcase the IoB infrastructures controlled by the Big Tech. I analysed the OpenCorporates' dataset of legal registry data containing more than 300M entries and 140 jurisdictions from corporations' incorporation to 2026. I mapped global biotechnological economic activity of the Big Tech: corporate ownership and control relationships of other IoB-related subsidiaries. The results of quantitative analysis reveal heterogeneous IoB corporate networks across different jurisdictions. Big Tech may be characterised as having histories of charges and insolvencies in the area of IoB with potential consequences for its users. Further qualitative research is necessary for contextualising the externalisation and objectivation of the processes of corporate IoB social control.

009. Consistency, Sexual Violence and Rights in Judicial Decision-Making

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Courts and Sentencing and Penal Decision Making (Sentencing and Penal Decisionmaking WG)

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.147

Chair:

Hildur Fjóla Antonsdóttir, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Akureyri, Iceland

Participants:

Sentencing and the 'real rape' myth: Exploring judicial rationales in imposing long-term imprisonment in serious sexual offence cases *Diarmuid Griffin, University of Galway*

This paper examines cases where sentences of 15 years to life imprisonment have been imposed by judges for sexual offences committed against adult victims in Ireland from 1985 to 2022 (n= 45). A very specific and consistent fact pattern emerged in the analysis. The perpetrators of these crimes were male and the victims were female. The perpetrator was a stranger or a very recent acquaintance of the victim. The offending often occurred in a public place. The cases primarily involved a single incident but multiple offences were committed during this incident. The use of weapons and death threats was frequently evident in these cases. Over two thirds of offenders had a previous criminal history, with prior convictions for sexual offences featuring prominently. Taken as a whole, many of these cases appear to reflect some parallels with a cultural (and prejudicial) belief that rape is often committed by a stranger in a public place causing physical injury. These beliefs are known as 'rape myths' and this paper discusses whether these myths play a role in sentence selection.

The possibilities and limits of a judicial system to ensure a uniform judicial practice. *Aurelian Gheorghe Mocan, University" Nicolae Titulescu" Bucharest*

PHD candidate Aurelian Gheorghe MOCAN "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest Mail : mocan_aurelian@yahoo.com PHD candidate drd. Livia Daniela STURZA "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest livia.livia@yahoo.com ABSTRACT: The need to ensure a judicial practice is felt by states that have a jurisdiction based on the principle of finding out the truth, a correct administration of evidence and a fair and thorough resolution of the case. Sentencing must be based on transparent procedures that involve compliance with the principles of publicity, orality, adversariality and direct collection of evidence during the trial. The deliberation must take place in conditions of legality, confidentiality and full fairness.

Absolute in principle, conditional in practice? Resource arguments and Article 3 ECHR in prison conditions cases *Nasrul Ismail, University of Bristol, United Kingdom*

Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights prohibits torture and inhuman or degrading treatment in absolute terms: no derogation is permitted, regardless of circumstances. It is among the strongest prohibitions in international human rights law, and for incarcerated populations across Europe it functions as the primary legal safeguard against conditions that endanger life and health. Yet a tension runs through the Court's prison conditions jurisprudence that has received remarkably little systematic attention. When states are challenged over overcrowding, inadequate healthcare, or degrading conditions of detention, they routinely invoke resource constraints: building programmes are incomplete, budgets are limited, and competing fiscal demands prevent compliance. These arguments have no formal doctrinal standing under Article 3. The absolute nature of the prohibition should render questions of cost irrelevant. But whether they nonetheless shape how the Court reasons, influencing assessments of severity, structuring remedial expectations, or conditioning the timelines states are afforded for compliance, is an empirical question that has not been tested at scale. This paper addresses that gap. Drawing on a comprehensive examination of Article 3 case law concerning conditions of detention from 1990 to 2025, it traces the emergence, frequency, and judicial reception of resource-based arguments across three and a half decades of adjudication. The analysis offers the first systematic account of how fiscal reasoning operates within a formally absolute legal framework, and asks what this means for the tens of

thousands of prisoners whose protection depends on a prohibition that may be less absolute in practice than it appears in doctrine.

Digital Sexual Violence and the Limits of Legal Response: A Socio-Legal Study of Icelandic Court Judgements *Hildur Fjóla Antonsdóttir, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Akureyri, Iceland*

In 2021, Iceland introduced Article 199a to the General Penal Code, criminalising the production, acquisition, distribution and threatened distribution of intimate material without consent, including fabricated content. This paper presents findings from a qualitative empirical study of all publicly available Art. 199a judgements from Icelandic courts between 2021 and 2026, comprising 37 district court judgements, 5 appeals court judgements, and 1 Supreme Court ruling. Using thematic analysis of court judgements as social documents, the study explores two interrelated dimensions of judicial responses to digital sexual violence. First, it examines the gendered structure of the corpus: the large majority of cases involve a male defendant and a female victim, with female defendants appearing in only four cases, all involving male victims. Intimate material functions as an instrument of coercive control in cases involving male defendants, while female defendants appear exclusively in cases where material is distributed in the aftermath of relationship breakdown — a distinction the legal framework does not recognise. Second, despite victims holding formal rights in proceedings — including state-funded legal representation and a civil damages claim backed by a state compensation fund — the analysis finds a persistent disconnect between these entitlements and substantive outcomes, with sentences in standalone cases near-universally suspended, damages awards that fall consistently below claimed amounts and frequently below the minimum threshold for state compensation. Drawing on feminist socio-legal frameworks and Nordic sentencing theory, the paper considers what five years of case law reveals about the capacity of criminal law to respond meaningfully to digital sexual violence.

010. POLWG Panel 11: Custody, Missing Persons, and Public Health Approaches in Policing

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.152

Chair:

Amy Long, Univesity of Dundee

Participants:

Defining, identifying and safeguarding vulnerability in police custody: A comparative study of Poland and England *Marta Mikolajewska, University of Sheffield, UK*

This paper presents findings from an ESRC-funded doctoral study examining how vulnerable adult detainees are defined, identified and safeguarded in police custody suites in Poland and England. Due to the scarcity of comparative research on police detention, especially research that would include non-English speaking, post-communist countries, the overarching aim of this study was to critically explore and compare the police practices surrounding vulnerability on an international level, with a view to improving them. Drawing on data collected in 2025, including custody observations conducted in England and semi-structured interviews with a range of professionals such as police officers, appropriate adults and legal practitioners in both countries, the study provides a rare empirical insight into Polish custody practices and the first empirical findings on vulnerability identification in England post the 2018 change of the vulnerability definition within the Code C of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. Emerging findings indicate that, in England, managing vulnerability is shaped less by formal legal frameworks than by custody sergeants' own understandings of vulnerability, accumulated experience, instinct, and detainees' immediate presentation, suggesting that custody practices remain largely "business as usual" despite the change in the legal definition. In Poland, where no formal legal definition of vulnerability exists, procedural safeguards comparable to those in England are absent, with identification and management of vulnerable individuals relying largely on individual actors' professional judgement and discretionary decision-making within the Polish criminal justice system. Overall, the study suggests that how vulnerability is recognised and addressed in custody is shaped by an interplay of legal frameworks, organisational arrangements, police culture, and professional discretion. The paper contributes to socio-legal and comparative criminology debates on discretion and the governance of vulnerability in coercive state settings.

Gendering police custody: Examining women's experiences of police custody in West Yorkshire Police, UK *Layla Skinns, University of Sheffield*

Recent scrutiny of police custody has highlighted serious gendered concerns, most notably in the Baird Report, yet little is known about whether these findings extend beyond Greater Manchester Police. Women comprise around 16% of suspects held in police custody in England and Wales, and evidence indicates that their needs differ significantly from those of men, particularly in relation to physical and mental health, caring responsibilities, and patterns of offending. When these needs go unmet, women are more likely to experience repeated cycles of custody and imprisonment. This paper presents findings from a mixed-methods study examining women's lived experiences of police custody in West Yorkshire, including of police interview practices and whether these are gendered. Drawing on qualitative interviews and quantitative analysis, the research explores how women experience arrest, detention, and release, identifies key challenges within current custody practices, and highlights examples of effective and emerging good practice. The study addresses a significant gap in the academic literature by examining how gender shapes custody experiences. The paper focuses on key empirical findings from the study and highlights emerging themes relating to women's needs in police custody, current responses, and gaps in

provision. It offers an initial mapping of challenges and examples of good practice observed within West Yorkshire, alongside reflections on how gender is currently understood and operationalised in custody settings.

When health meets policing: conflicts over evidence and the status of evaluation in public health-informed crime prevention practice *Francesca Menichelli, University of Surrey; Samantha Weston, University of Birmingham*

In a context where criminal justice and health professionals had long come to realise that the same small group of highly vulnerable individuals disproportionately relied on emergency and crisis services, public health approaches to crime emerged as an attempt to bring the statistical and theoretical foundations of epidemiology into the design of violence, and more broadly crime, reduction invitiatives. A look at current crime prevention practice across countries including the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia and the Netherlands, suggests this has been an incredibly successful endeavour. In our contribution, we focus on how evaluation has been embedded into interventions carried out under the banner of public health approaches to crime prevention to highlight some of the hidden faultlines at the heart of this intellectual project. We argue that conflicts over what counts as 'evidence' in public health and crime prevention have resulted in inconsistencies in how interventions are evaluated, leaving gaps in our knowledge of how, why and under what conditions they might be effective. This raises timely and pressing questions about the compatibility of public health methods, crime prevention and policing interventions, and whether we need to adjust our understanding of what a public health approach to crime is.

Finding Them is Just the Start: Police conceptions of success in missing persons work *Amy Long, Univesity of Dundee*

Missing persons policework represents one of the largest areas of non crime demand in UK policing. It is characterised by uncertainty, high levels of vulnerability, and substantial public and organisational scrutiny when incidents are mishandled. Although high risk cases often attract significant media attention, most missing persons work is routine and relentless, involving hundreds of thousands of reports each year. Strategic policy efforts have attempted to streamline this demand by setting expectations for intra and inter agency cooperation; however, these frameworks largely reflect the perspectives of senior leaders and specialists and remain disconnected from the realities of everyday policing cultures and frontline decision making. Research exploring the experiences of missing persons and their families, alongside studies examining police actions and decisions, has shaped recent practice developments. The study presented in this paper builds on that work by shifting analytical focus from what officers do to what they aim to achieve, how they define and pursue success in missing persons cases. This reframing reveals the values, beliefs, and normative assumptions underlying police approaches, offering insights that can strengthen dialogue between police and those affected by missing incidents. It also highlights how these understandings inform officers' sense of legitimacy in this contested area of police practice. Drawing on the author's PhD research, this presentation will provide a rich account of how success and good practice are understood by those working directly on cases and within broader safeguarding roles. Using Thematic Network Analysis of interview and focus group data, four core dimensions of success are identified: Outcome, Prevent, Procedural, and Impact. These themes broadly echo Brookman and Innes's (2013) success framework, originally developed for homicide investigations. Together, they offer a nuanced understanding of missing persons policing, with implications for policy development and operational improvement.

011. Digital Criminology : Knowledge production, technological mediation and harms in digital crime control

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.158

Knowledge and ways of knowing are undergoing profound transformations, in crime control and elsewhere. Digitalization and the emerging «data imperative» is transforming existing organizational forms, hierarchies of knowledge, and challenging legal rules and normative beliefs (Fourcade and Healy, 2024). This panel examines novel digital crime control practices through the intertwining of knowledge, technology and governance and explores knowledge production, technological mediation and harms in (big data) data collection and (online) investigations in different criminological settings. This panel is part of collection of digital criminology panels at EUROCRIM2026 and contributes to innovative crime and justice scholarship within the emerging field of 'digital criminology'. Instead of positioning technology as separate from society more broadly, digital criminology takes up the idea that all technologies are embedded in social structures and that all societies are embedded in technological infrastructures. More specifically, digital criminology examines the incorporation of digital technologies, media, and infrastructures in criminological settings (Stratton, Powell and Cameron, 2018; Wood, 2020; Kaufmann and Lomell 2025, Van Brakel and Govaerts, 2025).

Chair:

Marc Schuilenburg, Professor Digital Surveillance Erasmus University Rotterdam

Participants:

Governing-through-'More-Than-Human'-Harms: Rethinking Digital Crime Control of Fisheries Crime through Ocean Justice and Situated Knowledges *Rosamunde Van Brakel, Vrije Universiteit Brussel; Nandor Knust, UIT Arctic University of Norway*

In this paper we aim to shift the crime control gaze from fisheries crimes to more-than-human harms and to the ocean as a situated, living and relational space. The current crime control approach, which is characterized by an assemblage of state and non-state actors, addresses these harms through the concept of fisheries crimes which encompasses a broad spectrum of illicit activities, including smuggling of drugs, arms, or

people, forced labour, illicit fisheries-related crimes and illegal fishing, that are often transnational in nature (Urbina 2022). The paper will reflect on how knowledge is produced within current governance strategies of fisheries crimes and show how the situated knowledges of fishers, indigenous communities but also more-than-human agencies such as the ocean and marine life are excluded. The paper employs a case study of more-than-human harms predictive policing of fisheries crimes to illustrate the relational nature of harms. Building on previous scholarship that shifts the focus from governing-through-crime to governing-through-harm (Hübschle and Berg, 2024; Berg and Shearing, 2018) and on more-than-human geography (Lorimer and Hodgetts, 2024) the paper argues for a transition from a narrow focus within the governance on fisheries crimes on crime and security to a more comprehensive focus on more-than-human harms and situated knowledges and propose a novel governance approach to achieve ocean justice.

From governing-through-crime to governing-through-harm: Towards a harm-centered approach of online child sexual abuse *Birte Lenaers, Vrije Universiteit Brussel; Ingrida Milkaite, Vrije Universiteit Brussel; Rosamunde Van Brakel, Vrije Universiteit Brussel*

The paper discusses the current approach to online child sexual abuse and why it inadequately addresses socio-technical, relational, and cumulative harms. It is written within the context of the Horizon Europe SALVUS Project, which studies safer justice outcomes in online, including undercover, child sexual abuse investigations. It draws on empirical data gathered during the Project, stemming from interviews and focus groups conducted with CSA victim support services, child rights practitioners, hotlines, digital rights and civil society specialists, academics and information security and technology experts. Through critical analysis of the dominant governing-through-crime paradigm, supported by insights from practitioners and experts, the presentation illustrates why shifting toward a governing-through-harm approach offers a valuable alternative. The paper advocates for criminological research focused on holistically understanding these harms and needs, to inform a governing-through-harm approach that recognizes online child sexual abuse as a complex, socio-technical, and relational issue.

Policing through the lens of technology: reflecting on the contributions of activity theory and technological mediation theory *Lies Vande Meulebroucke, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB); Sofie De Kimpe, Associate Professor - VUB; Lucas Melgaço, Associate Professor - VUB*

This presentation presents preliminary findings on the role of digital technologies in everyday police practices, focusing on tools such as the Focus app, a multi-tenant platform used in Belgium, and body-worn cameras. Combining Cultural-Historical Activity Theory (CHAT) and Technological Mediation Theory (TMT), the study examines how technology actively shapes police work by influencing perception, action, and interaction. Empirically, the study draws on 800 hours of ethnographic fieldwork conducted within four Belgian local police zones, two in Brussels and two in Flanders, including observations and informal interviews with frontline police officers. The analysis focuses on concrete situations in which technologies are used and acquire meaning. Initial findings indicate that these technologies mediate how situations are interpreted, how decisions are made, and how interactions with citizens unfold. From an activity-theoretical perspective, these transformations are situated within broader organizational dynamics and historically developed practices of policing. TMT, in turn, enables analysis of how technologies mediate experience and interaction in situated practice. By combining these perspectives, the presentation contributes to a more nuanced understanding of digitalization as both a structural and a mediating process in policing.

From emergency call to prosecutorial decision: The becoming and movements of knowledge in criminal cases *Jenny Maria Lundgaard, The Norwegian Police University College; Marina Hiller Foshaugen, Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law, University of Oslo*

The decision by the public prosecutor on whether to bring a criminal case to court can be considered the final outcome of the police's handling of an incident, presenting structured and orderly information summarizing what took place. Yet, before reaching this point, information travels through the police organization, interacting with technologies, registers, and databases. This project traces these informational pathways to examine how knowledge is produced and transformed in policing. We draw on unique data from the Norwegian police, starting with recordings of oral information provided during emergency calls to control rooms. These recordings are transformed into police logs within the system for call handling and incident management. We then follow incidents that develop into criminal cases, tracking the evolution of information through subsequent investigative steps up to the prosecutorial decision. By comparing the initial understanding of an incident in the control room with the final understanding reflected in the prosecution decision, we analyse how information changes, is emphasized or omitted, and how human and non-human actors contribute to these processes. The project advances understanding of the creation of knowledge in policing, the dynamics of information in criminal investigations, and the complex interplay between data, technology, and human judgment in shaping legal outcomes.

012. POLWG Panel 13: International perspectives on Policing, Privilege, and Discrimination

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.162

Chair:

Dirk Baier, University of Zurich/Zurich University of Applied Sciences

Participants:

Caste and Policing: Insights from Formerly Incarcerated Persons in India *ARUNA MAHANANDA, Univerisity of Essex*

This study examines the lived experiences of formerly incarcerated persons from Dalit communities in Odisha and presents compelling evidence of the role of caste within the criminal justice system (CJS), particularly in everyday policing practices. In India, policing operates within deeply stratified social contexts where caste continues to structure authority, vulnerability, and access to justice. By foregrounding the lived experiences of formerly incarcerated Dalit men who directly confronted caste bias in their interactions with law enforcement, this paper addresses the central question of how traditional caste hierarchies persist and remain embedded within modern legal institutional frameworks even after the 75 years of Indian independence, where caste bias is reproduced and legitimised through state power. The findings indicate that caste operates as an informal yet powerful organising principle of everyday policing in India, shaping processes from the registration of complaints to the forwarding of cases to the courts. The participants' narratives describe routine suspicion, selective enforcement, coercive interrogation practices, and barriers to accessing procedural safeguards. By situating these empirical findings within broader debates on structural inequality and social control, the paper argues that caste functions as a structuring principle of discretionary policing. Rather than viewing differential treatment as isolated misconduct, the analysis demonstrates how everyday policing practices reproduce pre-existing social stratification. This study contributes to comparative criminological discussions on intersectionality and state power and underscores the urgency of examining the criminal justice institutions in the Global South.

Challenging uncomfortable knowledge about racism in a UK police force: Putting the institutional back into Institutional Racism. *Mark Fenton-O'Creevy, The Open University; Samantha Hawtin, The Open University; Lurraine Jones, The Open University; Helen Selby-Fell, The Open University*

Despite a major, force-wide, anti-racism programme, key performance indicators (most notably disproportionality in stop & search) failed to improve in a UK police force. This paper explores the following research questions: How might this be explained and what can be done to address it? What implications are there, more broadly, for change and transformation programmes in the case study police force? The research also had an explicit orientation to identifying areas of uncomfortable knowledge for the force that should be engaged with and acted upon. The methodology for the study included qualitative interviews; observation of the anti-racism training; a review of force documents and aggregate data (relevant to disproportionality in policing); and, a review of previous research on anti-racism programmes, institutional racism and disproportionality in stop and search. Data was analysed thematically, identifying emergent common themes across interviews, and from across the document and literature review. Key findings from the research included that the anti-racism training offered a valuable 'conversation starter' for the force, however, several challenges were identified. Officers and staff had been insufficiently integrated in broader anti-racist action including follow-up by line managers, and there was a perception that the anti-racism programme was detached from senior leaders. Consistent with previous research, this study demonstrated that training alone is entirely insufficient to tackle disproportionality in stop and search, and institutional racism. Despite the identification of the core problem as institutional racism, there was little attention in the force to the underpinning systems, processes and practices that generate disadvantage for racially minoritised groups. Further work has now been agreed with the case study force to support the implementation of recommendations from the research, including a deep dive into the role that tasking, locality and supervision may play in relation to disproportionality in stop & search.

Longitudinal study on xenophobic prejudices, conspiracy mentality and satisfaction with democracy among police cadets in Switzerland *Dirk Baier, University of Zurich/Zurich University of Applied Sciences*

The nationwide harmonisation of police training provided the chance for a comprehensive longitudinal study on the professional socialisation of police cadets in Switzerland. Whilst there has been little research to date on socialisation processes within the police, this project examines attitudes, values and psychosocial developments across four measurement points during two years of training. The first wave of the survey comprises 818 participants from all police academies in Switzerland. The sample is 26 years old on average, 30.8 % female and 11.2 % from a migrant background. The results show that xenophobic attitudes are present among police cadets, though at a lower level than in the general population. An increase in these attitudes over time is striking and is analysed by using longitudinal data analysis. Additionally, about one out of seven cadets agree with conspiracy mentality. Longitudinal analyses show that a higher conspiracy mentality reduces satisfaction with democracy and increases both homophobia and approval of violence. These findings are consistent with international studies that describe belief in conspiracies as a risk factor for radicalisation and violence. The results underscores the need to adress aspects such as democratic resilience, critical thinking and the prevention of conspiracy beliefs more strongly within police training.

Policing Women Activists: Gender, Protest, and Police Culture under Authoritarian Drift - The Case of Georgia *Tamari Gvasalia, University of Portsmouth*

In recent years, women have played increasingly visible roles in protest movements in Georgia as activists, journalists, and civil society organisers. At the same time, political discourse has become more openly hostile toward women involved in dissent, portraying them as disorderly, illegitimate, or foreign influenced. This proposed presentation aims to illustrate how

police attitudes toward women activists are shaped by wider political narratives, and what it reveals about the relationship between police culture, elite power, and gendered authority under conditions of authoritarian drift. Drawing on qualitative interviews with activists, journalists, and NGO representatives who have experienced or documented protest policing, the presentation explores how gendered political narratives are translated into everyday police practice. It situates these encounters within a broader political context in which ideas about gender, national sovereignty, and public dissent are increasingly mobilised by ruling elites. The presentation argues that police responses to women protesters should not be understood simply as individual misconduct or ad hoc public-order decision-making. Rather, they reflect a broader process through which police institutions absorb, reproduce, and enact political narratives about dissent, gender roles, and social order. By centring women's experiences of protest policing in Georgia, the presentation contributes to criminological debates on protest policing, police culture and police-elites' relationship in illiberal settings.

013. Reconceiving victims in victimological research and policy

Topic 4: Victimology/Patterns and trends in Victimization (Victimology WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.168

Victimology positions the victim at the center of its concerns, yet does not always scrutinise the concept of victim in use. A particular image tends to dominate: the victim as a passive subject of harm. This is compounded by treating victimological experience as more easily understood by academics than by victims themselves, by addressing victim needs through standardised responses, and by viewing institutional action as sufficient to achieve victim "recovery." The papers in this panel share a dissatisfaction with such assumptions and the image they underwrite. Rather than taking the victim-concept as settled, they subject it to critical, philosophical, and empirical scrutiny, arguing for increased reflexivity about the ontology of victimization and what it means to respond to victims adequately. The papers approach this from an array of directions. Pemberton's account of tertiary victimisation identifies the epistemic injustice that results when we mistake the researcher's declaration of victim-centredness for its achievement. Dunk's phenomenological approach to compensation considers how legal responses are experienced within an experiential field already disrupted by injustice. Green and O'Leary's examination of resilience exposes the Janus-faced character of a concept that can simultaneously empower and abandon those it claims to support. Brudholm extends the reconceptualisation furthest, positioning victims as moral protagonists whose reasoning about wrongdoing, anger, and forgiveness has remained largely invisible to victimology. Taken together, these papers make the case that reconceiving victims is not merely theoretical but a precondition for epistemically honest research and genuinely responsive policy. Lopsided conceptions produce compensation schemes that miss the nature of loss, acknowledgment measures that fail to recognise, and resilience discourses that paternalise. By bringing phenomenological, narrative, philosophical, and critical perspectives into dialogue, this panel aims to make victimology more self-aware about its own limits — and more adequate to the moral complexity of the experiences it studies

Chair:
Simon Green, University of Hull

Participants:

Compensating the incompensable? A phenomenological structural analysis of victim compensation *Cheyenne Dunk, Free University Amsterdam*

This paper proposes a phenomenological approach to the study of victim compensation in criminal justice. Extending narrative and meaning-centered accounts, it examines the structural conditions under which victimisation and legal responses become meaningful. Drawing on qualitative interviews with victims, the paper explores how compensation may appear within a disrupted experiential field shaped by changes in time, selfhood, and relational life. Rather than assuming that compensation straightforwardly functions as recognition or repair, it asks how compensation is experienced within the broader aftermath of wrongdoing, and whether it may emerge as structurally ambivalent: both as a practical response to harm and as a form that may not fully correspond to the nature of the loss. The paper further examines how victims relate to compensation as part of a broader legal response to wrongdoing and how legal processes are experienced within this context. By developing a phenomenological structural analysis, it shifts attention from what victims say or feel to how their experience is structured and how legal interventions take shape within it.

'Physician Heal Thyself': Unpacking the Dangers of Victim Resilience *Simon Green, University of Hull; Nicola O'Leary, University of Hull*

Research that investigates victim resilience runs the risk of placing the responsibility for coping with victimisation onto the victim (a type of victim blaming) and can also be used to minimise the impact of crime when people demonstrate resilience (denial of the harm, denial of the victim). Most worryingly, the exhortation to 'be resilient' can easily slide into a dog whistle for learning to 'put up' with victimisation (just 'deal with it'). This paper will explore these, and other dangers, before outlining the corresponding dangers of denying victim resilience. Paternalism, infantilisation, loss of agency, and dependency can create the conditions in which well-meaning services and support ignore the victim's capacity to find solace internally (reconstruction of the self), or informally (through family, friends, community). From conflicts as property, to net widening and strong asymmetrical dependency (SAD), this paper will sketch the dangers of denying resilience as the flipside to demanding it. Drawing on victimology, philosophy, critical psychology, climate change and slavery studies, the Janus-faced aspects of resilience will be discussed before concluding what, if anything, can be reclaimed from resilience studies for victimology.

Victims as Moral Protagonists *Thomas Brudholm, University of Copenhagen*

Abstract: This presentation attends to victims as moral protagonists: it places them center stage and engages philosophically with their reflections on the moral aspects of their stories of suffering and resilience. The presentation builds on twenty qualitative interviews conducted in Denmark (2023–2025), and the examples include reflections on the experience of being wronged, the virtue or vice of feelings such as anger or hatred, and the legitimacy of a desire for revenge or an aversion to forgiving. While victims are also centered in victimology, the prevailing lenses rarely capture—or engage academically with—the forms of moral experience and reasoning that this presentation will bring into view. And while philosophers have been concerned with the ethics of responses to being wronged since antiquity, they seldom engage directly in qualitative research. There is a need, as I will argue, for a philosophical victimology that brings together the qualitative methods of mainstream victimology with the conceptual, phenomenological, and ethical resources of classical philosophy. This disciplinary rapprochement can be approached in many ways. In the presentation, I will discuss one possible approach that builds on collaboration with ethnographers and draws on the thinking of philosophers such as Margaret U. Walker, Jean Améry, Ludwig Wittgenstein, and Jonathan Wolff.

Tertiary Victimization? On the Hermeneutic Problem in Victimology *Antony Pemberton, Katholieke Universiteit of Leuven (KU Leuven)*

This paper examines the hermeneutic problem in victimology: the largely unacknowledged challenge of accurately interpreting victim's realities within a discipline that investigates second-hand experiences. Emphasizing the value of Giddens' (1982) double hermeneutic and Gadamer's (1996) hermeneutic problem in psychiatry, the paper follows the lead of similar work in health care studies (Spencer & Kidd, 2023). It therefore will map intrinsic and contingent obstacles to interpretation at both poles of the encounter inherent to victimological research — the victim's articulation of their experiences and the researcher's interpretation of this. It argues that victimology as a discipline tends to proceed with an unwarranted epistemic innocence about its own hermeneutic situation, treating the centering of victim voices as a commitment that only needs to be declared to be fulfilled. Instead, the paper proposes the concept of 'tertiary victimization' to name the distinctive injustice that results from a lack of reflexivity in this regard. This includes both overt forms of intellectual and epistemic vice on the part of academic victimologists, as well as a lack of understanding of the intrinsic and contingent challenges in articulation of victims own experiences.

014. Women's Online Wellbeing (WOW): European Perspectives on Digital Violence Against Women

Topic 4: Victimology/Patterns and trends in Victimization (Victimology WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.172

Digital violence against women (DVAW) has emerged as a major challenge for contemporary criminology, victimology, and socio-legal scholarship, yet the European evidence base remains fragmented across disciplines, jurisdictions, populations, and forms of abuse. The Women's Online Wellbeing (WOW) project responds to this gap through a cross-European programme of research on digitalised violence against women, image-based sexual abuse (IBSA), and women's wellbeing. This panel draws on emerging findings from WOW Study 1 to examine four interconnected challenges in the European field. First, it maps the current scholarly landscape on DVAW, highlighting uneven national coverage, thematic concentration, and important blind spots in the literature. Second, it explores legal recognition and regulatory responses across Europe, asking how far existing legal frameworks capture the realities of digitally mediated abuse and where fragmentation persists. Third, it focuses on technology-facilitated sexual violence affecting adolescent and young adult women, drawing attention to the specific forms, lived experiences, and consequences documented in the literature for younger victim-survivors. Fourth, it examines what is currently known about perpetrators of DVAW, including their characteristics, motivations, and patterns of behaviour, in order to address a dimension of the literature that remains comparatively underdeveloped. Together, the papers argue that DVAW should not be treated as a narrow or emerging subtopic, but as a central issue for criminology and victimology. By bringing questions of definition, legal recognition, victimisation, and perpetration into conversation, the panel demonstrates why a more coherent and inclusive European knowledge base is urgently needed.

Chair:
Stephanie FOHRING, Northumbria University, UK

Participants:

Women's Online Wellbeing (WOW): Mapping the European Evidence Base on Digital Violence Against Women *Stephanie FOHRING, Northumbria University, UK; Hazel Sayer, Northumbria University; Julia Méndez-Hernández, University of Lleida; Agnieszka Potocka, Polish Academy of Sciences; Sara Thunberg, Orebro University; Linda Arnell, Department of Social Work, Umeå University, Umeå, Sweden; School of Behavioural, Social and Legal Sciences, Örebro University, Örebro, Sweden; Jennifer O'Mahoney, South East Technological University; Witold Klaus, Institute of Law Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences; Carolina Villacampa, University of Lleida*

Digital violence against women (DVAW) has emerged as a major challenge for contemporary criminology, victimology, and socio-legal research, yet the European evidence base remains fragmented across disciplines, jurisdictions, and forms of abuse. This paper presents findings from the Women's Online Wellbeing (WOW) project scoping review, which maps the scholarly literature on digitalised violence against women and LGBTQ+ communities across Europe. Drawing on more than 200 peer-reviewed studies published over the past decade, the paper examines research trends, thematic priorities, and geographical patterns in the existing evidence base. Using a systematic scoping methodology guided by PRISMA-ScR, the review explores how digital harms are defined, categorised,

and studied across European contexts. A key cross-cutting finding is the absence of any commonly accepted definition or typology of DVAW. Instead, the literature is characterised by fragmented and overlapping terminology, inconsistent conceptual boundaries, and differing emphases on particular forms of abuse. This conceptual fragmentation limits research synthesis, complicates measurement and comparison, and constrains the development of coherent policy and criminal justice responses. The review also identifies a strong concentration of scholarship around certain harms, particularly non-consensual intimate image sharing, alongside uneven national coverage and important regional blind spots. More broadly, the findings reveal patterns of unequal visibility within the literature, raising questions about which harms, populations, and experiences are most readily recognised in current knowledge production. The paper argues that a more coherent and inclusive European evidence base is urgently needed if research is to support robust cross-national understanding and effective responses to digital violence against women.

Legal Recognition and Regulatory Fragmentation in European Responses to Digital Violence Against Women *Monika Szulecka, Institute of Law Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences; Julia Méndez-Hernández, University of Lleida; Rubén Espuny, University of Lleida; Grzegorz Wrona, Institute of Law Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences; Witold Klaus, Institute of Law Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences; Carolina Villacampa, University of Lleida*

Digital violence against women (DVAW) has emerged as a cross-cutting issue situated at the intersection of criminal law, administrative law, domestic violence, gender-based violence, and digital regulations. This paper presents results of an analysis of international and EU law addressing the phenomenon, as well as a comparative legal analysis of 39 European jurisdictions, examining the extent to which national legal systems recognise and regulate DVAW. The findings reveal a structural gap between the widespread criminalisation of individual harmful behaviours and the absence of a coherent legal framework addressing DVAW as a distinct category. Regulation addressing the phenomenon is predominantly fragmented and offence-based, relying on existing provisions concerning, e.g. stalking, harassment, coercion, and sexual offences. Certain forms of conduct, such as online grooming of minors, are consistently and explicitly regulated across jurisdictions, reflecting a high degree of harmonisation. In contrast, other forms, including image-based abuse and sextortion, are addressed unevenly, often through indirect legal pathways. The analysis further identifies significant divergence between jurisdictions. While some systems, particularly in Western Europe, have introduced specific offences targeting digital harms, others continue to rely on general criminal law. Emerging developments in platform regulation suggest a gradual shift towards more integrated models combining criminalisation with regulatory obligations imposed on digital service providers. The paper argues that European legal systems do not lack tools to address digital harms but rather lack conceptual recognition of DVAW as a distinct form of violence. This fragmentation limits the effectiveness and visibility of legal protection and raises questions about coherence and a gender-sensitive regulatory approach.

Technology-facilitated sexual violence against adolescent and young adult women: A scoping review *Belma Isakovic, Orebro University; Sara Thunberg, Orebro University; Linda Arnell, Department of Social Work, Umeå University, Umeå, Sweden; School of Behavioural, Social and Legal Sciences, Örebro University, Örebro, Sweden; Björn Johansson, Orebro University*

Technology-facilitated sexual violence (TFSV) has emerged as a pervasive form of gendered violence, disproportionately affecting girls and young women in digital spaces. Despite growing empirical attention, existing research remains fragmented across disciplines and often focuses on specific behaviors rather than victims' lived experiences. This scoping review aims to map and synthesize empirical research on TFSV experienced by girls and young women aged 13–29, with a particular focus on the forms of TFSV documented in the literature and how victims describe their experiences and perceived consequences. A scoping review methodology was employed following established guidelines. Systematic searches were conducted in four databases (Criminology Collection, PsycInfo, Scopus, and Sociology Collection). After screening and eligibility assessment, 20 empirical studies were included. Data were extracted and synthesized using thematic analysis. The review identified multiple forms of TFSV, including unsolicited sexual images, online sexual harassment, unwanted sexual solicitations, image-based sexual abuse, and sextortion. Victims' experiences and consequences were organized into three overarching themes: (i) power and identity, (ii) social dynamics, and (iii) emotional and psychological impact. Victims consistently described TFSV as a violation of autonomy and personal boundaries, associated with significant emotional, psychological, and social harm. Findings further indicate that the persistence and visibility of digital content contribute to experiences of ongoing victimization. Suggestions for further research are discussed.

What Do We Know About Perpetrators of Digital Violence Against Women? *Agnieszka Potocka, Polish Academy of Sciences; Sara Thunberg, Orebro University; Witold Klaus, Institute of Law Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences*

Digital violence against women and LGBT+ individuals is an increasingly prevalent form of harm in online environments. While much of the existing research has focused on victims, considerably less attention has been devoted to understanding perpetrators. Addressing this gap is essential for developing effective prevention and intervention strategies. We present findings from a literature review based on papers (N = 212) identified in a broader scoping review of digital violence, guided by PRISMA-ScR and using databases such as Web of Science Core Collection, ProQuest Dissertations and

Theses, and Scopus. Our goal is to answer the research question: How does the existing literature characterize perpetrators and bystanders of digital violence against women and LGBT+ individuals in terms of their demographic profiles, psychological traits, motivations, and behavioral patterns? The review highlights both consistencies and gaps in the literature, including limited integration of psychological and cultural factors, and insufficient attention to the diversity of perpetrator profiles. Understanding who perpetrators are and what drives their behavior is crucial for informing evidence-based interventions. Insights from this review can support the development of perpetrator-focused prevention programs, targeted training initiatives, and policies to reduce digital violence.

015. Understanding and Supporting Victims of Image-Based Sexual Abuse (IBSA)

Topic 4: Victimology/Policy and Prevention of Victimization (Victimology WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.510

Digital environments are central to young people's social and sexual lives, providing opportunities for connection and sexual exploration, such as through online dating and sexting. While these behaviors often reflect healthy sexual development, they also expose adolescents to online harm, notably image-based sexual abuse (IBSA), which includes the creation, distribution, or threat of distribution of sexually explicit content without consent. IBSA is increasingly recognized as a prevalent issue among youth and is associated with significant negative outcomes, such as social and reputational harm, victim-blaming, and psychological distress. The persistent and uncontrollable nature of digital content can intensify these effects and complicate recovery. When confronted with such experiences, adolescents often turn to their social environment for support, particularly peers, parents, and teachers, while formal support services are less frequently accessed. However, help-seeking is shaped by barriers, including shame, fear of negative reactions, and uncertainty about available support. The responses of others are critical: supportive and empathetic reactions can mitigate harm, whereas dismissive or blaming responses may exacerbate it. At the same time, members of adolescents' immediate environment often feel insufficiently prepared to respond adequately. Gaps in knowledge, practical skills, and uncertainty about how to act can hinder both supportive responses and bystander intervention. Preventive strategies are therefore needed to equip young people and their environments with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required to offer support. Such approaches should extend beyond a focus on victims and perpetrators to strengthen bystander roles and support systems. This panel brings together four presentations that examine adolescents' digital lives, including sexting, alongside help-seeking processes and the role of the social environment in responding to IBSA. The presentations highlight the complexities of young people's digital lives and show how combining insights on help-seeking and bystander needs with engaging strategies supports accessible, context-sensitive prevention and digital resilience.

Chair:

Joke Depraetere, Resilient People, University Colleges Leuven-Limburg (UCLL), Leuven, België

Participants:

A social contextualization of Image-Based Sexual Abuse: Insights from harmful sexting practices *Janneke M. Schokkenbroek, Erasmus School of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands; Department of Criminology, Criminal Law and Social Law, Ghent University, Belgium*

Image-based sexual abuse (IBSA) refers to the creation, distribution, or threat of distribution of sexually explicit images without consent. While widely recognized as harmful and, in many cases, criminally prosecutable, IBSA may emerge from everyday digital sexual interactions that are embedded in adolescents' social and romantic lives. This presentation examines the (social) dynamics underlying three IBSA-related behaviours: unsolicited sexting, sexting under pressure, and the non-consensual forwarding of intimate images. It outlines the defining characteristics of each behaviour and reviews mechanisms identified in prior research. Particular attention is paid to the social contexts in which these behaviours occur, highlighting how interactions with peers, romantic partners, and online contacts shape both their occurrence and the ways in which intimacy and consent are communicated and interpreted. To further illustrate these dynamics empirically, the presentation includes a focused analysis of survey data (n = 169 Belgian adults, mean age = 25.85 years, 73.4% women) on non-consensual sext forwarding, examining the role of sexting-related attitudes and of forwarding behaviours conducted by others in explaining engagement in forwarding behaviours. By bringing these elements together, this presentation provides a structured overview of several IBSA-related behaviours and the contexts in which they unfold. In doing so, it offers a conceptual starting point for the subsequent presentations in this panel, which address help-seeking processes, bystander roles, and responses within adolescents' social environments.

Understanding Help-Seeking Trajectories in Image-Based Sexual Harassment and Abuse *Valerie Pijlman, Postdoc Onderzoeker en PhD Coördinator | Nederlands Studiecentrum Criminaliteit en Rechtshandhaving NSCR*

Image-based sexual harassment and abuse (IBSHA) has received increasing scholarly attention in recent years. However, existing research has focused on victim and perpetrator characteristics and the impact of victimization, while empirical research on victims' help-seeking trajectory remains limited. This presentation addresses this gap by providing an integrated overview of IBSHA victims' help-seeking behavior, drawing on findings from three complementary studies. First, a scoping review synthesised the current literature on the help-seeking behavior of IBSHA victims, as well as barriers and facilitators to support. Based on 81 studies identified across seven bibliographic databases, the review revealed substantial heterogeneity in definitions and samples, limiting generalisability. Research is heavily concentrated in (English-speaking) Western contexts and overrepresents young, White, heterosexual women.

Disclosure and help-seeking rates varied widely. While victims access both informal (e.g., friends, family) and formal (e.g., police, online platforms) support, informal sources appeared preferred. Multiple barriers and facilitators to help-seeking were identified. Second, a mixed-methods study from the Netherlands combining survey data (N = 163) and interviews (N = 6) among IBSHA victims aged 12–25, examined victims' help-seeking behavior in more depth. Although most participants disclosed their victimisation (72.8%), only a minority received help (34.4%). Barriers to help-seeking operated across individual (e.g., shame, self-blame), interpersonal (e.g., fear of negative social reactions), practical (e.g., waiting lists), and sociocultural (e.g., normalisation) levels. Facilitators included perceived impact of the incident and receiving social support. The findings underscore the complexity and individuality of help-seeking processes. Finally, a recent survey on sextortion victimisation (N = 81) in the Netherlands highlights transitions in their help-seeking trajectory and identify related barriers and facilitators. Together, these studies highlight the fragmented and often complex nature of IBSHA victims' help-seeking trajectories. The findings underline the need to reduce barriers, strengthen support pathways, and improve awareness among both informal and formal support providers.

Bystander role orientations in image-based sexual abuse: Initial steps in developing and operationalizing the concept *Stine Nygård, Department of Psychology, University of Oslo, Forskningsveien 3A, 0373, Oslo, Norway*

Research on victims and perpetrators of image-based sexual abuse (IBSA) has demonstrated that bystanders play a key role in the causes and consequences of intimate image dissemination. Yet, few concentrated efforts have been made to conceptualize and shed light on the behaviors and cognitions of this group. Drawing on the participant role approach to school bullying, this study describes the development and psychometric assessment of a multidimensional instrument designed to measure young people's self-predictions of how they will respond to IBSA incidents. Using data from a sample of 814 Norwegian adolescents (ages 16–20 years), we investigate the underlying factor structure, internal consistency, measurement invariance, and construct validity of the instrument. The resulting 16-item Responses to Image-Based Sexual Abuse (ReIBSA) scale consists of four internally consistent dimensions—supporter, objector, insider and moralist responses to intimate image dissemination—that are invariant across groups based on gender, sexual orientation, and lifetime experience with IBSA. Our findings also lend support to the convergent, known-groups, and incremental validity of the scale. In summary, the ReIBSA scale appears to be a promising tool for conceptualizing and measuring bystander responses to IBSA.

Supporting peers, parents and teachers in responding to Image-Based Sexual Abuse (IBSA) among minors *Joke Depraetere, Resilient People, University Colleges Leuven-Limburg (UCLL), Leuven, België; Sophie Wouters, Resilient People, University Colleges Leuven-Limburg (UCLL), Leuven, België & Department of Communication Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium; Lize Verbeke, Resilient People, University Colleges Leuven-Limburg (UCLL), Leuven, België & Department of Developmental, Personality and Social Psychology, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, University of Ghent, Ghent, Belgium; Dave Seré, Digital Solutions, University Colleges Leuven-Limburg (UCLL), Leuven, België*

Image-Based Sexual Abuse (IBSA) is highly prevalent among adolescents, who engage actively in digital communication and sexual exploration. Victims often turn to peers, parents, and teachers for support, yet these close contacts often lack the knowledge, skills, and confidence to respond constructively. Harmful reactions can intensify harm, whereas informed and empathetic responses play a crucial role in recovery. This study explores barriers, needs, and desired response characteristics within the immediate environment, and translates these insights into the development of an innovative educational game (edugame) aimed at strengthening supportive responses to IBSA. Focus groups with parents and teachers (n = 12) and a survey among minors (n = 273) assessed responses to IBSA scenarios, including knowledge, barriers, and needs to offer support. These findings informed the co-creation of an edugame with 19 adolescents (February–May 2026), ensuring alignment with their lived experiences and perspectives. Findings reveal gaps in knowledge about IBSA, including its consequences, legal aspects, AI-related forms, and referral pathways. Reported barriers include unclear teacher mandates, limited confidence and practical skills, and fear of negative reactions or making mistakes. Minors stress the need for a nonjudgmental, warm, and privacy respecting approach, and highlight the importance of a more active role from teachers and parents. These insights were directly translated into the design of the edugame, which allows users to experience realistic scenarios and practice supportive responses in a safe environment. The game specifically targets identified barriers by enhancing knowledge, building practical skills, and increasing response confidence. Initial evaluation results of the edugame will be presented, with a focus on its perceived engagement, relevance, and potential to reduce uncertainty and enhance supportive responses.

016. Children, young people and vulnerability

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Juvenile Justice and Children's Rights (Juvenile Justice WG)

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.511

Chair:

Nina Maxwell, Cardiff University

Participants:

Between victimization and criminalization: legal aid for young people in the crisis of homelessness *Małgorzata Dziewanowska, Faculty of Law and Administration,*

University of Warsaw

Youth homelessness is not merely a housing problem but a complex social condition situated at the intersection of family violence, institutional instability, poverty, trauma, and social exclusion. In criminological terms, young people experiencing homelessness often occupy a liminal position between victimization and criminalization: they are exposed to violence, exploitation, and neglect, while at the same time their survival strategies, street presence, debt, substance use, or conflict with institutions may increase their visibility to mechanisms of social control and the criminal justice system. Research and practice indicate that youth homelessness should be understood as a distinct phenomenon, requiring responses different from those designed for chronically homeless adults. Presentation draws on the practice perspective of a Polish organization working with young people in homelessness crisis through a support model that combines a drop off place, housing-based assistance, relational work with trusted adults, and specialist services, including legal aid. Within this framework, legal assistance is not limited to technical advice. It becomes a form of early intervention against further exclusion, addressing such issues as debt, social benefits, housing matters, family-related cases, and criminal cases. The presentation argues that legal aid for youth in the crisis of homelessness should be seen as a criminologically relevant practice: one that can interrupt pathways from vulnerability to penal control, strengthen agency, and reduce the risk that structural disadvantage will be translated into legal stigma. By placing youth in the crisis of homelessness between victimization and criminalization, the presentation highlights the need for a justice-sensitive and developmentally informed response that moves beyond punishment and recognizes the specific legal vulnerability of young people in crisis.

Child Criminal Exploitation and the Limits of Vulnerability Policing in Poland *Przemysław Tadeusz Frąckowiak, Stanisław Staszic State University of Applied Sciences in Piła; Michal Piotr Szykut, State University of Applied Sciences in Piła; Piotr Chomczyński, University of Lodz*

In the United Kingdom, the recent "turn to vulnerability" in safeguarding and criminal justice has led to growing recognition that many children and vulnerable adults involved in crimes, such as drug dealing, are victims of criminal exploitation involving manipulation and coercion. Although this shift is relatively recent, increased visibility of exploitation is influencing how such individuals are treated within institutional frameworks. In Poland, awareness of drug market-related criminal exploitation (DMCE) is also emerging, but it remains less visible and insufficiently reflected in criminal justice and safeguarding responses, which often continue to treat affected individuals primarily as offenders rather than victims. This study draws on 29 in-depth interviews with police officers, rehabilitation specialists, probation officers, social workers, and a family assistant. Findings indicate that exploitation by organized criminal groups in Poland is relatively rare and occurs mainly in larger cities. More commonly, vulnerability and exploitation arise within family and peer contexts. Youth with mental health issues, lower cognitive abilities, and low self-esteem are particularly at risk. Despite a basic understanding of vulnerability among practitioners, broader debate remains limited. Current policy priorities emphasize penal code reforms, reflecting a predominantly punitive rather than vulnerability-oriented approach.

Children and Sex – A Comparative Study on Adolescents' Sexual Autonomy and Vulnerability in Criminal Law *Klara Bugge Kaspersen, UiT: The Arctic University of Norway; Agnesa Fetai, University of Zagreb; Nathalie Otroshi, UiT The Arctic University of Norway*

The question of how legal systems balance sexual autonomy of adolescents with the imperative to protect children from sexual violence is examined through a comparative analysis of Sweden, Norway and North Macedonia. The paper examines the concepts of vulnerability, sexual autonomy and child protection within the context of rape, and evaluates how these three concepts are balanced in contemporary European child rape legislation. It provides explanations, and highlights the differences on, the definition of who and when someone can be considered a child in relation to the age of consent, legislation on sexual abuse of children and accompanying sentencing frameworks. While Scandinavian countries have implemented a liberal model that gives priority to sexual autonomy, it risks not sufficiently protecting adolescents above the age of consent (15 years of age in Sweden and 16 years of age in Norway) who are no longer treated as children under criminal law. North Macedonia, on the other hand, has a broader formal definition of child abuse that extends up to the age of 18, but fails to implement that protection as there are severe difficulties in enforcement due to deep-rooted cultural and social norms. The paper concludes that neither the overly progressive nor the overly conservative approaches meet the protective goals of criminal law and a more detailed framework is required to balance sexual autonomy with strong protection of children of all age groups. Research shows that children are more vulnerable than adults when it comes to sexual abuse, and the paper argues that all children under the age of 18 thus should be entitled to a strong, child centred, legal protection. Limiting protective measures to children who are younger than the age of consent is in practice harmful. Effective child protection requires coherence between criminal law, social- and institutional policies.

I was roped in and sold a dream: developing the notion of victimhood for criminally exploited children *Nina Maxwell, Cardiff University*

Child criminal exploitation challenges traditional notions of victimhood. This is compounded by the 'expansive continuum' (Marshall, 2023:1165) of exploited children's experiences and where children emerge as both victims and offenders. Consequently, professionals have focused on narrow definitions of victimhood and the binary distinction between victim and perpetrator (Cullen et al, 2020). Children at the

lower end of the continuum or those who do not display vulnerability are often deemed culpable for their actions. This includes children who present as streetwise, demonstrate bravado and those who are unwilling to engage with professionals (Blakeburn and Smith, 2020). Drawing on the notion of bounded rationality (Evans, 2002), this paper presents findings from a study of child criminal exploitation in Wales. It argues that when children are criminally exploited, their perceptions of the risk and rewards of criminality are manipulated by more powerful others. This is compounded by wider structural inequalities and the vulnerabilities that enhance their susceptibility to exploitation. Consequently, children's rationality is bounded by their unmet needs, their current resources, the false opportunities promised by exploitative peers or adults and their future goals and aspirations. This paper presents criminally exploited children's narratives about their lived experiences and argues that a nuanced understanding of victimhood is needed.

017. EUROC Panel 1. White-collar and organizational misconduct across sectors

Topic 2: Types of Offending/White collar Crime, Organizational Crime, Corporate Crime, Financial Crime (EUROC)

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.516

Chair:

Nina Tobsch, University of Amsterdam

Participants:

Accounting for Deviance: A Qualitative Study on Tax Professionals' Understanding of Corporate Tax Minimization *Elody Hutten, Leiden University; Masja van Meeteren, Radboud University*

Corporate tax avoidance has become heavily criticized in the aftermath of the financial crisis of 2008. Tax professionals play a crucial role in facilitating corporate tax avoidance and are in a position of authority to co-construct and legitimize what constitutes acceptable corporate tax minimization practices. The present study aims to investigate the neutralization techniques tax professionals use to justify corporate tax avoidance. Drawing on 42 interviews with tax professionals in the Netherlands, this study shows widespread and patterned use of neutralization techniques. Our findings suggest that the opacity and complexity of the context of taxation shapes the manifestation of neutralization techniques, in particular "distorting the facts". Furthermore, professionalism appears to not only shape the choice of techniques but provides a broader context that anchors neutralizations. In doing so, we respond to call for more research examining how contexts and types of people influence the use of neutralization techniques to legitimize deviant behavior.

Uncovering Patterns of Corporate Integrity Risk Behaviour and Non-Compliance in the Financial Industry *Frederike Oberheim, NSCR - Nederlands Studiecentrum Criminaliteit en Rechtshandhaving; Arjan Blokland, NSCR; Jacco Wielhouwer, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; Marieke Kluin, Leiden University; Wim Huisman, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; Henri Dekker, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*

Financial corporations are expected to act as gatekeepers of the financial system, ensuring compliance with integrity regulations to prevent money laundering and other financial crimes. In the Netherlands, the Dutch Authority for the Financial Markets (AFM) oversee compliance of investment corporations through a risk-based and data-driven strategy. These corporations are required to submit self-reported data on integrity risks, which, in turn, inform supervisory risk assessments and enforcement interventions ranging from norm-enforcing conversations to formal sanctions. This study is the first to systematically analyse longitudinal patterns of corporate integrity risk behaviour in the investment sector of the Netherlands. Using regulatory data from the AFM, we construct a data-driven corporate risk score based on integrity risk self-reports submitted between 2019 and 2023 by approximately 300 investment firms and 700 managers of investment funds. A novel data-driven risk score, measuring both risk-taking (exposure to integrity risks) and risk mitigation (efforts to manage these integrity risks), is developed to identify distinct risk trajectories over time. Multi-group, multi-trajectory modelling reveals how these trajectories vary across the sector and explores compensatory mechanisms between risk-taking and risk-mitigating strategies. Building on this, the study investigates how identified risk trajectories relate to regulatory behaviour and enforcement outcomes. Specifically, it examines whether certain risk profiles are more likely to trigger inspection, whether inspection intensity varies by group, and whether different risk trajectories are associated with higher rates of observed rule violations. Internal consistency testing, sensitivity analyses, and validation against regulator-assigned risk classifications are conducted to ensure the robustness of the scoring and modelling approach. The findings aim to inform regulatory strategy and enhance the evidence base for risk-based financial supervision.

Understanding counter fraud in the National Health Service in England: the role of the Local Counter Fraud Specialists *Diana Bociga, University of Manchester; Nicholas Lord, The University of Manchester, UK; Katie Benson, Lecturer in Criminology at the University of Manchester*

Fraud within the public healthcare sector represents a significant problem, with important implications for public trust and service delivery. However, there is limited empirical research on how fraud is understood and how counter fraud practices are organised within healthcare systems. This study aims to address this gap by exploring counter fraud within the National Health Service (NHS) in England. The NHS is a complex system involving multiple organisations and levels of governance, where responsibility for counter fraud is distributed across a diverse set of actors. At the local level, this work is primarily carried out by Local Counter Fraud Specialists (LCFSs), accredited professionals responsible for preventing and responding to fraud across NHS organisations. This

study examines how LCFSs understand their role, how counter fraud is defined, the challenges and factors that influence their work, and how national expectations are translated into everyday local practices. Drawing on focus groups, a survey, and interviews, the study explores the diversity of counter fraud models and organisational contexts that inform counter fraud work. Broadly, the study offers new empirical insights into the everyday organisation of counter fraud activities in a large public sector system and contributes to broader debates on the governance of public sector fraud.

Targets and organizational misconduct in the NYPD *Nina Tobsch, University of Amsterdam*

Targets, or performance goals, are an inherent component of nearly every organization. While they can stimulate desirable behavior, such as efficiency, various organizational scandals demonstrate that strongly institutionalized targets may also contribute to undesirable or harmful conduct. Existing research on targets and misconduct primarily focuses on financial objectives in private organizations; however, we have limited knowledge regarding how non-financial targets in public organizations may lead to similar outcomes. To contribute to the literature on the negative consequences of targets, this study examines the relationship between targets within the New York Police Department (NYPD) during the CompStat era and misconduct by police officers. Although formal 'quotas' are legally prohibited, substantial evidence points to the existence of informal quotas that were (and continue to be) communicated and enforced through hierarchical channels within the organization. Drawing on strain theory and employing process tracing, this study analyzes how such informal targets, embedded in the departmental culture, subsequently led to misconduct. The findings suggest that the existing conceptualization of strain theory is partially explanatory. However, misconduct appeared to be driven less by individual gain or loss than by a perceived pressure of self-preservation. Supervisors played a central role in communicating and enforcing targets, as well as in creating this pressure through formal and informal sanctions and incentives. In addition, retaliation following officers' expressions of criticism appeared to have been an important factor in sustaining this dynamic.

018. EUROC Panel 11. Criminal Law and Corruption

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Corruption (EUROC)
Paper Session
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.517
Chair:
Andrii Biletskyi, University of Zurich
Participants:

Case Law of Romanian Courts on Corruption Offences. Case Studies – a critical approach *Bogdan Micu, "Nicolae Titulescu" University, Bucharest, Romania; Radu Slavoiu, "Nicolae Titulescu" University, Bucharest, Romania*

The present study aims to analyze, from a practical perspective, the guidelines that have crystallized in the judicial practice of Romania concerning certain constitutive elements of corruption offences. Particular consideration will be given to issues related to the corruptive capacity of the undue benefit, the corruptive nature of the act, and the application of the in dubio pro reo principle with respect to these aspects. The exposition will deal with illustrative cases from criminal files and will examine the manner in which they have been resolved.

Issues of the Statute of Limitations of Criminal Liability in Corruption Offences under Romanian Law *Mirela Gorunescu, Nicolae Titulescu University*

The issue of the statute of limitations for criminal liability in cases of corruption offences has become controversial in Romanian legal doctrine and case law in recent years, to the extent that proposals are currently being advanced to classify this category of offences as imprescriptible. The origin of this controversy lies in Decision no. 297/2018 of the Constitutional Court of Romania, which held unconstitutional the legislative solution providing for the interruption of the limitation period of criminal liability by the performance of "any procedural act in the case", as set out in Article 155(1) of the Romanian Criminal Code (in force as of 1 February 2014). Following this decision, the legislature remained inactive and failed to amend the relevant provisions of the Criminal Code. Consequently, Decision no. 358 of 26 May 2022, the Constitutional Court held that, during the period 2018–2022, criminal legislation no longer regulated any cause for interrupting the running of the limitation period. This issue could remain an internal one, nevertheless, it has also acquired an international dimension. The European Union ruled on the matter in its decision in Case C-107/23 PPU, Lin I. At present, a further reference concerning a similar subject matter is pending before the same court, namely Case C-280/25, Lin II, in which the Opinion of the Advocate General was delivered on 18 December 2025. In the specific field of corruption offences, an additional layer of complexity has arisen following another ruling of the High Court of Cassation and Justice of Romania, namely Decision no. 1/2025. This decision has further deepened the controversies in legal doctrine and the inconsistencies in judicial practice.

Mismanagement of public property assets *Andrei-Constantin Paun, Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest*

Corruption regarding public property assets in post-communist Romania is rooted in the legacy of abusive nationalisations and the incomplete, unstable framework for restitution and land reform. While the minimal framework – composed primarily of Law no. 10/2001 and Law no. 18/1991 – establishes the main procedures for the restitution of property abusively taken by the communist regime, practice has been marked by administrative inertia, repeatedly criticised in the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights as systemic dysfunction in the restitution mechanism. Such deficiencies have left large categories of assets in a legal uncertainty, blurring the boundaries between the public and private domains, and enabled situations in which properties recognised as unlawfully nationalised

remained under State control or were sold to third parties without a solid legal or factual ground. On this unstable foundation, the Romanian public property regime suffers from fragmentary regulation of inventory, classification, and transfer of public assets. Legislation does not necessarily provide a dense or coherent set of procedural and substantive rules governing how public property is classified and moved between public and private domains and between public entities, creating wide discretionary spaces and inconsistent administrative practice. As the relevant case-law suggests, these deficiencies can be strategically exploited in corrupt schemes that qualify as abuse of office and related corruption offences, such as manipulation of inventories and cadastral records, arbitrary inclusion or exclusion of assets from the public domain, undervaluation and preferential alienation or concession of high-value public property, and the orchestration of restitution or compensation outcomes in favour of intermediaries and political networks. The analysis proposes to show, from an interdisciplinary criminal and administrative law perspective, that detailed rules on inventory and transfer of public assets, coupled with transparent unified registers, are not merely technical tools of public management but essential anti-corruption safeguards.

Strategic Corruption and the Law: Bridging Geopolitical Influence and Legal Accountability *Andrii Biletskyi, University of Zurich*

Recent scholarship in political science and international relations has introduced the concept of strategic corruption, referring to the deliberate use of corrupt practices by state or state-linked actors to advance geopolitical objectives. Unlike traditional understandings of corruption, which emphasize private enrichment, strategic corruption is primarily aimed at exerting political influence, distorting democratic governance, and undermining institutional integrity in targeted states. Despite its growing recognition, the concept remains largely absent from legal discourse. This paper seeks to bridge this gap by examining whether and how strategic corruption can be conceptualized and addressed within existing legal frameworks. Drawing on doctrinal legal analysis and interdisciplinary insights, the study explores the compatibility of strategic corruption with established definitions of corruption in international and domestic law, including the United Nations Convention against Corruption and relevant regional instruments. It analyzes key legal challenges, such as the absence of personal enrichment, issues of attribution to foreign state actors, evidentiary thresholds, and jurisdictional limitations. The paper further considers how strategic corruption often operates through legal or semi-legal mechanisms such as political financing, media capture, lobbying, and strategic investments making it difficult to detect and prosecute using traditional anti-corruption tools. By highlighting these doctrinal and practical limitations, the research proposes avenues for integrating strategic corruption into legal scholarship and policy responses, including interpretative approaches to existing norms and the development of complementary regulatory and sanctions-based mechanisms. By bringing strategic corruption into legal discussion, this paper contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of contemporary corruption and offers actionable insights for strengthening the resilience of democratic institutions and international anti-corruption regimes.

019. The Organisation of Environmental Crime: actors, markets and movement

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Environmental/Green Criminology
Paper Session
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.610
Chair:
Aitor Ibáñez Alonso, KU Leuven
Participants:

The Sinaloa Cartel and the Illegal Totoaba Trade *Daan van Uhm, Utrecht University; Zulia Orozco, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California*

The Gulf of California has long been a hub for fishing of totoaba, a species endemic to the Upper Gulf and highly prized for its swim bladder, or "maw," in Chinese markets. Despite being legally protected in Mexico since 1975 and listed under CITES, totoaba remains a key target of illegal trade, driven by transnational smuggling networks and organized crime. Based on multi-sited fieldwork in San Felipe, Santa Clara, Mexicali, Ensenada, and Tijuana in Mexico, interviews with both state and non-state actors explored local perceptions, trafficking routes, enforcement patterns, and the presence of organized crime. The study finds that organized crime has exploited conservation policies to consolidate control over coastal economies, leading to community conflict, violent enforcement, and further marginalization of fishers. This presentation seeks to reframe totoaba poaching not solely as an environmental crime but as a socio-political phenomenon, calling for a more nuanced, community-informed green criminological approach to marine conservation and enforcement.

Reconstructing the Global Waste Trafficking Network: A Weighted Approach *Caterina Gavioli, Transcrime | Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore; Serena Favarin, Transcrime / Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore*

Waste trafficking is an increasingly relevant form of transnational environmental crime, yet the global patterns through which illegal waste moves between countries remain insufficiently understood. Existing studies have relied on binary representations of global waste trafficking networks, which capture whether countries are connected through illegal waste flows but overlook the magnitude of these exchanges. Building on this limitation, this study asks: How does the structure of the global waste trafficking network change when considering not only the presence of connections between countries, but also their frequency and the volume of waste exchanged? Drawing on data from the Basel Convention National Reports (2016–2024), we develop three network representations: a binary network, a frequency-weighted network, and a

composite weighted network combining adjusted frequency and volume. To address reporting imbalances, we introduce an Adjustment Reporting Score (ARS), applied at the case level. The analysis shows that incorporating weights provides a more differentiated representation of the network, highlighting variations in the relative importance of routes and countries not visible in binary representations. This study contributes by advancing network analysis in environmental crime research and by showing how incorporating flow intensity can reveal structural patterns of waste trafficking that remain hidden.

From Listings to Logistics: Inferring Supply-Chain Strategies in Online Exotic Reptile-Leather Trade *Ulhas Vinay Gondhali, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York*

Wildlife trade often relies on complex logistics to obscure supply chains from regulators and law enforcement. Open marketplaces like eBay make the seller-level logistic metadata open-access, allowing for critical analysis to investigate the logistical infrastructure sustaining the trade. This study examines whether the online reptile leather market supply chain exhibits spatial risk concentration. The study analyzed reptile leather products listings on eBay extracted using machine learning (ML) and Large Language Models (LLMs). The listings were aggregated by sellers and standardized to pair product-species combinations and linked with spatial metadata. The spatial metadata included ships-from locations. Pareto analysis was conducted to determine if product listings are disproportionately concentrated in a small subset of ships-from locations. Crime Location Quotient (LQC) analysis was conducted for top product-species pairs and visualized geographically. The results indicate disproportionate geographic concentrations. Findings suggest a high risk of international trade in CITES-regulated species on the platform and highlight the need for targeted compliance screening at key shipping locations, along with standardized labelling of wildlife products on eBay.

From forests to chopsticks: Mapping semi-legal wildlife supply chains in Vietnam through crime script analysis *Aitor Ibáñez Alonso, KU Leuven; Phuc Thien Khoa Nguyen, Fulbright University Vietnam; Trong Dat Cao Tien, Vinh University; Thi Mai Trinh, UNDP, Vietnam; Daan van Uhm, Utrecht University*

The exploitation of wildlife for meat consumption—both legal and illegal—poses major conservation, animal welfare, and public health risks. While scholarship often centers on CITES-listed species, other species remain comparatively underexamined. Focusing on the semi-legal trade in two widely bred and consumed species in Vietnam—civets and bamboo rats—this study examines the scale of the illegal trade embedded within ostensibly legal businesses, and employs Crime Script Analysis (CSA) to map the illegal activities through two complementary scripts: a farm-based and a restaurant-based CSA. The analysis draws on 107 interviews, including 63 semi-structured interviews with farmers and restaurant operators and 44 interviews with other stakeholders, complemented by direct observations. Findings indicate that more than half of respondents (34/63) openly acknowledged engaging in illegal sourcing, even in front of authorities. Moreover, eight farms operated entirely outside the regulatory system or maintained unregistered satellite locations, while two-thirds (24/38) of registered farms reported having operated without registration for several years. Under-reporting and logbook manipulations were widespread in more than half of the farms (26/43), while ritualized inspections and facilitation payments contributed to lax regulatory oversight. Understanding these procedural dynamics provides a foundation for targeted interventions essential not only for conservation but also for strengthening zoonotic disease surveillance within a One Health framework.

020. Community Sanctions 1: Desistance, Resettlement & Reintegration Post-Prison

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Community Sanctions (Community Sanctions WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.611

Chaired by Professor Fergus McNeill, a leading reintegration and resettlement scholar, this panel brings together four contributions that collectively rethink desistance, resettlement, and reintegration in the aftermath of imprisonment by questioning the assumptions, measures, and temporalities that underpin dominant frameworks. Across diverse empirical contexts -- including England, French Guiana, and Western Canada -- the papers highlight how prevailing models of "successful" reintegration are often ill-suited to the lived realities of those leaving prison. First, desistance is reconceptualised as temporal work, shaped by the misalignment between institutional timelines and the slower, uncertain labour of personal and social change. Second, attention to geographically and socially marginalised contexts reveals the limits of exporting Northern, individualised desistance frameworks, particularly for women whose experiences remain largely invisible in criminological research. Third, findings from Indigenous re-entry in Canada challenge standard indicators of success, showing how wellbeing and reintegration are often grounded in relational, collective, and culturally embedded practices that escape dominant measurement tools. Finally, the panel advances conceptual innovation through a multidimensional ecological model of reintegration, offering a more nuanced account of the social, structural, and relational processes shaping life after prison. Taken together, these papers argue for a shift away from narrow, individualised, and outcome-focused understandings of reintegration. Instead, they foreground the importance of time, context, relationality, and measurement itself as key analytical concerns. The panel calls for more inclusive, context-sensitive, and theoretically robust approaches that better capture the complexity of post-prison lives and open new directions for research, policy, and practice.

Chair:

Fergus McNeill, University of Glasgow

Participants:

Desistance as temporal work: Following the resettlement journeys of 150 prison-leavers over 18 Months *Helen*

Kosc, University of Cambridge, Institute of Criminology

This research -- which draws from the speaker's Doctoral project and forthcoming book -- examines desistance from crime as temporal work. The study maps the resettlement journeys of 150 men released from HMP Bullingdon, and enrolled in the 'RESTART' Thames Valley pilot, over 18 months. Through sequential interviews, go-along observation, and fieldnotes, the study follows men's post-release journeys from prison to the community, as they attempt to stabilise lives shaped by scarcity, homelessness, addiction, and shifting support systems. The argument is simple: time is governed. Compressed licence periods, conditional housing contracts, and institutional clocks collide with the slow labour of change. The thesis considers how time, timing and its misalignment might fracture what counts as 'progress' and to whom. Theoretically and conceptually, the thesis intervenes in wider debates in desistance scholarship by showing how internal and structural mechanisms interact over time: the sequencing of intent and opportunity is not a single causal puzzle, but a recurring negotiation shaped by tempo, duration, alignment, and the meanings individuals attach to them. Methodologically, temporal coding, case-level alignment matrices, and mechanism memos render (mis)alignment visible across cases. Substantively, the thesis reframes resettlement as continuous temporal work sustained under scarcity and surveillance. When institutional clocks misread slow labour and misalign with lived change, the challenge is not merely to refine metrics but to rethink the relationship between measurement, meaning, and justice.

Rethinking Re-entry? Indigenous Re-entry and the Limits of Standard Indicators *Justin Tetrault, Simon Fraser University; Bucerius Sandra, University of Alberta; Philip Badawy, University of Alberta*

Criminology has long treated race as a central axis of inequality in re-entry outcomes. Yet, drawing on mixed-methods longitudinal data on prison release in Western Canada, we identify a counterintuitive pattern: despite experiencing significantly greater cumulative disadvantage - including earlier system contact, more frequent incarceration, and deeper entanglement with state interventions - Indigenous participants report levels of wellbeing, preparedness, and post-release satisfaction that are comparable to, and in some domains exceed, those of non-Indigenous participants. How should this pattern be interpreted? One possibility, consistent with research on racialized health paradoxes, is that structurally disadvantaged groups develop adaptive repertoires that sustain subjective wellbeing under conditions of constraint. A second possibility is that dominant re-entry frameworks fail to capture forms of reintegration that are not organized around individual economic stability and institutional incorporation. We argue that our findings point to a problem of measurement embedded within a broader problem of governance. Standard indicators of "successful" re-entry, employment, housing, formal service access, encode liberal, individualist assumptions about what reintegration should entail. Our qualitative data suggest that Indigenous participants often navigate re-entry through relational, collective, and community-based practices that remain largely illegible within these frameworks. From this perspective, reintegration is not reducible to institutional incorporation, but involves processes of relational repair, survival, and reorientation that unfold across social ties and everyday practices. At the same time, our findings speak to the limits of comparison in a settler colonial context. Colonial governance operates through displacement, family separation, and identity disruption, producing forms of marginality that are not cleanly captured by racial categories. We therefore propose a shift in re-entry research from measuring outcomes to interrogating the assumptions embedded in those measures. By foregrounding coloniality, relationality, and narrative meaning-making, this paper calls for a rethinking of how we assess and define re-entry experiences

Desistance from the Margins: Reintegration in French Guiana and the Limits of Northern Frameworks *Stephanie Fanfan, University Paris Cité*

French Guiana is administratively France. Its penitentiary system operates under the same legal framework, the same probation protocols, and the same rehabilitation expectations as prison in metropolitan France. The desistance process it demands from incarcerated women, like rebuilding social ties, accessing employment, navigating welfare institutions, re-establishing a non-criminal identity is designed for a French reality. But French Guiana is not geographically France. It is a vast Amazonian territory with porous borders and a majority of Creole, Maroons, and Amazonian population. Incarcerated women in French Guiana are among the most understudied populations in francophone criminology. Absent from the literature, excluded from metropolitan rehabilitation programmes, and governed by a framework designed for a reality that is not theirs, they occupy a double invisibility: marginalised within a territory that is itself marginalised within France. This paper argues that making them visible requires more than extending existing frameworks. It requires building new ones. Drawing on interviews conducted across metropolitan France and French Guiana, it introduces the Integrity Transformation Index (ITI), an analytical tool designed to measure identity transformation on the self's own terms rather than against institutional expectations. What the ITI finds when applied comparatively across these two contexts raises a question that desistance theory has not yet fully confronted: what happens to our models of reintegration when the individual is not the right unit of analysis? Desistance theory has been challenged on geographic grounds - built predominantly in Northern contexts and exported as universal. It has been challenged on gender grounds, too. Constructed largely from studies of men and subsequently adapted, rather than rebuilt, for women. This paper sits at the intersection of both challenges. It presents the ITI as a contribution to that conversation and opens the question of what desistance theory stands to gain from contexts it has not yet looked at carefully

Re/integrative Dimensions: Untangling the 6-Form Model of Re/integration *Alejandro Rubio Arnal, SEPE*

In spite of a substantial rise in academic, policy, and research interest in life after prison worldwide (Dunkel et al., 2019), people often face acute, compounded, and permanent adversities on release (Western, 2018; Durnescu, 2019; Halushka, 2019; Miller, 2021). Despite these two matters, our knowledge on re/integration and life after prison remains limited, and we lack a thorough and in-depth conceptualisation of what re/integration means. The aim of this presentation is to contribute to this endeavour by, after introducing the six-form ecological model of re/integration (Rubio-Arnal & McNeill, 2023), engaging in an in-depth exploration of one of the three main components of the model: re/integrative dimensions. The presentation will conclude by discussing the implications of these eight dimensions for society, theory, research, and both policy and practice.

021. Reintegration, Post-Penal Support and Youth Intervention

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Crime prevention
Paper Session
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.616
Chair:
Evelyn Heynen, Open University of the Netherlands
Participants:

"We Would Rather Return to Prison": Lived Experiences of Post-Penal Isolation in Poland *Agnieszka Gutkowska, Department of Criminology University of Warsaw*

Post-penal measures have been in effect in Poland since 2014. They were introduced into the Polish legal system based on the Act of November 22, 2013, on dealing with people with mental disorders posing a threat to the life, health, or sexual freedom of others. The Act provides for two types of post-penal measures. Preventive supervision—restriction of liberty without isolation—is implemented by the police. Isolation takes place at the National Center for the Prevention of Dissocial Behaviour (KOZZD). Although placement in the Center is not a punishment, and its purpose is therapy to prepare patients for life in the community so that they no longer pose a threat to others, the Center's residents have claimed for years that they would prefer to return to prison. This presentation is an attempt to describe what happens at the Center, what its residents complain about, and whether the Center has a chance of achieving its goals.

Post-penitentiary assistance in Poland and its role in the social rehabilitation of former prisoners *Katarzyna Lenart-Kłoś, The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin.*

This presentation addresses the significance of post-penitentiary assistance in the social rehabilitation of former prisoners in Poland. It provides the results of qualitative research conducted between 2024 and 2025 in six post-penitentiary aid centres, involving 52 men – former offenders benefiting from housing support in homes run by non-governmental organisations. The analysis focuses on the participants' experiences of the reintegration process, their assessment of the support provided, and the identification of key reintegration needs. Particular attention is paid to the role of peer support, understood as reciprocal help between former prisoners, which proves to be a significant factor in achieving stability in life and building a sense of agency. The paper will also discuss the issue of homelessness among this group, including the link between experience of repeat imprisonment and the risk of housing exclusion. An important context for the analyses is the biographical experiences of the participants, especially difficult childhoods characterised by violence, parentification and previous institutionalisation. These factors are presented as elements of long-term trajectories of social exclusion. The main areas of marginalisation faced by ex-offenders will also be identified, which are to be tackled through coordinated cooperation between public institutions and non-governmental organisations. The paper also includes practical recommendations for the prison system, social organisations and other stakeholders supporting the social rehabilitation process. It emphasises the need for well-integrated, long-term measures that incorporate both financial and psychosocial support.

From Prisoner to Personal Trainer – Our In2Sport Journey *Arthur Furness, University of Bath*

The growing cost of reoffending to the UK taxpayer is estimated to be around £18.1 billion per year (Ministry of Justice, 2022). Economically and socially, the rate at which offenders reoffend has a damning impact on society and communities. Despite there being collective research on prison interventions pre- and mid-sentence (Welsh et al., 2024; Beaudry et al., 2021; Ellison et al., 2017; Petrillo, 2021; Evans et al., 2017; Buckingham, 2012), little evidence exists on how to reduce recidivism post-custody. The core focus of this presentation will around the In2Sport project (SGS College, Bristol). The In2Sport course was designed in 2021 to re-integrate prison leavers into a further education setting, onto a bespoke two-year course that qualifies them as fitness instructors and personal trainers. Since the course has started, forty-four men have graduated, and forty-three men have not returned to prison, many of whom are now full-time personal trainers across Bristol. I argue that in order to reduce the rate of reoffending, we must turn our attention to post-release intervention and continue to provide more opportunities for prison leavers in education and meaningful employment. Whilst further education settings aren't traditional avenues for those leaving the criminal justice system, they provide a platform for participants to reposition themselves in society. From offender to learner, they receive all of the same support that any other student would get, whilst studying & pursuing a career they find valuable. Equally, the fitness industry does not stigmatise based on previous convictions, it encourages people who can make a difference to make a difference. I will highlight some of the journeys of our graduates & expand on their lives since last incarceration, one of whom Josh, is now a Lecturer on the course he started on four years ago.

The right person making the right contact – a qualitative study of facilitating and hindering elements of specialized youth work in preventing juvenile delinquency *Evelyn Heynen, Open University of the Netherlands; Puck Meulen, Open University*

Juvenile delinquency remains strongly patterned by structural inequality and cumulative risk factors. Developmental and life-course criminology consistently shows that poverty, social inequality, unstable home environments, intergenerational issues, mental health problems, limited education, and unemployment increase early and persistent offending. In deprived urban areas, these risks often cluster, restricting developmental opportunities and contributing to involvement in organized crime networks that exploit young people's social vulnerability and local embeddedness, thereby reinforcing criminal behavior and limiting chances for desistance. To counter this, the Netherlands has implemented specialized youth work initiatives targeting vulnerable youth, for whom regular youth work proves insufficient. These initiatives focus on relational, practice-based support aimed at strengthening identity, responsibility, and social participation, while addressing underlying criminogenic mechanisms. However, despite their importance, specialized youth work remains underexamined in criminological research, and its usefulness in preventing juvenile delinquency remains unclear. Therefore, the present study examines which elements of specialized youth work are perceived by professionals and youth as facilitating and hindering in the prevention of juvenile delinquency. The study aims to identify relational, structural, and procedural mechanisms contributing to crime prevention, desistance, or unintended harm, thereby contributing to a more theoretically grounded understanding of specialized youth work in the prevention of juvenile delinquency. Focus groups were conducted with both professionals youth. Five interrelated mechanisms appeared to shape how specialized youth work facilitates engagement with youth vulnerable to delinquency: trust, persistent proximity, tailored support, development-oriented guidance and mindset development, and activities as a relational context. In contrast, four mechanisms appeared to shape how specialized youth work hinders engagement with youth vulnerable to delinquency; breaches of trust, professional's distance and restraint, lack of alignment, and repressive actions. These mechanisms will be discussed in more detail, and implications for research, practice, and policy will be highlighted.

022. Criminal Justice Contact and Its Enduring Consequences: Stigma, Services, Records, and Exclusion

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Non-Criminal Justice Responses to Delinquency (WG on Collateral Consequence of Criminal Records)

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.617

Chair:

Marcelo F. Aebi, University of Lausanne

Participants:

Criminal Justice Labeling, Causal Attributions, and Stigma Reactions: A Survey-Vignette Study in Iceland *Jon Gunnar Bernburg, University of Iceland; Sigrun Olafsdottir, University of Iceland; Kari Kristinsson, University of Iceland*

In recent decades, growing support for the effects of criminal justice labeling on stigmatization and exclusion has prompted scholars to further address what shapes stigma reactions to those labeled by justice. To date, this emerging research, which mostly comes from punitive United States, has yet to address how causal attributions regarding criminal behavior shape stigma reactions by members of the community. To our knowledge, such research has been confined to a separate research field that has focused on mental health problem stigma. Addressing this gap in knowledge, we conducted a nationwide vignette-survey in Iceland (in 2025) that allows us to test not only whether criminal justice labeling (i.e., information about a short prison sentence three years before) evokes stigma reactions in a society characterized by communitarianism and lenient penal policies, but how popular causal attributions shape the public's stigma reactions toward individuals marked by criminal justice. The findings show pronounced stigma reactions by members of the public toward individuals labeled by criminal justice, supporting the external validity of prior research. Moreover, in partial support of our hypotheses, attributing the situation of labeled individuals to early socialization is positively associated with stigma reactions, but attributing their situations to stressful circumstances is negatively associated with stigma reactions. Popular causal beliefs thus seem to shape stigma reactions to those tagged by justice.

"I Don't Need Help": Examining Substance Use and Mental Health Medical Service Utilization Among Arrested Men and Women *Jae Eun Lee, University of Maryland, College Park*

Alarmingly high and increasing rates of substance use and mental health disorders, as well as limitations of current medical care systems in addressing these problems, have persisted as pressing issues in public health and epidemiology spheres for the past several decades. The general consensus across these disciplines and relevant criminological work points to involvement in the legal system as a determinant of not only alcohol and drug use and mental illness, but also a lower likelihood of seeking and receiving appropriate treatment. Recent theorizing and scholarship on system avoidance suggests that avoiding formal, surveilling institutions such as hospitals and clinics may be a means for system-involved individuals to mitigate the risk of future criminal justice contact. Further, it is possible that the experience of arrest and the gender of the arrestee may interact to produce unique effects on treatment utilization and avoidance patterns given prior research that finds differences in the effects of arrest on health outcomes by gender. However, most studies are limited to a focus on incarceration and/or neglect the

potential role of gender, despite the practical importance of arrest as the entryway to the later stages of formal and informal criminal justice processing. Noting these gaps in the literature, the present study uses a nationally representative sample of adults in the United States (2019) to examine whether system involvement—specifically arrest—substantially influences medical care utilization for clinically diagnosable substance use and mental health disorders, and whether the hypothesized effects of arrest on treatment outcomes are differentiable by gender. Findings suggest that adults who have been arrested are more likely than non-system involved adults to receive medical help for substance use disorders, and that men are less likely than women to receive care for mental health disorders for gender-variable reasons. Implications for policy and theory are discussed.

The New Brazilian Civil Death: Monetary Punishment, Employability and Post-Prison Exclusion *Luigi Ferrarini, University of São Paulo Law School; Patrick Cacicedo, University of São Paulo*

This research examines the social effects of monetary punishment in Brazil following legal and judicial changes that, since 2018, have treated the non-payment of criminal fines as an obstacle to the extinction of punishment. Although formally considered the least severe criminal sanction, fines have come to operate in practice as a mechanism of extended punishment, prolonging the condition of being convicted beyond the completion of custodial sentences. Unpaid fines prevent sentence extinction and create barriers to accessing basic documents, formal employment, bank accounts, social benefits, and fundamental civil rights. The study situates this phenomenon within Brazil's broader socio-economic context, in which incarceration disproportionately affects poor and racialised populations. It shows that a legal interpretation initially aimed at addressing white-collar crime has had its most significant impact on the usual targets of penal control: poor, formerly incarcerated individuals, particularly those convicted of drug and property offences, who are also the least able to afford high monetary penalties. Methodologically, the research combines empirical and documentary approaches. It draws on qualitative material from studies on the post-prison experiences of formerly incarcerated people assisted by reintegration programmes and legal aid initiatives in São Paulo, focusing on the impact of unpaid fines on employability and social reintegration. It also examines judicial decisions and court practices related to the enforcement, maintenance, and possible extinction of criminal fines, highlighting the role of the judiciary in reproducing post-prison exclusion. The research argues that contemporary monetary punishment in Brazil functions as a form of "civil death," keeping former prisoners under penal control through debt while denying them the material conditions necessary for lawful survival. In doing so, it reveals the central—yet largely overlooked—role of fines as a mechanism of post-prison social exclusion.

Rethinking recidivism and criminal records beyond rupture narratives: A longue durée perspective on the persistent offender *Marcelo F. Aebi, University of Lausanne; Leandro Gaston, University of Lausanne, Switzerland*

Contemporary criminological scholarship often portrays criminal records as a distinctly modern institution — invented in the nineteenth century and radically transformed by digitalization and post-1970s penal change. This article challenges that rupture narrative by tracing the deep history of criminal records and recidivism through Braudel's (1958) concept of the longue durée, a framework for analysing structures that persist across centuries. We make two contributions. First, drawing on sources from Roman law to nineteenth-century French parliamentary debates, we re-examine five widely accepted historical claims and show that each is incomplete: the concept of recidivism predates Bonneville de Marsangy by centuries; systematic criminal record infrastructures existed under Napoleon by 1808; Bonneville refined rather than invented the casier judiciaire; recidivism was a long-standing policy concern, not a nineteenth-century novelty; and pre-Enlightenment practice relied on graduated sanctions rather than routine execution for minor first offenses. Second, we reconceptualize criminal record systems as successive technological adaptations to a persistent social problem: identifying and managing the persistent offender. From branding and tattooing to bureaucratic files and digital databases, the techniques change, but the underlying concern remains. Analysis of the French parliamentary debates of 1898–1899 shows that dilemmas now framed as products of digitalization — privacy, employment discrimination, proportionality, and function creep — were already central to democratic deliberation more than a century ago. The analysis supports a realistic reform agenda: graduated retention and disclosure by offense seriousness and persistence, time-limited access for less serious convictions, and safeguards against the expansion of records beyond their original purpose. By situating criminal records within a longue durée of both control and compassion, the article aims to open more productive pathways for offence-specific, democratically legitimate reform.

023. El Rey. Becoming a Latin King

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Gangs (Eurogang WG)
Author meets critics
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.012

EL REY. BECOMING A LATIN KING (to be published by Brill in July 2026) is the striking chronicle of three journeys: the journey of César Andrade (aka King Manaba) to his migrant past, and life as Inca, king and prisoner; the journey of Carles Feixa (aka King Book) to his meeting the Latin Kings and Queens of Catalonia and beyond; and the journey of them both to the understanding of the ways of life within that emerge the Almighty Latin King and Queen Nation. This book is the fruit of multiple conversations over a period of twenty years, since the first meeting in 2005, which happened after a raid on a youth center in Barcelona, until the present. A journey through an arduous process of legalization, cultural projects with the hope of some acknowledgement, experiences in prison and finally,

freedom. The life story of King Manaba is complemented by photographs and testimonies sent by relatives, fellow members of the King Nation and other related nations.

Critics:

Josep Tamarit, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya
Emilia Ziosi, University of Oxford

Book Author:

CARLES FEIXA PAMPOLS, Dep. of Communication, Pompeu Fabra University

024. Reconceptualising Crime in a Hybrid World: The Blurry Intersection between Online and Offline Harms: A Mixed-Methods Panel

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Cybercrime (Cybercrime WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.110

The rapid integration of digital technologies into everyday life has blurred the boundaries between online and offline crime, making it essential to understand their intersection for effective prevention and response (Davidson and Farr, 2026). Digital platforms are not separate from physical social worlds anymore, especially for young people; rather, they facilitate behaviours that can translate into offline harm (COHPTT Report, 2025). Research increasingly demonstrates that technology-facilitated abuse is closely linked to in-person violence, particularly in the context of violence against women and girls (VAWG) (Henry & Powell, 2018) and this is increasing with the rapid introduction of AI tools. Online harassment, image-based abuse, and coercive control often operate as extensions of domestic and sexual violence, reinforcing gendered power inequalities. Children are similarly affected by the convergence of digital and physical risks. Emerging technologies, including encrypted messaging services and 2d and 3d immersive gaming environments have created new opportunities for grooming, exploitation, and peer-on-peer abuse (Europol, 2022). Harms experienced online frequently manifest offline, underscoring the need for a safety by design approach; with integrated safeguarding frameworks and evidence-led policy and practice. Understanding this intersection is critical for evidence-based policy and practice. Law enforcement and policymakers must move beyond siloed approaches, recognising digital spaces as embedded within broader social ecologies of harm (Wall, 2007). The analysis of online data — such as community forums, social media and gaming behaviours, broader online interactions — offers valuable insights into offender trajectories and emerging threats. Harnessing such data responsibly can enhance early intervention strategies, inform regulation, and support victim-centred responses in an increasingly hybridised crime landscape. This multi-disciplinary panel explores perspectives of online crime and online harms from young people, law enforcement and convicted cybercriminals, and shares new methods and findings which seek to make use of online data to better understand and prevent future crime.

Chair:

Ruby Farr, University of East London

Participants:

1. Females Online from Victimisation and Offending: Understanding Online VAWG from a Law Enforcement Perspective and Female Pathways into Cybercrime from Convicted Criminals *Ruby Farr, University of East London; Sharon Susannah Jomaa, His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS); Julia C. Davidson, University of East London*

   Cybercrime is often portrayed as a problem dominated by men, particularly young men with advanced technical skills. However, emerging evidence suggests that women and girls are increasingly involved in a range of technology-facilitated and cyber-enabled crimes (Davidson and Farr 2026; Holt & Bossler, 2016). These offences can include cyberstalking and harassment, hacking, malware development, online fraud, and crimes involving the sexual abuse and exploitation of children. Despite this shift, research focusing specifically on female pathways into cybercrime is extremely limited. Most existing studies rely on surveys, police data, or male-dominated samples, which means that women's lived experiences, motivations, and circumstances are poorly understood. Without this understanding, it is difficult for criminal justice agencies to develop effective prevention, intervention, or rehabilitation strategies that reflect women's realities, and ultimately means that prevention and intervention strategies are tailored to the male experience. This primary research study conducted by Dr Farr and Prof Davidson, University of East London in collaboration with the UK HMPPS Cyber Threat Team, explores female pathways into cybercrime through interviews with convicted women in prison. This research addresses a significant gap in the literature, as existing understandings of cyber offending are overwhelmingly based on male-centric samples.

Young people, online play, and harm: Co-developing prevention and intervention strategies for multiplayer gaming environments *Julia C. Davidson, University of East London; Boglarka Meggyesfalvi, University of East London & Middlesex University; Arianna Arianna Barbin, University of East London*

Multiplayer online games have become a central site of adolescent social interaction across Europe and beyond, shaping communication practices, peer relationships, and behavioural norms. Alongside these opportunities, such environments can facilitate a range of anti-social behaviours, including harassment, abusive communication, exclusion, and other forms of digital harm. These behaviours raise important criminological questions around victimisation, deviance, and the effectiveness of formal and informal social control in digitally mediated spaces. Despite growing attention to cybercrime and online harms, limited research has focused specifically on how anti-social behaviour manifests within multiplayer gaming cultures, how young people themselves interpret these behaviours, and what prevention strategies are most effective and appropriate for this context. This study, which is part of a wider mixed-methods project, addresses this gap by examining adolescent experiences and perspectives to inform youth-centred approaches to prevention and platform governance. A qualitative design centred on focus group discussions with adolescents aged 13 to 19, complemented by secondary analysis of the CC-DRIVER dataset,

collected from 8000 European youth on different aspects of cyberdeviance. Focus groups with adolescents aged 13 to 19 were conducted both online (via Microsoft Teams) and in-person. Early analysis highlights that this project uniquely amplifies adolescents' own experiences and interpretations of anti-social behaviour in online multiplayer environments. By capturing these diverse perspectives, the study foregrounds both safety by design approaches and youth agency in shaping safe, inclusive online spaces. By centring adolescent voices and incorporating a diverse sample, this study contributes to European criminological discussions on digital harm, youth deviance, and prevention. It offers practical insights into how young people understand, respond to, and propose strategies for managing anti-social behaviour in multiplayer gaming. Findings will inform the development of evidence-based, youth-informed interventions and provide guidance for policymakers, practitioners, and platforms aiming to foster safer online environments.

Exploring the correlates of AI-based image abuse *Thomas J. Holt, Michigan State University; Rachel McNealey, Michigan State University; Taylor Fisher, Michigan State University; Julie Krupa, Michigan State University; Cooper A. Maher, Michigan State University*

Research on image-based sexual abuse (IBSA) has increased dramatically in the last decade. Technological changes have simplified the process of engaging in IBSA with the rise of AI as a means to create nude images of individuals without their consent. Research on this phenomenon is limited, calling to question the extent to which criminological theories can account for individual involvement in AI-enabled IBSA. This study attempts to address this gap in the literature through a quantitative analysis of four forms of IBSA offending in a sample of US adults. Binary logistic regression models will be estimated to assess the role of self-control and opportunity to account for offending behaviors. The implications for our understanding of criminological theory and AI-related offenses.

Neighbourhood Signals: Investigating Hyperlocal Online Discussions as Indicators of Police-recorded Crime *Ignacio Castro, Queen Maru University of London*

This presentation explores how digital trace data from online forums can be used to derive measurable indicators of local social dynamics relevant to community safety and crime. Using large-scale data from hyperlocal online discussions, the study extracts signals such as sentiment and shifts in collective attention within local conversations. Rather than identifying crime or harmful behaviour in the online data itself, the analysis focuses on whether aggregated signals from online discussions correspond with subsequent changes in police-recorded crime. Computational text analysis is used to generate indicators from forum posts, which are then linked with administrative crime data at the local level. This approach enables the examination of whether changes in online discourse, such as shifts in sentiment or the intensity of discussion around local issues, precede observable changes in recorded crime.

Using arts-based co-production to investigate online harms in relation to gender based violence and anti-social behaviour: the 'Lived experience' of UK pupils *Rose Butler, Sheffield Hallam University*

This interdisciplinary pilot project employed arts-based co-production methods to examine the interrelation between online and offline behaviour and harms in a secondary school environment. Young people explored digital etiquette, privacy, online harms, and the relationship between deviant virtual interactions and real-world safety. The study generated qualitative insights alongside creative artefacts and dialogue aimed at promoting safe online behaviour and awareness of reporting mechanisms. Students discussed harmful tech-facilitated behaviours, including cyberflashing and use of new 'illegal' apps. The outcomes included evidence on how hyperlocal digital and physical interactions contributed to risks such as violence against women and girls (VAWG) and anti-social behaviour, as well as policy-relevant insights to support targeted prevention strategies. The research demonstrates the value of arts-based approaches in engaging marginalised young voices and informing privacy-sensitive community safety interventions. Alternative insights may be generated through responsive, iterative and disrupted processes or use of technology.

025. Cyber-dependent crime: Offenders and victims

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Cybercrime (Cybercrime WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.116

Cyber-dependent crime—offences that can only be committed using digital technology—poses a significant global problem. This panel brings together five empirical studies examining various cyber-dependent crime types and perspectives, spanning offender behavior and decision-making, criminal markets, learning pathways into cybercrime, and the organization of ideologically motivated hacking. The first paper examines victim-offender interactions during ransomware negotiations, revealing how both parties engage in bounded rational decision-making. The second turns to pricing dynamics in the Genesis Market, showing how combinations of bot characteristics signal trust, value, and credibility in ways that shape market behavior. The third investigates early-stage cybercriminal behavior through a simulated cybercrime-as-a-service marketplace, analyzing how users explore and exploit access to compromised systems. The fourth traces learning trajectories into criminal hacking among tech-curious youth, applying situated learning theory to illuminate how online communities function as informal sites of socialization into offending. The fifth examines hacktivist networks at scale, combining expert coding, large language models, and network analysis to map the structure and evolution of ideologically motivated hacktivist networks.

Chair:

Sifra Matthijsse, The Hague University of Applied Sciences

Participants:

Exploring victim-offender interactions during a ransomware attack using LockBit chat negotiations *Sifra Matthijsse,*

The Hague University of Applied Sciences; Susanne van 't Hoff-de Goede, The Hague University of Applied Sciences; Rutger Leukfeldt, NSCR

This study explores interactions between ransomware victims and offenders through a qualitative analysis of chat negotiations (n=147) of the LockBit ransomware group taking place between December 2024 and April 2025. These negotiations provide insight into several key stages of ransomware incidents, including data exfiltration, extortion, communication, payment, and post-payment outcomes. The findings indicate that both offenders and victims employ bounded rational decision-making. For example, offenders tailor ransom demands to individual victims while balancing trust signals with pressure tactics. Victims' decisions to negotiate or pay the ransom are shaped by factors such as their financial situation, value of the compromised data, and the time and effort required to recover without a decryptor. At the same time, both parties have to deal with information asymmetry: offenders often lack complete information about the victim's finances or value of the data, while victims face uncertainty about the credibility of the ransomware group. The findings illustrate the interplay between both parties in shaping the outcome of the ransomware attack and reveal both professional aspects and imperfections of LockBit's operations. The study highlights the importance of understanding victim-offender interactions during ransomware attacks and offers practical implications for supporting ransomware victims.

Genesis Market Sales: Pricing and Discounting Patterns in a Cybercriminal Marketplace *Hannah Kool, NSCR; Asier Moneva, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR); The Hague University of Applied Sciences; Elanie Rodermond, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; Rutger Leukfeldt, NSCR*

Cybercrime-as-a-Service (CaaS) markets like Genesis Market allow potential cybercriminals to trade tools, services, and stolen data. Because prices in these markets are not set by fixed or transparent rules, they may not only reflect economic value but also serve as signals of reliability, credibility, or perceived risk. While previous research examined how individual bot characteristics influence price, less is known about how combinations of characteristics shape pricing patterns. Drawing on the Rational Choice Perspective and Signaling Theory, this study investigates whether pricing and discounting can be interpreted as potential indicators of perceived trust in the Genesis Market. Using Conjunctive Analysis of Case Configuration (CACC), we analyze how sets of bot characteristics relate to underpricing, overpricing and discounting. The results show clear pricing patterns when combinations of characteristics are considered together. Operating system, world region, and discount status are linked to under- or overpricing. Underpriced bots often combine characteristics that suggest lower expected value, while overpriced bots are typically associated with higher-value world regions and richer data indicators. Discount shows a less consistent pattern, mixing both lower- and higher-value cues. Overall, the findings highlight that pricing strategies in the Genesis Market emerge from how multiple characteristics interact, offering new insight into how value and trust are constructed in CaaS markets.

Reconnaissance behavior in honeypot systems: An analysis of offender's online mobility *Asier Moneva, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR); The Hague University of Applied Sciences; Roy Ricaldi, Eindhoven University of Technology; Luca Allodi, Eindhoven University of Technology; Rutger Leukfeldt, NSCR*

This study examines how individuals behave when given the opportunity to test access to compromised computer systems through a simulated online marketplace. The marketplace, created and operated by the research team, was designed to resemble a real cybercrime-as-a-service shop, and allowed users to briefly test the advertised systems before purchase. All user activity during these test sessions was monitored and video recorded, enabling a detailed analysis of behavior in a controlled setting. The sample includes 32 unique users who generated 43 recorded sessions (M = 1.3 per user). We analyze their behavior using the Cybercrime Journeys framework in order to better understand online mobility patterns and decision-making processes in early-stage cybercriminal activity.

A situated learning approach to learning trajectories of criminal hackers in online hacker communities *Janina Eggers, NSCR; Marleen Weulen Kranenbarg, Vrije Universiteit (VU) Amsterdam; Edward Kleemans, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; Rutger Leukfeldt, NSCR*

In this paper, we use a novel framework to identify learning trajectories through which tech-curious youth progress from playful experimentation with technical skills to the use of these competencies in criminal hacking, and, in some cases, other cyber-dependent offenses. Despite growing empirical attention to pathways into criminal hacking, research offering theoretically integrated and empirically grounded accounts of the potential trajectories through which such progression unfolds remains limited. To examine these trajectories empirically, we draw on 21 qualitative interviews with self-identified criminal hackers residing in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. We provide a new perspective by applying situated learning theory (Lave, 1991; Lave & Wenger, 1991; Wenger, 1998) as an analytical framework to conceptualize online hacker communities as socially situated sites of learning and analyze the informal social learning dynamics that shape pathways into criminal hacking. The presentation will present and discuss the study's empirically grounded findings. Preliminary results show that situated learning theory sheds new light on specific aspects of learning trajectories into criminal hacking. We will discuss the implications for theory, future empirical research, and for efforts to interrupt pathways into criminalization.

Mapping Hacktivist Networks: A Longitudinal Analysis of Ideologically Motivated Website Defacements Using LLM (Large Language Model) *Marco Romagna, The Hague University of Applied Sciences; Joeri Loggen, The Hague University of Applied Sciences; Yoes Ywema, The Hague University of Applied Sciences; Samuel Kernan*

Freire, The Hague University of Applied Sciences; Amey Vasulkar, The Hague University of Applied Sciences

Ideologically motivated hackers (hacktivists) frequently use website defacements to communicate political messages, signal group identity, and demonstrate technical capability. Despite the visibility of these attacks, less is known about the extension of hacktivists' community and networks. This study investigates this gap by analyzing more than one million website defacements recorded in the Zone-H database between January 2010 and December 2023. The research adopts a multi-stage mixed-methods approach. First, two researchers independently identified attackers and potential hacktivist networks within a subset of 800 defaced websites through manual coding. In parallel, a large language model (ChatGPT 5.1) was applied to the same material and iteratively calibrated to replicate the researchers' classifications. Inter-rater reliability was evaluated both between the human coders and between the coders and the model. The coding logic was subsequently formalized into classification rules that were used to further refine the model, enabling the automated identification of attackers and networks across the full dataset. After data cleaning and validation, network analysis techniques were applied to examine patterns of collaboration, structural characteristics, and changes in hacktivist activity over time. By integrating expert coding, large language models, and large-scale network analysis, this study introduces a scalable methodological approach for identifying and analyzing hacktivist networks. The findings contribute to a better understanding of how ideologically motivated hacking communities organize, interact, and evolve within cyberspace.

026. Clan Crime in Europe: Transformation, Media Narratives, and Political Contestation

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Organized Crime (Organized Crime WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.130

This panel examines how so-called clan crime is currently understood, represented, and transformed across Europe. Bringing together criminological, ethnographic, and media-analytical perspectives, it moves beyond static and essentialising images of kinship-based criminality and asks how such formations are shaped by changing social conditions, political debates, and generational shifts. The first paper focuses on Sweden and analyses the role of ethnic- and family-based criminal networks in the country's changing organised crime landscape. It highlights the connections between migration, socio-economic marginalisation, and escalating violence, including the growing recruitment of teenagers for bombings, vandalism, and contract killings. The second paper examines the politicisation of clan crime in European media. Comparing countries where the term has become highly visible, such as Germany, Sweden, and Denmark, with others where it is used rarely and cautiously, it argues that media prominence cannot be explained by public attitudes alone. Instead, political opportunism, populist agenda setting, and polarised debates on migration and crime appear to play a key role. The third paper draws on long-term ethnographic research in Germany and shows how a younger generation is reshaping criminal networks from within. While kinship remains relevant, criminal cooperation is increasingly open, flexible, digitally mediated, and less dependent on older patriarchal hierarchies. Taken together, the panel offers a comparative and critical discussion of clan crime as both a social phenomenon and a contested public category. It aims to contribute to current debates on organised crime, migration, media framing, and the changing forms of kinship-based criminal networks in Europe.

Chair:

Dina Siegel, Utrecht University

Participants:

Criminal clans in Sweden *Dina Siegel, Utrecht University*

Sweden's criminal underworld has been shaped by ethnic-based criminal clans, which emerged through immigration waves and socio-economic struggles. While most immigrant communities integrate lawfully, some individuals form family-based criminal networks, specializing in drug trafficking, extortion, fraud, and violent enforcement. The influence of Syriac, Kurdish, Somali, and Balkan criminal clans has transformed Sweden's organized crime landscape, with gang wars and internal rivalries driving violent escalations. The problem of "criminal clans" gained national attention in September 2024, when deputy police chief Mats Löfving stated that at least 40 family-based criminal gangs were operating in Sweden. Sweden is currently battling a wave of clans' violence, often involving teenagers recruited by criminal networks to carry out violent acts, including vandalism, bombings, and contract killings. Effective countermeasures require a multi-faceted approach that addresses socio-economic disparities, strengthens policing strategies, and disrupts criminal financing mechanisms.

Clans, Media and Crime: the politicization of a crime phenomenon *Hans Moors, EMMA*

In the last decade, newspapers in Europe have been reporting on 'clan crime'. In some countries, like Germany, Sweden, and Denmark quite extensively, whereas in other countries, like the Netherlands, France, and The United Kingdom the term 'clan crime' is rarely used, and with much caution. Moreover, it is not seen as a domestic issue. The question then is how 'clan crime' is described and explained in news media, and when and why attention peaks. Exploratory analysis of the European Social Survey data indicates that this difference cannot be explained by public attitudes and beliefs regarding trust in democracy and the rule of law, freedom of the press and transparency, as well as integration and protection of minorities. Instead, this survey shows that overall, respondents in all countries mentioned are relatively positive about the cultural contribution of migrants to their societies. In addition, ESS-data show little difference on themes such as protection of minorities, perceived discrimination, support by family or friends, and personal experiences with the police in terms of fairness or unequal treatment. This implies that other mechanisms must be at play to explain differences in perceptions of 'clan crime' in the media, such as

political opportunism, populist agenda setting, and polarisation of debate on migration and crime.

Clan Crime in Germany: The Transformation of Criminal Networks among the New Generation *Mahmoud Jaraba, FAU Research Centre for Islam and Law in Europe (FAU EZIRE)*

This presentation draws on long-term ethnographic research on al-Rashidiya families in Germany and examines how forms of so-called clan crime are being reshaped by a younger generation of actors. It argues that the classical image of clan-based criminality as a closed, patriarchal, and tightly controlled family order is no longer sufficient to explain current developments. While kinship continues to matter, younger actors increasingly operate in more open, flexible, and network-based ways. In many cases, friendship circles, street affiliations, digital communication, and pragmatic ties to actors outside the family have become more important than older forms of hierarchy and obedience. Criminal cooperation is thus becoming less vertically organized and more adaptive, fragmented, and difficult to detect. The presentation highlights how this generational shift is transforming the internal logic of criminal milieus in Germany and why established public and policy understandings of clan crime need to be reconsidered in light of these changes.

Extended criminal family networks with clan characteristics: two examples *Toine Spapens, Tilburg Law School; Hans Moors, EMMA*

This paper addresses a recent Dutch study of two extended criminal family networks with clan characteristics. The first concerned an Albanian network involved in large-scale cannabis cultivation in the south of the Netherlands. The second analysed a network stemming from the Dutch traveller community. In this paper, we examine how these networks operated and whether or not 'clan characteristics' affected their modi operandi compared with organised (family-based) crime groups in general.

027. PWG Panel 5: Health, Mortality and Suicide in Custody

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Imprisonment, Prisons, Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment (Prisons WG)
Paper Session
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.156

Chair:

Leonel da Cunha Gonçalves, Geneva University Hospitals & University of Lausanne

Participants:

Carceral Lethality in Transition: Health, Custody, and Death in the Post-Pandemic Era *Bruno Rotta Almeida, Federal University of Pelotas (Brazil), University of Barcelona (Spain)*

The proposal presents the results of a postdoctoral research project developed at the University of Barcelona (Spain), which investigates the intersection between health and deaths under prison custody, especially in light of the reconfigurations that have occurred in the post-pandemic context. The study has as its main objective to understand and evaluate the dimensions of carceral lethality resulting from violations of health, with an analysis of Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil) and Catalonia (Spain). The research adopts an empirical, quantitative, and qualitative approach, articulating data collection, bibliographic review, analysis of documents and public policies, as well as focus groups with affected individuals. It seeks to examine health conditions in prisons, mortality rates, the distribution of human resources, and institutional responses in the face of violations of life. The study aims to identify factors of vulnerability, discrimination, and violation of fundamental rights that affect specific groups within the prison system. The proposal incorporates the analysis of demands presented by families of persons deprived of liberty, as well as the implementation of focus groups for the qualified listening of these experiences. It also includes the mapping of the structural conditions of prison units and the development of an information system focused on institutional violence in contexts of deprivation of liberty. Finally, the research proposes strategies for intervention and the improvement of public policies aimed at confronting violence and protecting the lives of incarcerated persons.

Criminal justice contact and mortality among people in drug treatment: evidence from linked administrative data in Scotland (2012–2015) *John Mcghee, The university of Edinburgh*

Scotland has had the highest drug-related mortality rate in Europe for over a decade. Individuals who use drugs and those who experience contact with the criminal justice system both face substantially elevated mortality compared with the general population. However, less is known about how different forms of criminal justice contact relate to mortality within treatment-seeking populations, who are already experiencing significant health and social vulnerability. This study uses linked administrative data from the Scottish Drug Misuse Database and National Records of Scotland mortality records to examine outcomes among 35,331 individuals accessing specialist drug treatment in Scotland between 2012 and 2015. Individuals were grouped according to criminal justice exposure: prison experience, non-prison criminal justice contact, and no recorded justice contact. Logistic regression models were used to examine associations between justice exposure and all-cause mortality while adjusting for demographic characteristics, drug use profiles, health service contact, and indicators of social vulnerability. Mortality was similar across justice exposure groups, with between 10% and 12% of individuals in each category dying during the follow-up period. After adjustment, neither prison experience nor non-prison criminal justice contact was independently associated with mortality, suggesting that elevated mortality among justice-involved individuals in drug treatment may reflect broader health and social vulnerabilities rather than justice exposure alone. Instead, mortality was more strongly associated with drug use profiles and indicators of health and social vulnerability, including heroin use, benzodiazepine use, alcohol-related health service contact, housing stability, and disengagement from employment or education. These findings suggest

that within treatment-seeking populations, mortality risk is structured less by criminal justice exposure itself than by overlapping health and social vulnerabilities that are unevenly distributed across justice groups. The results highlight the importance of public health and social policy responses addressing housing stability, employment engagement, and healthcare access alongside criminal justice involvement.

Suicidal Behaviours among Persons Deprived of Liberty in Poland in 2011-2025: Scale and Trends *Justyna Konikowska-Kuczyńska, Department of Criminal Law and Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Bialystok, Poland*

Suicidal behaviours are observed among persons deprived of liberty, which makes these behaviours a subject of academic interest. The article addresses suicidal behaviours among persons deprived of liberty in Poland in 2011–2025 and focuses on the analysis of their scale and trends based on statistical data from the Prison Service. The study includes suicide attempts and completed suicides, considered jointly as suicidal behaviours. Suicidal behaviours among persons deprived of liberty constitute a phenomenon of significant relevance in this context. The aim of the study is to present the scale of the analysed phenomena and their changes over a long-term period. The analysis also refers to a limited extent to the broader category of self-destructive behaviours among persons deprived of liberty.

Cancer prevalence and incidence prisons: A systematic review with meta-analysis *Leonel da Cunha Gonçalves, Geneva University Hospitals & University of Lausanne; Françoise Humbert, Geneva University Hospitals; Stéphanie Baggio, University of Bern; Laurent Gétaz, Geneva University Hospitals*

Cancer is a leading cause of morbidity worldwide, yet its burden in prison populations remains poorly understood. This systematic review and meta-analysis aimed to estimate cancer prevalence and incidence in adult prison populations and explore variability across studies. Following PRISMA 2020 guidelines, 50 studies from 16 countries were included. Most studies were cross-sectional and reported prevalence, with a minority of cohort studies reporting incidence. Study quality was rated low (38%), moderate (54%), or high (8%) risk of bias. Across eight samples including 270,216 detained persons, the pooled prevalence of current cancer was 0.59% (95% CI: 0.35–0.90), while the prevalence of a history of cancer in 208,226 persons was 2.07% (0.96–3.60). Among women, current urogenital cancers were 1.18% (0.65–1.84) and historical urogenital cancers 3.80% (0.59–9.40). The pooled incidence of any cancer was 0.20 cases per 100 person-years (0.14–0.30). Cancer prevalence was higher in women than men for both current and historical diagnoses and appeared elevated among older persons. Estimates were also higher in reports than in articles, and in studies with moderate-to-high risk of bias. Overall, cancer prevalence and incidence in prison populations appear similar to those in the general population (<1% current; 2–5% lifetime). However, women and older detainees carry a disproportionately higher burden, identifying subgroups that may benefit from targeted screening and preventive interventions. While comparisons with community estimates should be interpreted cautiously due to differences in age structure, cancer definitions, and potential underdiagnosis, these findings underscore the critical need for systematic cancer surveillance and health interventions in correctional settings to ensure timely diagnosis and equitable access to care.

028. The Importance of Food and Physical Activity in Women's Prisons in Poland, England and The Netherlands

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Imprisonment, Prisons, Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment (Prisons WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.164

This panel explores the significance of food and physical activity in shaping the lived experiences, wellbeing, and agency of women in prisons across Poland, England, and the Netherlands. Bringing together intervention-based, participatory, and methodological perspectives, the contributions focus on the preparation and consumption of food, as well as the design and delivery of sport and physical activity initiatives, each focusing specifically on the needs and experiences of women in prison.

Chair:

Rosie Meek, Royal Holloway University of London

Participants:

The Implementation of a Sports-Based Intervention in a Polish women's prison. *Piotr Łapiński, Jozef Pilsudski Universirty of Physical Education in Warsaw*

The aim of this Sports Based Intervention was to reduce inhibition amongst women in women's prisons to participate in physical activity, to strengthen resilience and enhance general self-efficacy. The specifics of this intervention will be presented, including the concept of choosing exercises (taking into account the needs of women), suggestions for generating activities during physical activity classes and other methodological challenges. An overview of the implementation of one specific Sports based Intervention in one of the Polish women's prisons, Effort-Perseverance-Freedom, will be presented, along with the accounts of the participants and conclusions for possible future implementers of this intervention.

Co-Designing Yoga Programmes with Women in Prison *Rosie Meek, Royal Holloway University of London*

In this talk I will summarise some of the research evidence supporting the delivery of yoga in prisons and outline a bespoke yoga initiative that was co-designed with women in an English prison. I will explore the importance of ethics, legitimacy and real world impact in our research in this area and outline opportunities for future research directions.

Co-producing Research on Food and the Body in a Women's Prison: Methodological Reflections from Pilot Studies *Abbi Jordan, Royal Holloway University of London*

This presentation reflects on the methodological challenges of researching women's embodied experiences of food and eating within prison settings. It

draws on a PhD project that examines how the institutional power of imprisonment shapes relationships with food and the body, and how these dynamics may be linked to disordered eating. While food is central to prison life, research in this area raises important ethical and methodological questions, particularly when engaging with sensitive topics such as trauma, bodily autonomy, and control within highly regulated environments. Focusing on the pilot phase of a mixed-methods study, the presentation explores the role of co-production in shaping the research design. The project incorporates an anonymous survey and semi-structured interviews to examine food practices, emotional well-being and body perception among incarcerated women. Rather than treating the pilot as a preliminary stage, it is positioned here as a critical phase of methodological development, through which research tools are refined in collaboration with women and adapted to the specific constraints of the prison environment. Drawing on feminist methodological approaches, the research considers how co-production can be used to centre women's voices, challenge researchers' assumptions, and reduce the risk of reproducing harm when researching sensitive, lived experiences. It also reflects on both the potential and the challenges of conducting co-produced research within institutional settings, where questions of power and access shape what research can be done and how. By situating the pilot phase as a space of adaptation and reflexive practice, this research contributes to wider methodological discussions on conducting ethical and participatory research in prison settings. It highlights the value of co-production in developing context-sensitive research tools and offers insights into how methodological approaches can better account for the complexities of researching food, the body, and lived experience within custodial environments.

The Cost of Control: Self-Catering and Inequality in Dutch Women's Prisons *An-Sofie Vanhouche, Vrije Universiteit Brussel; Paul Nieuwbeerta, Leiden University; Hanneke Palmen, Leiden University; Julia Marcella Visser, Leiden University & Vrije Universiteit Brussel; Elisabeth Groeneveld, Leiden University*

A growing body of scholarship has examined women's experiences with prison foodways. These studies highlight how women use self-prepared food as a means to regain a sense of control, construct identities of care for fellow incarcerated individuals, and maintain their physical health. At the same time, food can also be experienced as a source of powerlessness, a loss of control over one's body, a dehumanizing aspect of prison life, and in some cases a cause of hunger. Most existing research has relied on qualitative approaches. Therefore, this study quantitatively examines incarcerated women's experiences with food in Dutch prisons, particularly in light of the introduction of a new and improved prison food contract. The findings show an initial sense of improvement following the implementation of the new contract. However, they primarily reveal satisfaction with opportunities for self-catering, alongside persistent concerns about inequality. Specifically, the high financial costs associated with cooking independently contribute to financial and food-related disparities among incarcerated women.

029. Bio-psycho-social roots of antisocial behaviour

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Biological, Biosocial and Psychological Perspectives
Paper Session
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.166

Chair:
Ingrid Bogerd, GGZE/Catamaran

Participants:

Do Parents and Teachers See the Same Behaviors? Comparing Reports of Reactive and Proactive Aggression *Mariana Sebastião Sebastião Machado, School of Criminology, Faculty of Law - University of Porto / CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice / Faculty of Law - Lusíada University of Porto / CEJEIA - Center for Legal, Economic, International and Environmental Studies; Gilda Santos, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice; School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto; Josefina Castro, CEJEA, Lusíada University, Porto, Portugal; Carla Sofia Cardoso, CIJ-Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice; CEJEIA - Center for Legal, Economic, International and Environmental Studies; School of Criminology, Faculty of Law of the University of Porto*

Children's and adolescents' aggressive behaviors constitute a major social concern of the present time, given their detrimental consequences not only for those who engage in such behaviors and for the victims, but also for the family and the surrounding community. In this context, aggressive behaviors displayed during childhood and adolescence have been considered an important risk factor for the continuity of this type of conduct and for the development of other maladaptive behaviors throughout life (Fite et al., 2013; Pechorro et al., 2017). Regarding the assessment of aggressive behavior, the use of multiple informants to evaluate children's aggressive behavior is considered a best practice, as they observe children from different perspectives, which helps establish a more detailed and holistic understanding of this phenomenon. Nevertheless, studies explicitly within the scope of aggressive behavior functions remain scarce, and discrepancies between informants' reports are common in studies that rely on proximal behaviors. Therefore, this study aimed to investigate the agreement between parent and teacher ratings of children's reactive and proactive aggressive behaviors. To achieve this goal, elementary school children (n = 95, aged 7-10 years) were assessed using the Reactive and Proactive Aggression Questionnaire (Dodge & Coie, 1987). Results showed that teachers reported higher levels of proactive aggression than parents. Nevertheless, the reports of both informants were moderately to strongly correlated to reactive and proactive aggression, with stronger agreement for reactive aggression. Sex differences also emerged. For girls, the agreement was significant for both proactive and reactive aggression; for boys, it was significant only for reactive aggression. The results, limitations, and directions for future

studies are presented.

A Test of Situational Action Theory Using Data from Japanese Middle School Students: The Interaction Between Morality and Self-Control. *Takahito Saito, Graduate School of Education, Kyoto University*

SAT (Situational Action Theory, Wikström 2004) is a criminological theory that explains criminal behavior as the result of the interaction between an individual's criminal propensity and the settings. In the criminal behavior process described by SAT, the mechanism operating within the individual's mind is a two-stage process, "perception-choice." The perception stage is the stage at which the individual considers criminal behavior as their action alternative in the given situation or not. The choice stage is the stage at which, if criminal behavior is perceived as an alternative during the perception stage, the individual decides whether to actually choice and carry out that option. Since the perception stage and the selection stage occur in a specific temporal sequence, the factors influencing each stage are interrelated. This analysis tests the hypothesis of an interaction between morality, which influences the perception stage, and self-control, which influences the choice stage. The data used for the analysis were from the Japanese survey of the Fourth International Self-Report Delinquency Study（ISRD4）. The sample consists of junior high school students (grades 7–9), with 1,820 valid responses. The primary variables are: for delinquent behavior, the number of types of delinquent behavior engaged in over the past year (variety score) out of 14 types; for morality, the extent to which respondents perceive 8 types of deviant behavior as wrong; and for self-control, the measures of impulsivity and risk-seeking from Grasmick et al.（1993）. OLS multiple regression analysis was conducted to predict delinquent behavior, examining the inhibitory effects of morality and self-control on delinquent behavior, as well as the interaction effects between the two. This study applied the SAT, which had been extensively validated primarily in Western countries, to a sample of Japanese junior high school students.

Beyond Antisocial Behavior: Attachment and Developmental Trauma in Serious Juvenile Offending *Ingrid Bogerd, De Catamaran / GGzE*

Serious juvenile offending is often interpreted as a manifestation of antisocial traits and deliberate rule-breaking. However,this perspective may overlook the developmental and relational processes underlying persistent and violent behavior. In particular, attachment disruptions and early relational trauma remain underexamined within criminological explanations of serious youth offending. This presentation examines whether severe delinquent behavior can be better understood as a developmental, trauma-driven pathway rather than as an expression of antisocial disposition. Using an in-depth forensic case study, we analyze the developmental history, psychosocial functioning, and offending behavior of a 16-year-old boy subjected to a juvenile detention and treatment measure (PIJ) in the Netherlands. The analysis draws on a psychiatric report, court verdict, and structured violence risk assessment (SAVRY), and is interpreted through a developmental and attachment-informed framework. The boy's early life was characterized by chronic instability, exposure to domestic violence, neglect, and repeated caregiving disruptions. These conditions are consistent with disorganized attachment and persistent affect dysregulation. Over time, this vulnerability manifested in escalating externalizing behavior, including aggression, rule-breaking, and serious violent offending. Rather than reflecting a stable antisocial orientation, these behaviors appear to function as strategies to regain control and predictability in social interactions. This case illustrates how attachment-related anxiety, mistrust, and dysregulation may evolve into coercive and violent behavioral patterns. It further shows that risk accumulates not only through individual factors, but also through repeated relational ruptures and adverse systemic responses. These findings challenge interpretations of serious juvenile offending that focus primarily on behavior or intent. Incorporating attachment-informed perspectives may deepen criminological understanding of persistent offending and support more effective, developmentally informed approaches to risk assessment and intervention.

030. EDLC Panel 1. Developmental Pathways into Crime

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Development and Life Course Perspectives (Development and Life Course Criminology WG)

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.170

Chair:

Ivana Sekol, University of Sheffield

Participants:

Childhood Indirect Aggression as a Developmental Precursor to Adult Psychopathic Tendencies: A Longitudinal Study Using z-proso Data *Shihan PENG, University of Cambridge*

Psychopathic tendencies—characterised by traits such as dishonesty, interpersonal manipulation, lack of empathy, and a propensity for societal deviance (Hare, 2003; Hare & Neumann, 2008)—have long been of interest in developmental psychopathology. While much research has focused on externalising behaviour and callous-unemotional traits, relatively little is known about the role of early manipulative behaviours in the emergence of psychopathic tendencies in adulthood. This study draws on data from the z-proso cohort to examine whether indirect aggression in childhood—defined as relationally manipulative acts such as spreading rumours, social exclusion, and betraying confidences—predicts psychopathic traits in early adulthood, and compare its effect with that of direct aggression. Indirect aggression was measured through child self-report at multiple time points between ages 7 and 11. Adult psychopathic tendencies were assessed using a six-item short form of the "psychopathy" subscale from the Short Dark Triad (SD3; Jones & Paulhus, 2013), administered at ages 20

and 24. In order to capture the trait-like stability of psychopathy, the outcome will be modelled as the average score across both waves. The study will first evaluate the psychometric properties of the abbreviated psychopathy scale, including internal consistency, factor structure, and measurement invariance across demographic subgroups. Structural equation modelling (SEM) will then be employed to test the prospective association between childhood indirect aggression and adult psychopathy, controlling for relevant covariates such as sex, language background, and early behavioural indicators. By focusing on early relational aggression as a potential developmental precursor, this study aims to advance our understanding of the social-behavioural pathways leading to psychopathic traits, and to inform early risk identification strategies targeting manipulative behaviour patterns in childhood.

School Exclusion, Alternative Provision, and Persistent Youth Offending: Evidence from Administrative Education and Crime data in England. *Angeliki Evripidou, King's College London; Hannah Dickson, King's College London; Alice Wickersham, King's College London*

Developmental and life-course criminology emphasises how early institutional experiences shape pathways into persistent offending. In England, school exclusion rates are among the highest globally, and a substantial proportion of pupils in alternative provision (AP: educational settings outside mainstream schools for those excluded or at risk of exclusion) have experienced or are at risk of exclusion. Both exclusion and AP have been independently associated with later offending, yet little is known about their relationship with persistent offending across adolescence and early adulthood. This is particularly important given that most persistent offenders begin offending before age 17, highlighting the potential for early intervention. This study examines whether exclusion during secondary school and/or placement in AP are associated with persistent offending during adolescence (ages 10–17) and early adulthood (ages 18–20). The analysis uses linked longitudinal crime and education administrative records from England, focusing on birth cohorts from 1991/92 to 1993/94. School exclusion (fixed-term or permanent) and AP attendance are measured during secondary school (ages 10/11–15/16).Offending outcomes are derived from official police records, with persistent offending defined using adapted Ministry of Justice criteria for prolific offending. Juvenile persistent offending is defined as four or more proven offences between ages 10–17, while young adult persistent offending is defined as eight or more total offences, including at least four between ages 18 and 20. Individuals not meeting these thresholds are classified as low-frequency offenders. Multinomial logistic regression models will estimate the association between exclusion/AP and offending groups (juvenile persistent, young adult persistent, and low-frequency offending), adjusting for demographic, socioeconomic, and educational characteristics. Using national population-level linked administrative data, this study will provide new evidence on how school exclusion and AP are associated with persistent offending. These findings highlight opportunities for earlier intervention to reduce offending and its social and economic costs.

The Prosocial Pitch: A New Framework for Youth Rehabilitation *Beatrice Baragan, West University of Timişoara, Romania; Flaviu Ciopec, Law Faculty West University of Timisoara Romania; Roxana Andreea Toma, West University of Timişoara, Romania*

Young adults aged 18–24 represent a critical period for psychosocial intervention due to heightened neuroplasticity. This cross-sectional study compared aggression, affiliation motivation, attachment dimensions, and pathological narcissism across three groups: institutionalized young offenders (n = 36), probation-supervised young offenders (n = 60), and competitive team-sport athletes (n = 37). Offenses in the two forensic groups included robbery, theft, and driving without a license. Four instruments were administered: the Aggression Questionnaire (Buss & Perry, 1992), the Interpersonal Orientation Scale (Hill, 1987), the Attachment Style Questionnaire (Karantzas, Feeney, & Wilkinson, 2010), and the Pathological Narcissism Inventory (Pincus et al., 2009). Psychometric analyses confirmed high internal consistency for the Aggression Scale (α = .93) and Attachment Anxiousness (α = .80). Between-group comparisons using Kruskal-Wallis tests revealed significant differences in attachment anxiousness ($p < .001$), with both forensic groups reporting significantly higher levels than athletes. Similarly, preoccupation with relationships differed significantly ($p < .001$), with forensic groups scoring higher than athletes. Conversely, no significant differences were found between groups regarding total aggression or affiliation motivation. Bivariate correlations indicated significant positive associations between attachment insecurity, aggression, and pathological narcissism, with attachment anxiousness emerging as the strongest correlate of aggression ($r = .45$, $p < .001$). Findings suggest that structured team sports may serve as a framework for developing rule compliance, emotional regulation, and cooperative social skills in institutionalized youth.

Beyond Risk: A Longitudinal Analysis of Resilience under Conditions of Early-Life Adversity *Ivana Sekol, University of Sheffield*

This paper examines why some young people exposed to early-life disadvantage experience more favourable developmental outcomes than others. While a substantial body of research using longitudinal cohort data has documented the adverse effects of socioeconomic and family disadvantage on mental health, educational attainment, and behavioural outcomes, considerably less attention has been paid to heterogeneity in outcomes among disadvantaged populations. In particular, limited work has sought to identify the factors associated with positive adaptation under conditions of structural adversity. Using data from the Millennium Cohort Study, this study reconceptualises resilience as better-than-expected developmental functioning given prior exposure to disadvantage. Early-life disadvantage is operationalised as cumulative exposure to

socioeconomic and familial risk factors in early and middle childhood. Developmental outcomes are measured in adolescence and early adulthood, focusing on domains such as mental health, educational engagement, and risk behaviours. A temporally ordered analytical strategy is employed, linking early disadvantage to later outcomes and identifying individuals whose outcomes exceed those predicted by their prior circumstances. The analysis then examines the extent to which individual, familial, and school-related factors measured in late childhood are associated with such positive deviation. In doing so, the study moves beyond deficit-focused approaches by centring variation within disadvantaged groups and by interrogating the social distribution of protective factors. By reframing resilience as a relational and context-dependent process rather than an individual trait, this paper contributes to ongoing debates in life-course criminology and social inequality research. Findings will be discussed in relation to implications for theory, future research, and the design of policies aimed at promoting positive developmental trajectories among disadvantaged children and young people.

031. Challenging penal policy: Relationships between retentionist rationales, empirical evidence and advocacy in death penalty abolitionism

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Criminal Policy, Criminalization, Policy of Criminal Sanctions (Criminal Law Making Policy WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.015

The past three to four decades have witnessed a powerful global trend towards abolition of capital punishment worldwide. Today just 33 countries actively carry out executions while another 42 retain death penalty laws but do not execute (abolitionist de facto). By and large, the most executions are conducted in Asia and the Middle East, while Commonwealth Caribbean and African countries are particularly likely to be abolitionist de facto. This panel draws together experts who have conducted empirical and theoretical research on rationales for retention and the risks and harms of capital punishment in practice. Their presentations will explore different methodological approaches to challenging the death penalty internationally. In so doing, they will demonstrate the importance of gathering country-specific data and of engaging with governments, lawyers, diplomats and civil society, both in designing and conducting research and in building an advocacy platform for drawing on that work to challenge penal policy. So too will they consider the role of international law and human rights norms in these context-specific approaches. Presentations will reveal the need to adapt methods in developing empirical and advocacy approaches in abolitionist de facto countries and in challenging attempts to revive dormant capital punishment systems in response to heightened fears about specific crimes, not least terrorism.

Chair:

Carolyn Hoyle, University of Oxford

Participants:

Challenging retention through applied research: conducting and employing original country-specific empirical evidence *Lucrezia Rizzelli, Centre for Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Oxford*

Empirical research can play a crucial role in efforts to challenge the death penalty in retentionist contexts, particularly when directed at the specific rationales used to justify its continued use. These commonly include claims about deterrence, public support, and the restriction of capital punishment to the 'most serious' crimes. Drawing on recent public opinion research, deterrence studies and interviews with those on death row, conducted in various jurisdictions in Africa and Asia, this paper explores the value of context-specific original empirical evidence in interrogating these rationales for retention and revealing the arbitrary and potentially torturous application of capital punishment in practice.

Challenging the death penalty without executions: rethinking tools and approaches for abolitionism in ADF states *Daniel Cullen, University of Oxford*

In 42 states worldwide, the majority of which are members of the Commonwealth, the death penalty is retained in law but no executions have been carried out for at least a decade. These states are classified by the UN as 'abolitionist de facto' (ADF). Notwithstanding the absence of executions, most retain active capital punishment systems in other ways. In most cases, this includes sentencing people to death and holding them on 'death row', sometimes for decades, subject to the psychological trauma of indefinite imprisonment in generally poor conditions. This paper considers if common strategies to contest the death penalty in retentionist states might falter in jurisdictions when there are no executions and the topic has low salience. It explores the need for alternative approaches to challenge the legal, political and symbolic roles of capital punishment in ADF states and, importantly, to challenge political inertia when states have remained in prolonged stasis over several decades.

Challenging retention through dialogue with governments: the role of research evidence in building a platform for advocacy *Parvais Jabbar, Faculty of Law, University of Oxford; Carolyn Hoyle, University of Oxford*

Over the course of several decades, the Death Penalty Project (DPP) has worked on collaborative efforts to abolish or restrict the use of capital punishment worldwide through legal action and dialogue with policymakers. Most recently, the organisation contributed to successful movements for abolition in Zimbabwe, Ghana and Sierra Leone. Drawing on these decades of experience of working with advocates around the globe, this paper explicates the methods for building a platform for challenging penal policy through engagement with governments. It explores the application of original empirical research to develop legal strategy, capacity building for stakeholders and high-level dialogue and advocacy. In so doing, it reflects on methods for harnessing international discourses on human rights norms alongside jurisdiction-specific evidence while remaining sensitive to local politics, especially in former colonies.

032. Restorative Justice and Mediation in European Criminal Justice Systems

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Restorative Justice (Restorative Justice WG)
Paper Session
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.025
Chair:
Helgi Gunnlaugsson, University of Iceland
Participants:

Mediation in Romanian Criminal Justice: A Transplant Without Roots? *Diana Maria Ionescu, Babeș Bolyai University Cluj Napoca*

Mediation into Romanian criminal procedure was introduced in the broader context of Romania's EU accession reforms rather than by an organic development of restorative justice values within the domestic legal culture. Enacted through Law No. 192/2006, the mediation framework established a formal mechanism, yet confined it to a limited list of offences. Prosecutors have no authority to divert cases to mediation beyond this narrow category, leaving the vast majority of criminal proceedings outside the restorative justice paradigm. The practical uptake of mediation has been strikingly low. Several structural factors account for this: the narrow scope of application, absence of a formal referral system, pervasive lack of awareness among practitioners and the public, and the absence of public legal aid covering mediation fees, which effectively excludes economically vulnerable parties. These failures cannot be understood in isolation from a deeper cultural dimension. Romanian criminal justice remains dominated by the exclusivity of officials over the proceedings and the deterrence of private procedural involvement. This logic is illustrated by the prosecutorial mechanism of dismissal for lack of public interest, which allows prosecutors to close a case while ordering compensation or an apology to the victim. Although it appears restorative, this mechanism is entirely prosecutor-driven: the victim has no procedural role in initiating or shaping its outcome. The decision remains an act of official discretion, not of relational justice, leaving the foundational premise of restorative justice largely alien to institutional practice. Drawing on the conceptual premises of restorative justice, this paper argues that genuine integration into Romanian criminal procedure requires reform on two interconnected levels: legislative reform expanding the current narrow scope of mediation, and educational reform targeting prosecutors, judges, and legal practitioners — reorienting their understanding of criminal justice toward a model that recognises victim participation as a legitimate component of the process.

Re-examining the mediation paradox: intertwined barriers and approaches to increasing the use of mediation *Hemma Mayrhofer, Department of Applied Sociology of Law and Criminology; University of Innsbruck*

Although mediation is often successful in resolving conflicts, this consensus-based approach to conflict resolution is rarely used in practice. This situation, referred to in the professional community as the 'mediation paradox', is widely recognised; yet there is surprisingly little empirical data available to shed light on this apparent or actual contradiction. For Austria, comprehensive scientific findings from the MEDIAS study* have recently become available, which also promise insightful perspectives on the so-called mediation paradox beyond Austria's borders. The research project, implemented between 2023 and the end of 2025, collected systematic and meaningful quantitative and qualitative empirical data across Austria for the first time. On this data basis, the paradox outlined can be explained with an empirically well-informed perspective. Firstly, it can be explained to a (small) extent by the relatively low level of awareness of mediation. Secondly, it is a conflict resolution procedure that is demanding in several respects: All parties involved in the conflict must be willing to engage with the process. At the same time, it places significant demands on the parties involved, both personally and socially, and the reluctance to engage in it is correspondingly high. Thirdly, the still limited institutionalisation of the profession dampens demand, and there is a lack of 'trust in the system'. This, together with – fourthly – the limited permeability of court proceedings into mediation, contributes to the fact that the 'window of opportunity' for mediation between everyday informal conflict resolution and legal or judicial dispute resolution remains narrow. The study's findings also point to opportunities for encouraging the use of mediation. Based on empirical evidence, the presentation will conclude by exploring, among other things, the potential of mediation clauses in contracts, low-threshold entry points into mediation, or greater permeability from court proceedings to mediation. *) For further information: https://www.uibk.ac.at/de/irks/projekte/medias-de/

What do restorative justice agreements contain? Examining written outcomes of Danish restorative justice conferences. *Sarah van Mastrigt, Department of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences, Aarhus University, Denmark; Lin Adrian, University of Copenhagen*

Limited attention has been paid to the substantive content of written restorative justice agreements, even though drafting these documents is a central component of many restorative processes. Developing a clearer understanding of what participants include in written agreements is essential for clarifying their function as procedural tools and outcomes in their own right. Analyzing these agreements also provides an opportunity to assess whether key theoretical aims of restorative justice — such as repairing past harm and preventing future harm — are reflected in the concrete commitments articulated at the conclusion of restorative meetings. In this presentation, we outline preliminary results from a content analysis of 61 restorative justice conference agreements produced within the Danish victim-offender mediation program. Five overarching content categories (two deductive and three inductive) are illustrated with examples and discussed in relation to practice and theory.

Restorative justice practices in Iceland: A realistic alternative? *Helgi Gunnlaugsson, University of Iceland*

Restorative justice measures have been established

across the Western world in recent decades and have increasingly become integral to many criminal justice systems. The 2026 European volume of the International Encyclopaedia of Restorative Justice includes a review of Iceland alongside other European nations. Although restorative justice methods are legally permissible in Iceland, their application has remained limited. The legal framework is provided by directives from the Director of Public Prosecutions, most recently revised in 2023. These directives do not specify a precise age limit for participants but indicate that restorative programs are particularly suitable for offenders aged 15–21 in relation to a range of minor offences. This presentation briefly outlines the history and defining features of restorative justice practices in Iceland and then examines in greater depth the factors constraining their wider adoption. Iceland's criminal procedure has tended toward legalism and formalism, which may hinder the integration of alternatives to traditional prosecutorial and court processes. Furthermore, the prevailing, relatively narrow conception of restorative justice in Iceland — largely limited to group-conferencing facilitated by police officers — has impeded the development and diversification of restorative practices in Iceland.

033. Relations between politics and criminology

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Theoretical and Epistemological debates in Criminology (Crime, Science and Politics WG)
Roundtable
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.110

Several years ago, there was an intensive discussion about the influence of the so-called state criminology on research in criminology. The discussions were sometimes exaggerated and aftswards criminology developed well as a widely neutral scientific discipline. Most recently there seems to be a revival of the discussion of political influences in criminology. However, this development is less due to external and formal influences by governments, but more to internal processes within criminology or informal processes in societies. The planned roundtable will discuss these issues that also contain multidimensional instead of too simple polarized aspects. The discussants in the roundtable are experienced criminologists from different countries and disciplinary backgrounds: Friedrich Lösel, Germany & UK (chair) Hans-Jörg Albrecht, Germany (co-chair) Anna Getos, Croatia Martin Killias, Switzerland Kryzstof Krajewski, Poland Michael Levi, UK

Chairs:

Friedrich Lösel, Cambridge University & University of Erlangen-Nuremberg
Hans-Jörg Albrecht, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law; Balkan Criminology

Discussants:

Anna-Maria Getoš Kalac, University of Zagreb Faculty of Law
Krzysztof Krajewski, Jagellonian University Krakow
Mike Levi, School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University
Martin Killias, University of St. Galen

034. Advances in Quantitative Methods Panel 1: Spatial Data and Spatial Analysis of Crime

Topic 8: Methodologies in Criminology/Advances in Quantitative Methods (Qantitative Methods WG)
Paper Session
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.120

Chair:

Miguel Saraiva, CEGOT – Centre of Studies in Geography and Spatial Planning, of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto

Participants:

Ambient Population and Crime: The Fragility of Causal Links in Urban Environments *Ariadna Albors Zumel, University of Trento; Michele Tizzoni, University of Trento; Wilson Hernández, University of Pennsylvania, USA, and GRADE, Peru; Gian Maria Campedelli, University of Trento*

The relationship between ambient population and crime has long been studied, with foundational theories offering competing mechanisms: increased pedestrian activity may enhance guardianship and informal surveillance, but also generate opportunities by increasing suitable targets. Yet, nearly all empirical evidence remains correlational, despite causal identification being essential for policy. We causally address this link using high-resolution smartphone-derived footfall data from Baltimore, Chicago, and Philadelphia (June 2023–June 2025), estimating a pipeline of increasingly rigorous models—from naïve baselines to fully instrumented two-stage residual inclusion specifications with distributed lags, two-way fixed effects, and spatial spillovers. The results are sobering: associations between ambient population and crime progressively vanish as endogeneity is addressed, and none survive correction for multiple testing. The few effects that do emerge are sensitive to crime type, temporal granularity, and neighborhood context. Our findings caution against universal claims linking foot traffic to crime and call for locally tailored, causally informed policy design.

Potentialities and challenges of using remote sensing data in criminological research *Vania Ceccato, KTH Royal Institute of Technology & Police Academy, Borås University; Ioannis Ioannidis, Royal Institute of Technology, KTH*

Remote sensing data are becoming increasingly available and offer new possibilities for understanding the relationship between urban environments and crime. In this presentation, I discuss both the opportunities and challenges of using remote sensing data in criminological research. Drawing on principles from environmental criminology, the presentation reviews the existing literature to assess the extent to which remote sensing can help detect and analyse environmental features associated with crime occurrence. The analysis is based on a systematic review of English-language publications from 2003 to the first half of 2023, retrieved from the Scopus and ScienceDirect databases. Out of 910 publications initially identified, 36 met the selection criteria for detailed analysis. The findings suggest that neighbourhood design leaves measurable spatial

patterns that can be observed through very high–resolution imagery. Remote sensing data, particularly because of their spatial and temporal resolution, can support the identification of criminogenic environmental features such as street networks, property boundaries, housing density, vegetation characteristics, and illumination levels. At the same time, the use of remote sensing in criminological research raises important concerns. These include limitations related to detecting potentially illegal activities, privacy issues, and the need for stronger methodological validation. The presentation concludes by reflecting on how remote sensing can complement traditional data sources in crime analysis, while highlighting the methodological and ethical challenges researchers must address.

Automating the Measurement of Graffiti: A Computer Vision Approach Using Google Street View *Wim Bernasco, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR); Nanne J.E. van Noord, University of Amsterdam, Faculty of Science, Informatics Institute*

Graffiti, defined as words, symbols, or images applied to surfaces without the owner's permission, is a ubiquitous urban phenomenon situated at the intersection of visual expression and regulation of public space. As part of a broader project aimed at describing and explaining the spatial distribution of graffiti, this study develops a computer vision approach to automatically detect different types of graffiti in images from Google Street View, a widely available source of street-level imagery. To construct the dataset, we sampled 100,000 coordinates from the street network of the Netherlands and downloaded 360-degree panoramas at or near these locations where available. To increase the proportion of relevant images while retaining coverage of negative cases, approximately 82,500 panoramas were first screened using a generic pre-classification algorithm, yielding a subset of roughly 6,500 candidate images. From this subset, 4,000 images were selected for human annotation, supplemented by an additional 1,000 images drawn from the non-selected set. A team of trained coders annotated the images using a purpose-built annotation tool. We describe the development of this tool, the coder training procedure, and the assessment of inter-coder reliability. Building on these annotations, we train and evaluate a computer vision model for graffiti detection. The resulting data enable the construction of a high-resolution graffiti map and open up new possibilities for systematically examining the distribution of graffiti in relation to neighborhood-level physical and social characteristics. By advancing scalable measurement of a widely observed but difficult-to-quantify urban phenomenon, this study contributes to spatial and environmental approaches in criminology.

Enhancing Rossmo's Criminal Geographic Targeting Model Through Environmental and Land-Use Spatial Layers: A Case Study of the Atlanta Homicides (1979–1981) *Sofia Maria Russo, European Forensic Institute; Gianfausto Bottini, European Forensic Institute; Dino Quattrociocchi, European Forensic Institute; Michael Leitner, Louisiana State University; European Forensic Institute*

Purpose This study proposes an enhancement of traditional geographic profiling by expanding the range of spatial variables incorporated into Rossmo's Criminal Geographic Targeting (CGT) formula. Rather than replacing the original CGT framework, the proposed approach refines its output by integrating environmental and contextual constraints to improve the operational prioritization of residential offender anchor point search areas. Methods A demonstrative case study was conducted using a grid-based implementation of the CGT model applied to the Atlanta homicides (1979–1981), a historical series involving multiple victims and spatially distributed offences and body recovery locations. While offender attribution within the series remains contested, the cases were treated as an investigative aggregation reflecting how they were operationally considered at the time. In addition to standard crime location data, multiple geospatial layers were incorporated, including a Digital Elevation Model (DEM), urban green areas (parks), residential neighborhood zones, and cemetery locations. Each layer was operationalized through spatial weighting and combined with the baseline Rossmo probability surface to generate an enhanced predictive heatmap. Results The layer-enhanced model produced a more spatially concentrated probability distribution than the baseline CGT output, substantially reducing the prioritized search area while maintaining proximity to the known offender residence. The integration of terrain and land-use constraints resulted in clearer differentiation between high- and low-priority zones, improving the spatial focus for residential search prioritization. Conclusions The findings indicate that incorporating environmental and land-use information into Rossmo's CGT model can enhance the operational effectiveness of geographic profiling by narrowing search areas without altering the model's core behavioral assumptions. The proposed approach supports investigative decision making through improved spatial prioritisation and offers a transparent and reproducible framework for integrating contextual geospatial data into CGT-based analyses . Keywords: Geographic profiling; Rossmo formula; Criminal Geographic Targeting; Geospatial layers; Land-use analysis; Geographical information system (GIS)

Territorial Profiles of Criminality in Portugal: a quantitative spatial analysis *Miguel Saraiva, CEGOT – Centre of Studies in Geography and Spatial Planning, of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto; Ana Rita Campos, Faculty of Arts of the University of Porto; Teresa Sá Marques, CEGOT – Centre of Studies in Geography and Spatial Planning, of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto; Gabriela Ribeiro, Faculty of Arts of the University of Porto*

After a steady decline of almost two decades, crime statistics in Portugal – like elsewhere in Europe – have once again risen, particularly in the post-pandemic years. Fomented by a set of economic, health and

political crisis, the increased of social and urban vulnerabilities have placed added pressures on the territories, affecting quality of life. While European agendas have been promoting the reduction of territorial inequalities through a greater spatialization of public policies, the geographical understanding of urban safety becomes of increased importance, as the distribution of problems is not similar, depending on spatial-explicit aspects as postulated by the theories of environmental criminology. Authorities need multivariate and multiscale territorial-based analysis that are able to produce evidence-base in support of public policies. This paper presents the first pillar of a multidisciplinary, mix-method approach of a new research project headed by the University of Porto, Portugal, namely the methodology for producing a spatial diagnosis of crime patterns with the support of Geographical Information Systems modelling, and using official registered crime databases from Portuguese authorities. By georeferencing and mapping crime data, for various categories over the last decade, it is possible to explore spatial disparities, between crime types (focusing on against-persons and against-property crimes, the ones with most expression); between levels, both at a macro (municipal-level) and a micro (intra-municipal level – focusing on the main cities of Porto and Lisbon); and over time (pre, during and post pandemic). Then spatial statistic techniques, namely multivariate multi-correspondence analysis, is performed, in order to build integrated profiles that display, group and characterize vulnerable territories in terms of criminality. The resulting profiles spatially identify critical areas and their respective problems, thus informing territorial planning of the need for articulated and integrated responses. The applicability and validation of the methodology is further discussed.

035. Forms of Lethal Violence: Genocide, Wartime Homicide and Infanticide

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Homicide and Violent Crime (Homicide Research WG and European Violence Monitor WG)
Paper Session
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.128
Chair:
Alina Andrescu, Nicolae Titulescu University
Participants:

Infanticide: A new classification system *Ulrike Zähringer, Hamburg Police University; Theresia Höynck, University of Kassel*

The same typologies have long been used to systematize infanticides. Resnick's (1970) typology remains the most widely used internationally. It is based on 131 cases from world literature from the 18th-20th century and primarily distinguishes between motives for the crime. Scott (1973) focused on the impulse to kill. Other typologies concentrated on mothers as perpetrators (D'Orban 1979; McKee 2006) or expanded existing typologies to include specific perpetrators (Bourget & Bradford 1990). In more comprehensive category systems, equal weight is given to motivational and perpetrator-related motives (Guileyardo et al. 1999). However, the existing categories were rarely based on comprehensive empirical data. The category system presented in this paper attempts to develop a more up-to-date typology for infanticides. It is based on existing classifications (Resnick 1969; d'Orban 1979; Scott 1973; Bourget&Bradford 1990), but optimizes them on the basis of two empirical research projects involving 727 victims of homicides of children aged 0-13 in Germany. It can be shown that existing classification systems for infanticide are not entirely convincing when subjected to comprehensive empirical review. For example, the category "revenge", which is a significant category in the literature, did either not appear at all in the files or appeared only as a contributing factor - but not as the main motive. Ultimately, the typology presented here retained a fundamental focus on the external appearance of the crimes, combining the characteristics of the crime, the perpetrator, and the victim. The presentation introduces the main categories of a new classification system for infanticide (neonaticide, maltreatment, extended suicide, murders related to acute and severe mental illness, targeted murders, neglect, sexual offenses) with their respective subcategories in terms of content and proportion.

The crime of genocide – between criminal typicality and criminological mechanisms of manifestation *Alina Andrescu, Nicolae Titulescu University*

The complexity of this incrimination results not only from the extreme gravity of the facts, but also from the specificity of the subjective element, characterized by the existence of a qualified direct intention (dolus specialis), consisting in the purpose of killing or annihilating, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group. The paper aims to analyze the crime of genocide from a dual perspective: legal-criminal and criminological. From a legal point of view, the constitutive elements of the crime are examined, with an emphasis on the particularities of the subjective and objective sides, as well as on the difficulties of proof specific to this type of crime. In this context, special attention is paid to the delimitation of genocide from other international crimes, such as crimes against humanity, but also to the issue of individualizing criminal liability in the case of collective, organized actions carried out under the authority of political or military structures. From a criminological perspective, the study analyzes the mechanisms by which such crimes are conceived, organized and executed, highlighting the role of power structures, ideologies and processes of social influence in the generation and perpetuation of collective violence. In this regard, patterns of action specific to mass crime are identified, as well as the ways in which they can be recognized in their early stages. Through the proposed approach, the paper aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of genocide as a complex legal and social phenomenon, as well as to stimulate critical reflection on the limits and effectiveness of criminal instruments in combating it.

036. A Collaborative Approach to Addressing AI-Driven Harms

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Terrorism and Terrorism Financing, Radicalization, Extremism (Radicalization, Extremism, Terrorism WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.132

Generative AI has transformed how political and extremist groups create visual content online, with significant implications for disinformation, radicalisation, and online harms (Kingdon, 2024). Recent research demonstrates that AI has become integral to visual storytelling in far-right movements, amplifying conspiracy theories and generating outrage (Buarque, 2025; Buarque & Lewis 2025). While images have historically served recruitment and mobilisation functions for such groups, accessible AI tools represent a fundamental shift as emotionally-salient visuals can now be generated with minimal effort, creating a less labour-intensive approach to propaganda compared to traditional methods (Klincewicz et al, 2025). This accessibility raises critical questions for responsible AI deployment. Biases inherent in generative AI systems perpetuate structural injustices, as algorithms consolidate stereotypes about diverse identities and reproduce harmful rhetoric rooted in interlocking systems of oppression (Browne, 2023). Additionally, visual outputs often reduce identities to caricatures and stereotypes, reinforcing narratives of subordination and otherness that resonate within extremist communities. Bringing together academics from the UK and Canada, this panel shares the results of research funded by Responsible AI UK's Collaboration Grant Scheme, which examined AI-generated visual extremist content and evaluated existing approaches to automated content moderation. Comprised of four rapid case studies on far-right and male supremacist visuals, this project aimed to (1) document how generative AI enables and accelerates visual hate speech; (2) assess the feasibility of automated content moderation tools for detecting harmful visual content; and (3) develop evidence-based recommendations for policymakers and platform developers to mitigate these harms while preserving legitimate expression. In fostering international collaboration between UK and Canadian researchers with demonstrated expertise in extremism, AI-driven harms, and digital media, this project highlights shared concerns and opportunities to strengthen regulatory responses in both British and Canadian contexts.

Chair:

Allysa Czerwinsky, University of Manchester

Participants:

Unite the Kingdom: AI-Generated Propaganda, Algorithmic Amplification, and the Limits of Platform Moderation and Regulatory Response *Ashton Kingdon, University of Southampton*

The September 2025 Unite the Kingdom rally provides a critical case study in how generative AI has transformed far-right propaganda production and distribution. Analysis of 2,500 TikTok and YouTube videos — a significant proportion AI-generated — demonstrates that technology has eliminated every meaningful barrier to professional-quality propaganda, enabling a single actor to generate unlimited photorealistic imagery and platform-optimised video in seconds, at zero cost. This presentation identifies three core findings. First, AI image models — trained on visual pattern rather than historical meaning or ethical context — are trivially prompted to produce emotionally compelling, legally defensible misinformation. For example, photorealistic racial housing imagery that was never photographed, D-Day scenes merged with 2025 migration footage, and WWII poster aesthetics applied to contemporary content, exploiting the cognitive trust responses associated with archival material. Second, this content is deliberately engineered to evade moderation, using implication, historical framing, and strategic ambiguity to remain individually legal while collectively constructing radicalisation pathways that current legislation cannot address. Third, platform algorithms actively accelerate dissemination rather than merely failing to prevent it — TikTok's ranking system is blind to harm, treating outraged opposition identically to endorsement, while audio fingerprinting gaps allow flagged content to migrate cross-platform without coordination. These findings point to four urgent interventions: mandatory AI content labelling, audio fingerprinting of flagged material, algorithmic circuit-breakers for users consuming clustered extremist content, and independent oversight with binding audit powers over platform algorithms.

Gendered Harms in Manosphere Memes *Karmvir Padda, University of Waterloo*

While existing research has largely focused on text-based misogyny within manosphere communities, visual culture remains underexamined despite its growing influence. This case study investigates how gendered harms are produced, circulated, and normalized through memes within manosphere-affiliated Instagram ecosystems. Drawing on a dataset of 56 memes collected between October 2024 and September 2025 via a controlled research account, the study simulates algorithmic exposure pathways to masculinity-oriented content. Using a hybrid coding framework grounded in both manosphere discourse and feminist scholarship, the analysis identifies dominant thematic patterns, including patriarchy, anti-feminism, stereotypes, and slut-shaming. A qualitative analysis of the dataset examined how visual and textual elements interact to construct meaning across memes, highlighting four key themes. First, women's worth is framed as conditional and transactional, tied to sexual availability and compliance. Second, anti-feminist narratives position gender equality as deceptive, advocating patriarchal restoration through nostalgic and aspirational imagery. Third, gender-based violence is normalized through humour, enabling harmful content to circulate with reduced accountability. Fourth, masculine dominance and relational control are presented as naturalized relationship norms, often reinforced through aesthetics of strength, nostalgia, or technological futurism. These findings highlight how visual styles, such as influencer aesthetics, pop culture references, and AI-generated formats, play a critical role in softening and mainstreaming misogynistic ideologies. By embedding harmful narratives within shareable and seemingly benign content, manosphere

memes contribute to the normalization of gendered harm and may act as gateways to more explicit extremist discourse, while also evading existing efforts for moderation and removal.

Automated Moderation for Hateful and Extremist AI-Generated Content: Promises, Pitfalls, and Recommendations *Allysa Czerwinsky, University of Manchester*

Given the ease with which harmful AI visuals can be generated and shared in online space, ensuring approaches to moderating and flagging synthetic content account for the scope, scale, and structure of harmful content remains a pressing issue. Building from work cataloguing how visual signifiers of harm and extremism manifest in nuanced and implicit ways within synthetic media shared online, this research sought to explore how automated content moderation detects hate, offensive content, and signals of far-right extremism and male supremacism in AI-generated videos and images. An analysis of 28 AI-generated videos and 14 synthetic images pulled from TikTok, Instagram, and X was conducted using SightEngine, an online platform offering fully automated content moderation packages and public-facing parameters for detection categories regarding hate, offensive content, and extremism. Results demonstrate an unevenness in how rule-based pattern-matching maps onto nuanced and implicit harms, particularly when a lack of cultural sensitivity and social consciousness is apparent in the parameters of pre-defined moderation categories. Additionally, implicit harms in AI-generated far-right and male supremacist content can bypass moderation efforts informed by explicit signifiers of extremism, hate, and terrorism, leaving little recourse for removal. These findings point to a pressing need for incorporating interpretive research into moderation development design, influencing tech sector-focused recommendations for improving detection and responding to nuanced harms in AI-generated content.

037. Mapping Sexual, Labor, and Criminal Exploitation: Risks, Protection, and Consequences

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Human Trafficking
Pre-arranged Panel
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.142

This panel examines human trafficking as multifaceted phenomena shaped by the interaction of individual vulnerabilities, social relationships, and wider structural conditions. Bringing together contributions on sexual, labor, and criminal exploitation, the panel highlights both risk and protective factors, with particular attention to the role of social structures in shaping pathways into exploitation. It further explores the scope and nature of forced criminality, emphasizing how individuals may be coerced into illicit activities within exploitative systems. In addition, the panel addresses the life-course consequences of being labeled a victim, considering how such labels can influence identity, opportunities, and justice system interactions over time. Finally, it sheds light on emerging criminal schemes that facilitate new forms of labor exploitation across Europe. Together, these contributions aim to advance a more integrated and nuanced understanding of exploitation, informing both research and policy debates within criminology.

Chair:
Ieke de Vries, Leiden University

Participants:

Risk and Protective Factors of Child Sex Trafficking Victimization: Applying an Innovative Link-Tracing Sampling and Analytical Approach *Jason Rydberg, University of Massachusetts Lowell; Xichen Wang, University of Massachusetts Lowell; Sheldon X Zhang, University of Massachusetts Lowell; Charles Hounmenou, University of Illinois at Chicago*

This study examines risk and protective factors for commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC) trafficking victimization among young girls in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. This study uses an innovative link-tracing approach to generate a respondent driven sample of N = 585 girls age 13-17. Item response theory (IRT) models are used to construct a continuous measure of the extent of trafficking victimization based on the sample's CSEC working conditions. These scores are then analyzed using regression techniques to identify factors associated with increased or decreased risk. Weighted results indicate that demographic characteristics, social factors, and social support are significantly associated with the extent of victimization risk. Findings demonstrate the value of innovative sampling and analytic approaches for studying hidden populations and provide evidence to inform targeted interventions. The results have direct implications for capacity building among government and civil society organizations working to prevent and respond to commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Direct and Indirect Exposure in Child Sexual Exploitation: Network Dynamics, Overlapping Social Environments, and Revictimization Risk *Ieke de Vries, Leiden University; Arjan Blokland, NSCR*

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) involves coercion into sexual activities in exchange for financial or material gain. While individual risk factors and vulnerabilities are well documented, less is known about how everyday social environments shape patterns of (re)victimization. This paper presents one of the studies from a multi-year project on the vulnerabilities within the social environments of CSE victims, funded by the Dutch Research Council. Previous evidence from this project suggests that CSE victims are exposed to substantially higher levels of crime in their immediate surroundings compared to other victims and the general population. This study examines how ties between CSE victims emerge and persist through overlapping social environments, and how such structural embeddedness sustains exposure to harm. Using linked administrative data on nearly 1,000 minors and young adults identified by police as CSE victims in the Netherlands (2016–2023), we reconstruct ego networks from police records and population register data, including housemates, family members, classmates, neighbors, and colleagues. We then construct victim-overlap networks in which ties reflect shared alters across these social layers. The study has two main objectives. First, we assess how direct exposure to offending or

victimized alters changes before and after an individual's first CSE victimization, for example, through school transitions or placements in youth care, and how these changes relate to the risk of revictimization. Second, we examine how indirect connections to other CSE victims contribute to sustained exposure to harm and elevated revictimization risk. Combining regression analyses with social network methods, the findings demonstrate that persistent structural overlap across social environments plays a key role in maintaining exposure to harmful contexts. These results highlight the importance of targeting high-risk social environments in efforts to prevent revictimization.

Understanding the Scope and Nature of Forced Criminality in the United States *Meredith Dank, New York University; Amy Farrell, Northeastern University; Rebecca Pfeffer, Research Triangle Institute; Ethan Levine, CAST LA*

Forced criminality, a lesser-recognized form of human trafficking, affects people who are coerced, defrauded, or forced into committing illicit activities. These victims are often misidentified as offenders, leaving them vulnerable to further victimization and without access to critically needed victim services. This research aims to examine the scope, nature, and challenges of identifying forced criminality in the United States. Through a multi-site study spanning New York City, Boston, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, we have developed and implemented a forced criminality screening tool for use by public defenders. The study employs a mixed-methods approach, including quantitative data collection from screened individuals and qualitative interviews with both affected individuals and criminal justice stakeholders. Key research questions focus on identifying victims, assessing legal and systemic barriers, and developing support mechanisms to mitigate harm. Preliminary findings from the screening tool data collection will be discussed, as well as implications for policy and practice.

Out the shadows: Criminal exploitation and its victims within organized crime *Fallon Cooper, Leiden University; Babette van Hazebroek, Leiden University; Ieke de Vries, Leiden University; Arjan Blokland, NSCR; Maarten Kunst, Leiden University*

Young people involved in criminal exploitation are often identified as offenders rather than victims, raising concerns about how such classifications shape their life trajectories. Although policy and practice increasingly emphasize victim identification, it remains unclear whether outcomes for these groups differ. This study examines both professional perspectives and empirical differences in life trajectories and recidivism between young people identified by the police as victims of criminal exploitation and those identified as offenders for comparable offences in the Netherlands, addressing a key gap between perceived and actual outcomes. A mixed-methods approach is employed, combining in-depth interviews with criminal justice and social support professionals with administrative register data from Statistics Netherlands. Qualitative analysis, guided by a constructivist grounded theory framework, explores professional perspectives and emerging patterns regarding the impact of victim identification on life-course trajectories. In parallel, quantitative analyses of administrative data on approximately 900 individuals compare outcomes across groups. The study provides preliminary insights into differences in life trajectories, including care involvement, educational pathways, home environments, employment, and participation in (criminal) networks, between victims of criminal exploitation and offenders involved in similar offences. It also examines how these trajectories align with responses from the criminal justice system. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of victim identification and the consequences of classification in the context of organised crime.

Mapping the grey area of human trafficking: emerging forms of labour exploitation and related financial crimes in Italian supply chains and corporate networks *Carlotta Carbone, Transcrime - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore; Clara Rondani, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore; Michele Riccardi, Transcrime - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore; Marco Dugato, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore - Transcrime; Deborah Manzi, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore – Transcrime*

In contemporary capitalist economies, worker exploitation remains a persistent risk, exacerbated by increasingly deregulated and flexible labour markets. These practices are frequently embedded within global supply chains, where complex subcontracting and outsourcing networks obscure accountability and facilitate abuse. While current studies often focus on extreme manifestations such as human trafficking and forced labour, this narrow lens tends to overlook the "grey area" of the labour exploitation continuum. This area comprises a plethora of illicit practices that may fall below the legal threshold of trafficking but nonetheless involve the systematic violation of workers' rights. This study explores the criminal schemes facilitating labour exploitation in Italy, focusing on how corporate supply chains enable and conceal these practices. Drawing on judicial case studies across key economic sectors – including logistics and fashion – the paper identifies a typology of exploitative schemes, exploring the integration of traditional modi operandi with sophisticated financial architectures. Specifically, the research examines the convergence of labour rights violations with tax fraud, false invoicing and the illicit supply of labour. Furthermore, the research investigates the risk factors of the involved firms and the multidimensional harms inflicted on workers, ranging from physical risks to the deprivation of personal liberty and future prospects. Drawing on insights from the EU-funded VANGUARD project (Grant Number 101121282), the findings contribute to filling a critical knowledge gap regarding the corporate role in exploitative ecosystems. Understanding these mechanisms is essential for developing effective policies and enforcement strategies to detect high-risk firms and prevent labour exploitation in vulnerable sectors.

038. "Marked by Time": Crime and Punishment in the Lives

of Individuals and Communities

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Criminal Justice Policy (Crime, Science and Politics WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.146

In this panel we explore how crime, punishment, and social change unfold across individual lives and within communities. We explore how individuals and communities are shaped, often profoundly, by structural conditions and by penal practices. Together, our papers examine both the contexts of individual offending and the broader structural conditions that underpin community wellbeing. Gray, Farrall, and Tsleoni use four decades of homicide data from England and Wales to show age cohort dynamics are deeply gendered and embedded in shifting political and social conditions. Besemer, Walding and Karstedt extend this focus on structural change by examining how concentrated imprisonment undermines community life. Besemer and Karstedt test coercive mobility theory in Australia, analysing whether high community level imprisonment erodes collective efficacy and contributes to increased crime. Then, Walding et al. highlight how high imprisonment disrupt social participation, diminishing residents' capacity and opportunities to engage with others in their communities. Finally, Karstedt et al. examine how concentrated imprisonment undermine civic engagement, weakening the democratic foundations of society. Together, these papers illuminate how crime and punishment unfold across time, shaping the lives of individuals and the social fabric of their communities.

Chair:

Kirsten Laurisse Besemer, Griffith University

Participants:

Gendered Lives, Gendered Deaths: Political Socialisation, Social Change, and the Possibilities of Age-Period-Cohort Analysis in Understanding Homicide in England and Wales, 1977–2020 *Emily Gray, University of Warwick; Stephen Farrall, University of Nottingham; Andromachi Tseloni, Nottingham Trent University*

Age-period-cohort (APC) analysis offers a compelling framework for assessing how crime varies across the life course, historical time, and generation. Its ambition rests on a hypothesis that political and social conditions shape cohorts in broadly shared ways. This paper uses 44 years of homicide data from the Home Office Homicide Index to interrogate that assumption and to consider the gendered nature of political socialisation in this example. Applying Generalised Linear Models to administrative data on homicide suspects and victims in England and Wales over four decades, we find robust cohort effects among suspects – especially for those who spent their formative years during the New Labour era alongside diverging period trends. We suggest that the structural conditions of the Thatcher and New Labour periods operated through fundamentally different mechanisms for men and women. We open a discussion that political socialisation is a gendered process, and that understanding what APC models identify requires criminological frameworks attentive to the different institutions, vulnerabilities, and pathways through which historical conditions become embodied in patterns of violence.

Does 'Doing Time' Increase Crime? High Imprisonment in Communities, Collective Efficacy, and Criminal Offending *Kirsten Laurisse Besemer, Griffith University; Susanne Karstedt, Griffith University*

Coercive mobility theory proposes that over time, high levels of imprisonment in communities weaken their collective efficacy, ultimately increasing crime. In our paper, we test this hypothesised causal pathway. We link postcode-level prison admissions from 2010–2019 to data from the Australian Censuses as well as Police Crime records. Our data include measures of collective efficacy such as volunteering and residential mobility. In this way, we explore the complex relationship between imprisonment, community life and crime. Australia provides an ideal testbed for this study. It has experienced a surge in its prison population and ranks among the fastest growing prison populations in the OECD. Over the past 30 years, the number of people imprisoned in Australia has doubled, now surpassing average imprisonment rates in comparable OECD nations. This process coincided with a concentration of imprisonment in highly disadvantaged communities. In these areas of concentrated imprisonment, social processes that are vital for community crime prevention are likely disrupted by the frequent removal and return of offenders. These removals of offenders from their families and social networks may have profound effects on the structural conditions that serve as protective factors against crime.

Beyond the prisoner: How high imprisonment in communities affects social participation *Shannon Walding, Griffith University; Kirsten Laurisse Besemer, Griffith University; Susanne Karstedt, Griffith University*

Social engagement shapes people's sense of belonging and connection, with important implications for individual health and well-being. At a time of growing pressures on social cohesion, broad participation in community life is critical to the strength and resilience of neighbourhoods. Yet in communities with high rates of imprisonment, repeated movement of residents into and out of prison disrupts families, social networks, and local institutions. These disruptions weaken social relationships and lead to a range of adverse consequences, including diminished capacity, willingness, and opportunities to participate in social and economic life. Such effects occur in neighbourhoods already experiencing concentrated and intersecting forms of disadvantage, where high imprisonment further erodes essential connections between residents. Drawing on multiple years of Australian administrative and survey data at both neighbourhood and individual levels, this study examines the effects of high community imprisonment on individual social participation. The findings highlight the unjust consequences of imprisonment policies that extend well beyond the prisoner, undermining community cohesion and individual health and well-being.

Does high imprisonment erode foundations of democracy? Concentrated imprisonment and civic engagement in Australian communities *Susanne Karstedt, Griffith*

University; Shannon Walding, Griffith University; Kirsten Laurisse Besemer, Griffith University

Since Alexis de Tocqueville's first observations of the nascent democracy in the US, civic engagement has been seen as the cornerstone of democratic government and democracy. How could high levels of imprisonment affect civic engagement in communities and thus lead to a less vibrant democracy? The burden of imprisonment and its growth impacts on often vulnerable communities. With high numbers of people moving into and out of prison, community life is disrupted by fractured networks and decreasing collective efficacy in communities. Civic engagement of citizens is affected by these disruptions of community life resulting in a decline of connectivity and civic culture. We explore the impact of Australia's unprecedented incarceration growth on civic life in communities with high imprisonment between 2010 and 2019. We use census data on citizens' engagement in voluntary action to identify the impact of levels and growth of imprisonment. Our results show that high levels of imprisonment disrupt community life and thus drive a decline of civic engagement.

039. New actors and renewed agency in atrocity crimes investigations

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Transitional Justice (Atrocity Crimes and Transitional Justice WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.150

This panel explores how atrocity crimes investigations are being reshaped by new actors, technologies, and domestic legal practices, and what this means for the architecture, legitimacy, and knowledge production of international criminal justice. Against the backdrop of backlash against the liberal international order and mounting constraints on the ICC and traditional human rights NGOs, the panel traces a shift from political to "technical opportunity structures," as civil society reorients from advocacy toward documentation, investigation, and evidence production. It examines the rise of non-traditional investigative actors—specialized NGOs, UN mechanisms, Eurojust Joint Investigation Teams, private technology companies, and other external bodies—whose quasi-prosecutorial roles both enable and complicate atrocity prosecutions, raising questions of coordination, admissibility, legitimacy, and procedural fairness. The panel further analyses how digitalization and transnationalization recast the role of domestic (including extraterritorial) prosecutors, who must navigate tensions between magistracy and bureaucracy, truth-finding and crime-fighting, and the protection of defence, victim, and societal interests. Drawing on Syria and Ukraine as key empirical sites, and in particular on the emerging body of Ukrainian war crimes and conflict-related judgments, the panel shows how domestic prosecutions translate wartime criminality into legal categories and evidentiary practices, prioritizing certain harms, actors, and forms of violence over others. Together, the papers demonstrate how evolving evidentiary ecosystems and actor constellations not only shape accountability outcomes, but also construct the legal and epistemic representation of contemporary armed conflict.

Chair:

Gabriele Chlevickaite, VU Amsterdam

Participants:

Penal entrepreneurs in international criminal justice: from political to technical opportunity structures *Kjersti Lohne, University of Oslo*

This paper examines and conceptualizes an emergent shift in the actors, identities, and strategies driving the 'fight against impunity' for atrocity crimes. Against the backdrop of a broader backlash against the liberal international order, traditional human rights NGOs and the International Criminal Court (ICC) face discursive, material, and political constraints: the language of universality has weakened, funding for NGO and soft-power work has declined, access to decision-makers has narrowed, and the ICC itself struggles for survival. In this context, the paper argues that civil society actors are recalibrating their engagement with international criminal justice, moving from reliance on political opportunity structures toward the exploitation of "technical opportunity structures." These shifts are reflected in the diversification of civil society engagement with the ICC, including the rise of not-for-profit investigatory organizations, private technology companies, and local NGOs focused on documentation and evidence production rather than advocacy or normative development. By analyzing these transformations in the agency of penal entrepreneurs in international criminal justice, the paper explores their implications for the evolution of international criminal justice and the prospects for accountability for atrocity crimes.

Quasi-prosecutors? The role of non-traditional investigative actors in pursuing accountability for atrocity crimes *Sabina-Andreea Grigore, University of Amsterdam*

The prosecution of atrocity crimes has long struggled with challenges related to obtaining reliable and admissible evidence. These include shortcomings in witness testimony, restricted or non-existent territorial access, and difficulties associated with the collection, authentication, or preservation of evidence. All these challenges are generally mediated by the prosecutors, who must navigate a highly complex terrain when seeking to establish guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. Their tasks become even more demanding when evidence is collected not only by the state's investigative bodies but also by civil society organizations, UN mechanisms, such as the IIIM, or other external investigative actors like the Eurojust Joint Investigation Teams, who may or may not share the same practices or obligations in gathering evidence as required by the legal frameworks governing the work of the prosecutors. The increasing number of actors involved heightens the risk of fragmented justice, accentuating the need for enhanced cooperation and coordination. Accordingly, this paper aims to explore the role and function of these non-traditional actors in investigating atrocity crimes. It asks whether and to what extent their work can be described as quasi-prosecutorial and seeks to explore what that characterization means for their cooperation with the prosecutors. The analysis focuses on two case studies, Syria and Ukraine, which, besides being two of the

most extensively documented conflicts in history, have also witnessed high levels of external involvement in activities traditionally reserved for prosecutorial authorities. Ultimately, the paper argues that, though indispensable, the involvement of these actors raises important questions related to the pursuit of accountability, legitimacy, and procedural fairness.

The transnationalizing domestic extraterritorial atrocity prosecutor *Marieke de Hoon, University of Amsterdam*

Recognizing the limitations of the International Criminal Court as the solution to end all impunity and fueled by an explosion of data available on international crimes due to the advent of technology and transnational cooperation, domestic criminal courts have become a key space of international criminal justice. While there is a growing attention on new actors engaging in evidence collection, new types of digital evidence, and new cooperation strategies in this transnationalized investigations landscape, there is much less theorization in legal and social science on the role of the prosecutor in this new constellation. More generally, while the prosecutor is the most powerful actor in criminal justice systems, they are remarkably understudied compared to other branches and aspects of the justice system. For their new extraterritorial role in investigating atrocities that occurred elsewhere, theorization is virtually absent. This paper analyses how the digitalization and transnationalization of the investigations landscape impacts the role of the prosecutor, given its inherent ambivalences: having to uphold fundamental legal principles while straddling the lines between (1) magistrate and civil servant; (2) truth-finding and crime-fighting; (3) safeguarding defence rights, victims' rights and society's rights; and (4) representing the public or the victim.

Adjudicating war: crime patters, evidence, and the legal construction of wartime reality in Ukraine *Gabriele Chlevickaite, VU Amsterdam*

Since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, domestic courts have become central to the prosecution of conflict-related crimes, generating a rapidly expanding body of jurisprudence. This paper analyses a sample of Ukrainian war crimes and conflict-related judgments to examine how wartime criminality is translated into legal categories and evidentiary practices. It focuses on two interrelated dimensions: patterns in the crimes charged and the evidentiary foundations underpinning these prosecutions. The analysis highlights a predominance of cases targeting direct, low-level perpetrators, including both war crimes and collaboration-related offences, and frequently involving killings, ill-treatment, shelling of civilian objects, and property-related conduct. This distribution reflects both the structure of domestic criminal law and the practical constraints of wartime investigations, offering insight into prosecutorial prioritisation and the forms of violence most readily adjudicated. The paper further explores the types of evidence invoked in these cases, examining how courts engage with different forms of proof, including testimonial, forensic, and digital materials. By analysing how factual narratives are constructed in judgments, the paper considers which harms, actors, and forms of violence are prioritised or marginalised, arguing that domestic prosecutions shape not only accountability but also the legal and epistemic representation of the war.

040. Gender, Crime and Justice Working Group Panel 10: Stalking, cyber-violence and technologically-facilitated abuse

Topic 3: Crime Correlates/Gender and Crime (Gender, Crime and Justice WG)

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.110

Chair:

Katerina Kudrlova, Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention

Participants:

Cyberviolence, as recorded in criminal case files *Katerina Kudrlova, Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention; Hana Preslickova, Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention; Jiri Vlach, Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention; Eva Biedermanova, Institute for Criminology and Social Prevention*

Based on previous research by the Institute for Criminology and Social Prevention, which included a nationwide representative questionnaire survey and analysis of criminal files, we have created a definition of cyberviolence that we believe more accurately captures its essence for legal purposes than the definitions commonly used. We define cyberviolence as harmful acts that interfere with a person's personality rights, liberty and/or dignity via digital technologies. We are currently analysing a sample of criminal files related to crimes that could be considered cyberviolence according to our definition. The analysis focuses on both victims and perpetrators, as well as the manner of conduct. The presentation will introduce listeners to the preliminary results of the analysis and provide an overview of cyber violence cases handled by criminal justice bodies in the Czech Republic.

Identifying Predictors of Help-Seeking Behaviors Following Technology-Facilitated Intimate Partner Violence *Alexis Nicks, University of South Florida; Chae Jaynes, University of South Florida; Roberta Liggett-O'Malley, University of South Florida-Sarasota*

While Technology-Facilitated Intimate Partner Violence (TIPV) is a prevalent form of abuse, little to no research has been conducted on factors that impact reporting and disclosing decisions of victims. This study aims to fill the gap in research by examining how message quantity and content impact an individual's willingness to report (WTR), willingness to disclose (WTD), and willingness to tell a mental health professional (WHP). Using data from an experimental vignette design and Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression analyses, we find that message quantity had no significant effect on WTR, WTD, or WHP, but that message content had a positive and significant effect on WTR and WHP. Prior victimization is associated with lower WTR and WHP, lower levels of trust in police are associated with lower WTR and WHP, and higher

quality personal relationships result in higher WTD. These findings indicate a need for more education about TIPV and what it looks like, strengthening relationships between victims and formal forms of support such as law enforcement, and aiding social support systems in recognizing warning signs of TIPV and learning support and intervention methods.

Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence against Women: Legal and Criminological Challenges in the AI Era *Asimina Niasoudi, Center for the Study of Crime (CESC); Martha Lempesi, Center for the Study of Crime (Greece)*

This contribution examines technology-facilitated gender-based violence against women through a legal and criminological lens, with particular emphasis on image-based sexual abuse in the AI era. It argues that the non-consensual dissemination of intimate or manipulated material provides a revealing case study for assessing current legal responses, because AI tools intensify the production, circulation and apparent credibility of abusive content, while complicating attribution, authenticity verification and evidentiary assessment. The contribution therefore treats digital violence as a serious form of gendered victimisation with tangible legal, social and psychological consequences. The analysis is situated within a multi-layered normative framework. The Budapest Convention (2001) and its Second Additional Protocol (2021) remain central to cross-border cooperation and disclosure of electronic evidence, while the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime (2024) introduces a new global framework for cooperation and the sharing of electronic evidence in relation to cybercrime and serious ICT-enabled offences. At EU level, Directive (EU) 2024/1385 explicitly criminalises the non-consensual sharing of intimate or manipulated material. The contribution argues, however, that these instruments do not fully resolve the legal-technical difficulties raised by AI-enabled abuse: authorship attribution, authentication of synthetic or altered content, evidentiary preservation, jurisdictional fragmentation, uneven platform responsiveness, and the translation of formal criminalisation into effective victim protection. The Greek case illustrates the urgency of these issues. According to the 6th Annual Report on Violence against Women of the General Secretariat for Equality and Human Rights (2026), police-handled revenge pornography cases rose from 205 in 2024 to 299 in 2025. Against this background, the contribution contends that the key challenge is the construction of an enforcement architecture capable of combining criminal law, digital evidence regimes, cross-border cooperation, platform accountability and victim-centred remedies in response to AI-mediated abuse.

041. Criminology and Crimes of the State: Lessons from a history of German Criminology

Topic 7: Comparative and Historical Perspectives/Historical Comparisons of Crime (Historical Criminology WG)
Roundtable
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.120

Criminology has had more than one close encounter with crimes of the state. Criminologists have been involved themselves – an often-forgotten fact. German criminologists had been deeply complicit in the crimes of the Nazi regime. It is this past of criminology that we need to examine when looking into the future of criminology's engagement with crimes of the state. How and why did criminologists get involved and become complicit? What can we - as a discipline - learn from the past? What were our mistakes, and when and where did we get it right? What are the pitfalls and problems today? The unique case of German criminology and criminologists between 1933 and 1945, and their histories of complicity provide a lens to examine where we as criminologists are in danger of failing justice and serving injustice, and where our responsibility as criminologists lies for the future of our engagement with crimes of the state, national and internationally. It is an uncomfortable and dark history, but one that needs to be faced and addressed for the future of the discipline.

Chair:
Nandor Knust, UIT Arctic University of Norway

Discussants:
Stephan Parmentier, KU Leuven
Susanne Karstedt, Griffith University

Participant:

Back to the future: Criminology and Crimes of the State *Susanne Karstedt, Griffith University*

Criminology has had more than one close encounter with crimes of the state. Criminologists have been involved themselves – an often-forgotten fact. German criminologists had been deeply complicit in the crimes of the Nazi regime. It is this past of criminology that we need to examine when looking into the future of criminology's engagement with crimes of the state. How and why did criminologists get involved and become complicit? What can we - as a discipline - learn from the past? What were our mistakes, and when and where did we get it right? What are the pitfalls and problems today? The unique case of German criminology and criminologists between 1933 and 1945, and their histories of complicity provide a lens to examine where we as criminologists are in danger of failing justice, and where our responsibility as criminologists lies for the future of our engagement with crimes of the state, national and internationally. It is an uncomfortable and dark history, but one that needs to be addressed for the future of the discipline.

042. Navigating the digital heartbreak: Prevalence, mechanics, coping, and institutional responses in Technology-Facilitated Dating Violence

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence (Gender, Crime and Justice WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.128

This panel brings together multi-methodological research into the landscape of technology-facilitated gender-based violence and romance fraud within the broader context of intimate relationships. By combining large-scale victimization surveys, empirical and qualitative analysis of criminal files, and

systematic scoping reviews, this session provides a comprehensive overview of digital harm within contemporary intimate relationships. The first paper establishes the prevalence of tech abuse through a representative survey of 3,093 Belgian adults, identifying ghosting, catfishing, and image-based sexual abuse as primary concerns. The data reveal a significant action gap between victims' experience of harm and their inaction in seeking help. This paper discusses potential reasons and remedies. Addressing this gap, the second component deconstructs the operational mechanics of perpetrators using crime scripting theory. Analyzing 70 Belgian police files, this study maps the scripts used in romance scams. This offender-oriented perspective identifies structured intervention points where law enforcement and platforms can disrupt predatory narratives. Building on this institutional perspective, the third paper examines how acts of violence, including both offline and online, are interpreted and legally classified within the criminal justice system. Drawing on a qualitative analysis of Portuguese court decisions involving male victims, this study explores how technology-mediated forms of control and harassment are incorporated into judicial reasoning. These results highlight potential gaps between lived experiences of violence and their legal recognition, particularly in cases involving male victims, and point to the challenges of integrating emerging forms of digital abuse within existing legal frameworks. Finally, the session examines the survivor's perspective through a systematic scoping review of 39 studies on coping with Image-Based Sexual Harassment and Abuse. Utilizing the Lazarus and Folkman framework, the research categorizes responses into problem-focused, emotion-focused, and meaning-focused strategies. It underscores the prevalence of both adaptive responses (blocking, reporting) and maladaptive outcomes (self-harm, substance misuse).

Chair:

Catherine Van de Heyning, University of Antwerp

Participants:

Technology-facilitated gender-based violence on dating apps: scoping and remedies *Wim Hardyns, Ghent University, Department of Criminology, Criminal Law and Social Law; Koen Ponnet, imec-mict, Department of Communication Sciences, Ghent University; Michel Walrave, University of Antwerp; Mona Giacometti, ULB; Aurélie Depre, UAntwerpen; Ellen Van Damme, Field Research Coaching | ULB | KU Leuven; Catherine Van de Heyning, University of Antwerp*

The digitalization of romance has moved beyond convenience, introducing complex patterns of digital dating violence that demand urgent academic and institutional attention. This paper presents research, based on a representative survey of 3,093 adults in Belgium, that examines the prevalence and impact of various digital abuses on dating platforms. Findings indicate that ghosting is the most common experience, followed by catfishing, image-based sexual abuse (IBSA) and online hate speech. The research shows that non-heterosexual individuals and young adults are significantly more vulnerable. The research finds a significant impact on victim self-esteem and deep mistrust in consequence. A critical contribution of this study is the identification of key risk factors. Young adults (aged 18-29) are the primary target group across nearly all categories. Furthermore, while offline violence often targets women, men in this digital context report high rates of victimization, particularly regarding catfishing and non-consensual image sharing. Notably, subjective financial stress was identified as the most potent predictor of victimization risk. While finding profound impact on victims, the research finds that victims in general take little action when victimised and seek little help. This paper will address the discrepancy between the high rates of victimization and the little action taken.

Whose Violence Counts? Male Victims and the Judicial Recognition of Intimate Partner Violence in the Digital Age: Evidence from Portugal *João Santiago, University of Minho, Portugal; Andreia Machado, Lusófona University, Hei Lab; marlene matos matos, University of Minho*

Despite increasing evidence that men can be victims of intimate partner violence (IPV), limited attention has been given to how criminal justice systems respond to such cases. Research suggests that male victims often report being minimized, which may discourage help-seeking. While IPV is increasingly understood as encompassing both offline and technology-facilitated types of violence, little is known about how such dynamics are judicially interpreted when the complainant is male. This study examines how Portuguese courts recognize and legally classify IPV in cases involving male victims. Drawing on a qualitative analysis of 30 court decisions legally framed as domestic violence, thematic analysis was used to explore sociodemographic characteristics, the nature of the acts, sentencing outcomes, and their legal reasoning. Attention was given to how courts interpret patterns of control, severity, and repetition, including technology-facilitated behaviors such as persistent digital communication used to monitor or control victims. Findings indicate that, although violent acts are acknowledged, they are frequently reclassified into less severe offenses. This reclassification appears to narrow interpretations of severity and subjugation. Technology-facilitated behaviors are often treated as secondary or contextual, rather than as types of violence in their own right. These findings contribute to a more nuanced understanding of institutional responses to both traditional and emerging types of violence. It highlights potential gaps between lived experiences of violence and their legal recognition, underscoring the need to better integrate technology-facilitated abuse into judicial frameworks.

Unmasking the heartbreak: a crime script analysis of romance scams in police reports *Janneke M. Schokkenbroek, Erasmus School of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands; Department of Criminology, Criminal Law and Social Law, Ghent University, Belgium; Catherine Van de Heyning, University of Antwerp*

Online romance scams represent a sophisticated synthesis of psychological manipulation and financial exploitation, leaving victims with profound emotional and economic scars. While existing literature has extensively covered victimology, there remains a critical need to deconstruct the operational mechanics

of the perpetrators. This paper presents an empirical analysis of 70 criminal police files provided by Belgian law enforcement, offering a rare offender-oriented perspective on the phenomenon. Drawing on the theoretical framework of crime scripting, this study maps the sequential steps of the scamming process. By utilizing a previous developed multi-scene model (e.g., The Setup, The Hook, The Grooming, and The Payout), we analyze how scammers navigate the Belgian context, from initial contact on dating platforms to the complex financial sting involving money mules and international transfers. The findings reveal that romance scams in Belgium are not merely opportunistic acts but structured enterprises requiring high levels of narrative craft and dramaturgical document staging. The analysis of police files highlights the limited number of recurring scripts and processes of conviction and exit. This study contributes to the field by identifying specific intervention points for law enforcement and digital service providers. By understanding the script, we can better design technical and social barriers to disrupt these predatory narratives before the financial and emotional damage becomes irreversible.

Digital Harms and Human Responses: A Scoping Review on Coping with Image-Based Sexual Harassment and Abuse

Sien Vrijmoed, University of Antwerp; Michel Walrave, University of Antwerp; Inge Glazemakers, Collaborative Antwerp Psychiatric Research Institute (CAPRI), University of Antwerp; Catherine Van de Heyning, University of Antwerp

Image-Based Sexual Harassment and Abuse (IBSHA) is a pervasive form of technology facilitated sexual violence associated with substantial psychological and social harms. Despite growing recognition of its impact, systematic knowledge of how individuals cope with IBSHA remains fragmented. This systematic scoping review synthesizes existing empirical evidence on coping responses to IBSHA across its manifestations. Conducted in accordance with PRISMA-ScR guidelines, the review includes 39 empirical studies published between 2017 and 2025. Guided by Lazarus and Folkman's stress and coping framework, coping responses were analytically classified according to their primary function as problem-focused, emotion-focused, or meaning-focused. Responses described as harmful or self-destructive were considered within an evaluative dimension of maladaptive coping. Findings indicate that problem-focused and emotion-focused strategies are most frequently reported.Survivors commonly attempt to regain control through actions such as blocking perpetrators, reporting incidents, removing imagery, or disengaging from perpetrators. Emotion-focused strategies include informal supportseeking, withdrawal from social environments, avoidance, normalization, and distraction aimed at regulating emotional distress. Meaning-focused coping, such as reframing experiences, advocacy, or deriving personal growth, was reported less frequently. Several studies also described responses associated with elevated risk for adverse well-being, including substance misuse, self-harm, suicide attempts, sexual risk-taking, compulsive monitoring of online platforms, and extreme social withdrawal. Coping responses appear shaped by contextual and socio-demographic factors such as age, gender norms, and victim–perpetrator relationships, and may shift over time. By synthesizing existing evidence, this review contributes to conceptual clarity regarding coping with IBSHA and informs the development of more targeted, context-sensitive, and trauma-informed responses.

043. Meeting of the Criminal Law-Making Policy ESC Working Group

WG Meetings

Meetings

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.132 - Room for Meetings

044. Hybrid Harms: Approaches for Understanding Youth Crime Across Connected Spaces

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Juvenile Crime (ISRD WG)

Roundtable

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.138

The increasing convergence of online and offline environments has reshaped the nature of youth crime, giving rise to what can be understood as "hybrid harms." These harms cut across digital and physical spaces, challenging traditional distinctions in criminology, policing, youth justice, and safeguarding. This informal roundtable brings together practitioners and multidisciplinary scholars to explore emerging approaches to understanding and responding to youth crime across connected spaces. The session aims to facilitate dialogue between academics across a range of disciplines, law enforcement, and criminal justice professionals, recognising that no single discipline can adequately address the complexity of hybrid harms. Drawing on insights from criminology, sociology, psychology, and digital studies, participants will reflect on how online interactions intersect with offline behaviours, including peer influence, exploitation, and violence. Particular attention will be given to methodological challenges, such as capturing fluid online–offline dynamics, as well as ethical considerations when researching young people in digitally mediated contexts. The roundtable will prioritise knowledge exchange over presentation, creating space to identify shared challenges, gaps in current evidence, and opportunities for collaborative future research. It will also consider practical implications for intervention, prevention, and policy, including how existing frameworks may need to adapt to better reflect the realities of young people's lived experiences. By fostering cross-sector and interdisciplinary dialogue, this session seeks to establish new research priorities and inform more holistic, context-sensitive approaches to youth crime, ultimately supporting more effective responses to harm in an increasingly connected world.

Chairs:

DR Ruby Rosemarie Farr, University of East London

Julia C. Davidson, University of East London

Discussants:

Boglarka Meggyesfalvi, University of East London & Middlesex University

Rose Butler, Sheffield Hallam University

Ignacio Castro, Queen Mary University of London

Professor Adam Joinson, Bath University, Applied Digital

Behaviour Lab

045. Critical Criminology: harms and criminalisation

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Critical Criminology

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.141

Chair:

Anna Di Ronco, University of Bologna

Participants:

Strategic Silence: Meso-Level Harm Governance, Denial and LGBTQ+ Exclusion in Education Governance *EJ-Francis Caris-Hamer, University of Essex*

This paper develops the concept of strategic silence to explain how LGBTQ+ harms are governed, denied and normalised through the everyday practices of education institutions in England. Drawing on qualitative interviews with 28 teachers across the 11-19 sector, it adopts a social harm and zemiological framework to conceptualise strategic silence as a meso-level mechanism of institutional harm governance through which LGBTQ+ exclusion is managed not primarily through overt hostility, but through omission, containment and the regulation of what can be named, acted upon and sustained. The analysis shows how leaders and teachers, operating within accountability regimes, moral regulation, and community pressures, engage in patterned forms of organisational self-protection that preserve institutional legitimacy while constraining the recognition and escalation of harm. Using Cohen's typology of denial, the paper demonstrates how education institutions register that harm exists, including incidents with criminal dimensions, yet restrict its institutional consequences through interpretive and implicatory denial, enacted through governance moves such as deferral, minimisation, reclassification, and responsibility shifting. These practices render LGBTQ+ harms less visible and less actionable, weakening opportunities for disclosure, recognition and timely institutional response. By locating these dynamics at the meso-level, the paper extends criminological debates on denial, social harm, and harms of the powerful by conceptualising strategic silence as a mechanism through which institutions manage contested harms while preserving legitimacy and limiting escalation, accountability and response. While grounded in the case of LGBTQ+ exclusion in education institutions, strategic silence has wider analytical purchase for understanding how institutions govern by politically sensitive harms under conditions of reputational risk and contested equality obligations, including policing, social care, and prisons.

The consolidation of policing power on campus—as illustrated by student movement 1969 at Emory University *Rongyou Gao, Emory University School of Law*

This paper argues, through a historical examination of three student protests that occurred on Emory's campus at the beginning of 1969, that student movements—while constituting a critical component of free expression—have increasingly been subjected to institutional supervision as campus policing power has consolidated, even within private universities. On campus, modern universities have traditionally served as facilitators of dynamic communication and as spaces that convey the intellectual and civic spirit of the academic community to the outside world. Within this context, student movements addressing activism and political issues are indispensable, extending beyond the scope of academic freedom alone. Free expression on campus is not confined to academic discourse; political and protest rights have long been recognized as integral components of university life. However, as a new form of the consolidation of policing power on campus emerges, free expression may be implicitly reclassified as an "atmosphere of unlawfulness," subject to restriction based on particular topics or forms of participation. Under such conditions, opposition to contemporary policies may be curtailed or even prohibited, despite the absence of reasonable suspicion or clear legal justification. By tracing this historical trajectory, the paper demonstrates that the expansion of policing authority on campus did not emerge abruptly, but developed incrementally alongside broader transformations in governance, liability, and public order concerns. Emory serves as an early instance in which policing power was mobilized to regulate free expression, particularly through the control and supervision of student protests.

The Dialectics of Criminalization. Criminal Law as an Arena of Conflict: The Case of the Criminalization of Solidarity. *Piotr Stepulak, Uniwersytet Warszawski*

Contemporary crises expose the illusory nature of the myth of legal neutrality. In an era of growing polarization, criminal law often loses its safeguarding function, becoming a tool to silence social dissent. This presentation aims to outline the proposed concept of the "dialectics of criminalization," treating criminal law not as a coherent system of rules, but as an asymmetrical battlefield over definitions and meanings. This phenomenon is based on two clashing vectors. On the one hand, the state apparatus applies the mechanism of so-called "de facto" criminalization, as defined by professor Lech Gardocki, in which legal provisions are used in a manner drastically divergent from the legislator's intent, serving to symbolically label inconvenient individuals as deviants and deter them from expressing dissent. On the other hand, civil society, although deprived of systemic power, reverses the trajectory of accusation, using the very same criminal law language against the state apparatus, pointing to state violence and the fact that the sovereign has become the greatest violator of norms. A model example of this dynamic is the "criminalization of solidarity" observed during the humanitarian crisis at the Polish-Belarusian border. On the one hand, the state instrumentally uses provisions aimed at criminal organizations (e.g., Article 264 § 3 and Article 264a of the Polish Penal Code) to penalize humanitarian aid, where the burdensome legal process itself becomes the actual punishment. On the other hand, social organizations initiate legal mobilization, bringing accusations of torture and abuse of power (Article 231

of the Penal Code) against state officers. This dialectic causes the concepts of "criminal" and "victim" to lose their clarity in border situations, becoming tools in a broader conflict over political subjecthood and the accountability of power. Keywords: dialectics of criminalization, criminalization of solidarity, de facto criminalization, critical criminology, state violence

More Than a Security Threat? Sovereign Citizens and Societal Engagement *Merel van Rees - van Bekkum, Bureau EMMA; Hans Moors, EMMA; Linda De Veen, EMMA*

In contemporary debates, individuals associated with the so-called sovereign citizen movement are predominantly approached through a security-oriented lens, framed as anti-institutional, disruptive, or potentially threatening. While this perspective captures important risks, it also reflects a deeper tension at the heart of democratic societies: what happens when individuals no longer recognize the legitimacy of the social contract to which they are presumed to belong? Drawing on two qualitative studies conducted in the Netherlands—one exploring the lived experiences and beliefs of individuals identifying as sovereign, autonomous, or "free" humans, and another examining their interactions with frontline professionals—this paper investigates how this group positions itself in relation to society. The research is based on in-depth interviews, complemented by document, media, and online analysis, and adopts an explicitly emic perspective. The findings reveal a paradox. While respondents reject the authority of state institutions, they do not withdraw from questions of justice, responsibility, and collective life. On the contrary, many articulate a strong moral and societal engagement, expressed through critique, resistance, and the creation of alternative structures. Their disengagement from the state does not necessarily imply disengagement from society, but rather a reconfiguration of how belonging, obligation, and autonomy are understood. At the same time, this phenomenon cannot be romanticized. A small subset of individuals engages in harmful, unlawful, or even violent behavior, and the potential for escalation remains a real concern. However, the findings suggest that reducing this group to a security problem alone obscures the complexity of their motivations and risks reinforcing processes of marginalization. Instead, this paper argues for a reconceptualization of societal engagement that moves beyond institutional participation, and highlights the importance of dialogue-oriented and context-sensitive approaches in both research and professional practice.

Overtourism as urban harm: a critical urban criminological perspective from Venice *Anna Di Ronco, University of Bologna*

In recent years, the phenomena of touristification and overtourism have negatively affected the liveability of many cities in Europe and beyond—including the cultural heritage city of Venice, Italy. While their negative effects have been widely examined across several fields, including tourism and urban studies, they have received far less attention within criminology. This paper offers an exploratory criminological analysis of the effects of overtourism in cities, with particular attention to the lived experiences of harm among residents in contexts of excessive tourism. More specifically, it draws on the perspectives and everyday experiences of sixteen residents' associations that have addressed overtourism in Venice through activist practices and public communication across a range of media. The paper analyses the urban harms of overtourism thus identified against the backdrop of critical urban criminology.

046. Discretion and Fairness in Criminal Decision-Making

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Courts and Sentencing and Penal Decision Making (Sentencing and Penal Decisionmaking WG)

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.147

Chair:

Maria Kopeć, University of Warsaw

Participants:

Risk and Discretion in Bail and Remand Decision-Making *Jack Adams, City St George's University of London*

Decision-making in bail and remand hearings represents a critical yet under-examined stage of the criminal justice process, with profound implications for defendants' liberty, case outcomes and broader system pressures. While formal frameworks emphasise risk assessment, particularly risks of failure to surrender, reoffending and interference with justice, the ways in which these risks are interpreted and operationalised by judicial actors remain insufficiently understood. This paper draws on semi-structured interviews with magistrates and district judges in England and Wales to examine how bail and remand decisions are made in practice. It shows how legal criteria are mediated through professional experience and organisational context, producing outcomes that cannot be fully explained by formal legal rules alone. Particular attention is given to how risk is constructed under conditions of uncertainty and to the discretionary space within which judicial decision-making operates. The analysis is informed by socio-legal and criminological theories of risk and governance, including perspectives on actuarial justice and preventative forms of decision-making. It also considers the growing role of digital technologies, situating these within broader shifts in how risk is understood and applied in criminal justice contexts. By drawing on judicial perspectives, the paper contributes to ongoing debates about consistency, fairness and accountability in pre-trial decision-making. It offers empirical insight into how decisions are made under conditions of time pressure and limited information.

The 'good faith' exception in the administration of evidence. Trends towards the adoption of elements specific to the adversarial system within the continental-style decision-making process. *Iordache Liviu-Iulian, Facultatea de Drept - Universitatea Babeş Bolyai din Cluj Napoca*

Regardless of the type of legal system (continental or adversarial) within which they are applied, criminal

procedural sanctions, conceived as a procedural remedy intended to set aside procedural acts carried out in breach of the principles of legality and fairness, have always been a central element in the legislative process. The need for constant adaptation to contemporary social realities has led to a reconfiguration of the paradigm in which, initially, this compensatory mechanism of procedural sanctions was conceived at the legislative level, by moving away from the concept of strict legality (characterised by excessive formalism) and giving precedence to the notion of the primacy of law, where the central role is taken by the concrete existence of a procedural violation. In this context of the evolution of procedural sanctions, this study aims to analyse a new doctrinal trend that has emerged predominantly in the adversarial system, namely the 'good faith' exception in the administration of evidence in criminal proceedings, and the impact of its transposition on the decision-making process of national courts.

Victim stereotypes in legal decision-making: a mixed-methods analysis of fairness in compensation for victims of human trafficking *Rosa Koenraadt, Criminology, Leiden University, the Netherlands; Masja van Meeteren, Radboud University; Ieke de Vries, Leiden University*

Discussions of distributive fairness in legal outcomes often center on defendants, with comparatively less focus on those victimized by crime. Existing research on victims highlights how systemic bias can shape unequal access to justice and victim support. However, little is known about whether and how distributive unfairness manifests in judicial decisions on victim compensation. This study examines the factors that play a role in judicial decisions on civil compensation claims submitted by injured parties within criminal human trafficking cases in the Netherlands. Drawing on a mixed-methods analysis of judicial decisions in cases where victims filed compensation claims, we assess how case characteristics, and the attributes of trafficked individuals and offenders are associated with compensation outcomes. The quantitative analysis indicates that, beyond case-specific factors, victimization experiences that align with a dominant "ideal victim" narrative, involving minors who were sexually exploited by a single offender with whom they had an emotional relationship, are positively associated with compensation outcomes. In contrast, victimization experiences that diverge from this narrative, often reflecting marginalized or socially stigmatized groups, are negatively associated with compensation outcomes. These results suggest the presence of distributive unfairness in judicial responses to victims of human trafficking and suggest that systemic disparities may persist in compensation practices. The qualitative analysis of this study provides a complementary perspective on the reasoning underlying these decisions. The study underscores the need for further research into the role of victim stereotypes on legal decision-making.

What's law got to do with it? Decision-making in conditional early release in Poland. *Maria Kopeć, University of Warsaw*

This paper examines decision-making processes in granting conditional early release (CER) in Poland. It draws on preliminary findings from an ongoing study based on the analysis of over 300 penitentiary court case files and approximately 40 in-depth interviews with judges, prison directors, and correctional officers. The study is funded by the Polish National Science Centre (2025/57/N/HS5/04398). Conditional early release is considered an effective tool for reducing recidivism. However, data from the Polish Prison Service show that between 2010 and 2023 the proportion of positive CER decisions decreased from 45% to 25%. At the same time, Poland has one of the highest incarceration rates in Europe, with more than 50% of released prisoners returning to prison. Importantly, the legal framework governing CER has remained largely unchanged since 1997, suggesting the existence of a "gap problem," understood as a discrepancy between law and its application in practice. Research indicates that judges differ significantly in interpreting statutory criteria and exercising discretion. They often rely on extra-legal factors, particularly in cases involving prisoners convicted of most serious crimes. Case law also varies across regions, leading to "prisoners tourism". There is no consistent practice in granting CER, which results in lack of certainty about what criteria prisoners should actually meet. The paper argues that legal provisions alone do not determine CER decisions. It asks what factors shape these decisions and to what extent they are driven by law versus extra-legal considerations. By focusing on decision-making processes, the study sheds light on the "technology of punishment" and the distribution of power in conditional release.

047. POLWG Panel 7: Plural Policing: Hybrid Governance, Plural Actors, and the Boundaries of Policing

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.152

Chair:

Charlotte Geertman, Erasmus University Rotterdam

Participants:

Policing on the Margins: Perspectives on policing geographically dispersed locales in the Solomon Islands *Casandra Harry, University of Trinidad and Tobago*

Policing in geographically dispersed and rural contexts presents distinct challenges that remain underexplored in criminological scholarship, particularly within the Global South. This study examines policing in the Solomon Islands, a Pacific Island state characterised by extreme geographic dispersion, limited infrastructure, and a predominantly rural population. Using an interpretative phenomenological approach, the research draws on in-depth interviews with eighteen officers from the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) to explore their lived experiences of policing in these marginalised environments. Findings indicate that policing in the Solomon Islands operates within a pluralistic governance system in which state police

work alongside non-state actors, including chiefs, elders, and community groups. Officers emphasised the importance of this hybrid model, noting that traditional authorities frequently resolve minor disputes and play a central role in maintaining social order. This reflects both the limited reach of formal policing and the enduring legitimacy of customary justice systems. However, significant structural challenges constrain effective policing. Geographic dispersion across numerous islands limits police mobility, complicates evidence gathering, and allows suspects to evade capture by relocating between communities. These issues are compounded by resource constraints, including inadequate staffing, transport, and infrastructure. Additionally, weaknesses within the judicial system such as court shortages, irregular circuit sittings, and case backlogs delay justice and undermine police effectiveness. Officers reported that these systemic limitations contribute to public dissatisfaction, erode trust in the police, and negatively affect officer morale. This study contributes to rural policing scholarship by centring internal police perspectives within a non-Western, post-colonial context. It underscores the need for context-specific policing approaches that recognise plural governance arrangements while addressing structural and institutional limitations. Strengthening inter-island policing capacity, improving judicial access, and enhancing collaboration with community actors are critical to improving security and justice delivery in geographically dispersed settings.

Policing Youth Groups: Profiling, Labelling and Procedural Justice *Elsa Saarikkomäki, University of Turku*

Existing research demonstrates that young people, particularly those from racialised minorities, are frequently subject to suspicion, intensified policing, and exclusion in urban public spaces (e.g. Saarikkomäki et al. 2023; Haller et al. 2020). Expanding networks of privatized policing have further intensified control in youth leisure environments. Yet the implications of these encounters—such as ethnic and racial profiling, labelling and exclusion—remain insufficiently analysed at the group level. At the same time, when control and criminal justice measures towards young people have tightened, also in the Nordic countries, hybrid policing has been implemented aiming to improve procedural justice (Saarikkomäki & Lampela 2022). These include cross professional collaboration between police, private security, and youth workers, representing a shift in contemporary policing governance. However, the impacts of these developments on young people's experiences, perceptions of fairness and group dynamics are still poorly understood. This study examines youth groups in urban Finnish cities, focusing on encounters between youth groups and policing agents. The research employs multi-sited urban ethnography and qualitative interviews with young people, followed by interviews with police officers and youth focused security guards operating in shopping malls. As part of the Y GANG consortium ('Youth Groups: Urban Leisure, Control and Crime', University of Turku, the Finnish Youth Research Society, and University of Helsinki), this study explores how youth groups encounter crime control and how these encounters influence processes of labelling, procedural justice perceptions, ethnic and racial profiling, involvement in group crime, and preventive outcomes. By addressing understudied topic of group-level interactions with policing agents, this study contributes to developing concept of group labelling and to ongoing debates on advancing procedural justice theory.

Understanding the past: Critical junctures in the development of a public-private approach to organised crime in the Port of Rotterdam *Charlotte Geertman, Erasmus University Rotterdam*

As a global logistics hub, the Port of Rotterdam (PoR) is home to many public and private organisations, some of which are confronted with organised crime such as drug and human trafficking. The governance of organised crime challenges both public and private organisations with regard to the limits of their responsibility, knowledge, and capacity, among other things. Consequently, public and private organisations are increasingly seeking ways to collaborate. This is also the case in the PoR. This study explores how public and private efforts against organised crime in the PoR have evolved to include such a collaborative public-private approach. Building on the idea of path dependency, the analysis is based on oral history interviews in which respondents reflected on critical junctures experienced in the development of their organisation's approach to organised crime. Respondents include public and private stakeholders who have been active in and around the PoR between the introduction of the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (2004) and now. The study provides an illustration of how the current public-private approach against organised crime in the PoR came about based on the experiences of stakeholders involved. As such, it offers valuable insights for the development of that collaboration and other public-private initiatives moving forward. This research is part of the project Focusing on the Right Things in the Port of Rotterdam (with project number KICH1.VE03.21.008) of the research programme KICMISSION 2021 which is (partly) financed by the Dutch Research Council (NWO).

048. Disrupting Sexual Misconduct in Policing: The Power of Leadership and Voice

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.158

Sexual misconduct continues to be an issue in policing despite efforts to address it. This misconduct extends from misdeeds perpetrated against colleagues to intimate partners and even members of the public. This panel examines the persistence of sexual misconduct and the harmful effects for individuals who are the targets of such behaviour. We illustrate how key institutional barriers, including the masculine subculture, distrust in reporting mechanisms, and the "blue code" of silence

compel people to refrain from speaking up and for victims to suffer in silence. Drawing from recent research, we offer new perspectives on the concept of silence and showcase how police supervisors can confront silence by modelling ethical behaviour and holding others accountable for maintaining ethical standards. We also highlight the positive role of immersive technologies (such as virtual reality) in enhancing the ethical decision-making capabilities of police supervisors.

Chair:

Angela Workman-Stark, Athabasca University

Participants:

Challenging the Unchallenged: Institutional Barriers to Addressing Sexual Harassment in Policing *Lali Magsi, University of Cambridge; Paul Ottaro, University of Cambridge; Barak Ariel, Cambridge University*

Internal sexual harassment persists in UK policing, yet the social mechanisms sustaining silence remain under-specified. Our research specifically explores the 'blue code of silence' and additional blockers to challenging internal sexual harassment amongst police officers, community officers, special constables and police staff in a large UK police force. We report on a perversive, damaging, and underreported phenomenon through a vignette based anonymous online survey distributed to all 2,137 employees (response rate = 19.5%). Our findings show that victims and witnesses are discouraged from reporting incidents due to the perception that such conduct will not be addressed effectively by the organisation during opaque grievance procedures, is often perceived as banter, will result in ostracism or the desire to protect the harasser's reputation. Moreover, victims reported long-term adverse effects, including stress, anxiety, isolation, and frustration, and a quarter considered leaving the organisation. Furthermore, our research highlights significant policy implications including enhanced training, restorative justice conferencing for low level incidents, confidential multi-path complaints channels, a clearer sexual harassment policy, protecting complainants and their identities during grievances and a 'Call It Out' campaign to deter sexual harassment via peer shaming. The prevailing culture that tolerates harassment and the 'blue code of silence' can lead to psychological and job-related issues among police employees, affecting their performance and trust in the force. Failure to address internal sexual harassment could harm the force's reputation, employee morale, and recruitment, specifically of underrepresented groups including women and minority individuals.

"Don't dare to speak out…it'll ruin your career": Women officers and their lived experiences of sexism and misogyny in the workplace *Chris Magill, University of Brighton*

Sexism and misogyny have long been debated in academic circles as features of police 'culture'. Despite developments and reforms, misogynistic attitudes and behaviours amongst officers in forces across the UK and further afield seem to endure. Their continuing presence and endemic nature are now truths the police themselves have at last publicly acknowledged. From 'spy cops' deceiving women into having sexual relationships; police perpetrated domestic abuse; to the rape and murder of women by serving officers it is, at last, impossible to ignore the darker side of police workplace culture. As a recent Inspectorate report notes, a 'culture of misogyny, sexism and predatory behaviour' is 'prevalent in many forces'. This research explored police culture from a seldom heard perspective, i.e., women police officers. Eight interviews with women who were former police officers and recent leavers were completed. These semi-autobiographical interviews asked about experiences of misogyny and sexism in the workplace; how interviewees navigated these experiences; what (if any) avenues for support were available, and to what extent experiences impacted continuing professional development and/or career. Initial analysis has revealed the extent to which misogynistic attitudes and behaviour from other police officers was a significant, often recurring, feature in the lives of the women whilst serving officers. Voice (or lack of voice) was a key theme alongside loss. The research adds further evidence to existing scholarship on policing as a site of misogyny. It simultaneously raises questions about what more needs to be done to counter sexism and misogyny attitudes and behaviours within the police.

Rethinking Silence and the Role of Police Leaders in Addressing Sexual Harassment *Angela Workman-Stark, Athabasca University*

Responses to sexual harassment within policing have often centred on the belief that if victims would just come forward, occurrences of sexual harassment could be reduced. However, this belief overlooks how other members within the organization (e.g., bystanders, coworkers, HR professionals, and other authority figures) signal through their action or inaction how sexual harassment should be responded to. Through repeated exposure to these signals, police personnel develop an understanding of the likely consequences of reporting harassment, including the perception that reporting will be ignored, discouraged, or punished. As a consequence, these signals of silence, which comprise the elements of being silent, silencing others, and not listening, collectively enable sexual harassment to persist. This presentation discusses recent research highlighting the development and validation of a 12-item instrument for measuring signals of silence and the relationship with three types of sexual harassment (unwanted sexual attention, general gender-based harassment, and 'not-man-enough' harassment). It also demonstrates the role of ethical supervisors in counteracting silence and reducing harassment, thereby offering an important point of intervention for police organisations.

Could Virtual Reality be an antidote to the Blue Code of Silence? *David Knowles, University of Portsmouth*

This presentation explores the research methods utilised to study how virtual reality (VR) can support police officers in developing the ethical judgement, confidence and personal courage required to intervene when sexual misconduct by colleagues is witnessed. Workplace interventions may be inhibited by organisational culture and fear of repercussions, known as the blue code of silence or code of self-protection.

Recent high-profile cases in England have undermined public trust, prompting consideration of how officers learn ethical behaviour and how the culture of silence can be challenged. This presentation outlines the research design, collaboration with a single English police force, and the complexities of VR scenario development, negotiating organisational gatekeepers and managing outsider-insider positionality. Three police cohorts representing different stages of officer socialisation, participated in VR scenarios which simulate ethically complex workplace encounters in the form of police sexual misconduct. Data collection methods included VR observations, surveys, semi-structured interviews, and focus groups, which are being analysed using thematic analysis. Some emerging findings are discussed, suggesting that VR combined with guided reflection provides an engaging pedagogical tool which has the potential to support ethical decision-making and disrupt the harmful culture of silence.

049. POLWG Panel 18: The Reality of Body-Worn Cameras: Compliance, Bias, and Evidentiary Use

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.162

Chair:

Jędrzej Kupczyński, University of Warsaw (Poland)

Participants:

Bureaucratic Compliance: Theorizing Police Adaptation to Body-Worn Camera Surveillance *Daniel Castillo, Södertörn University; Alexandra Bogren, Södertörn University*

Body-worn cameras (BWCs) are increasingly used in policing across Europe, where they are promoted as tools for reducing police use of force, enhancing accountability, and increasing public trust. Existing research commonly explains BWC effects through deterrence- and compliance-based models, assuming that surveillance produces relatively uniform behavioural adjustment through sanction risk or visibility-induced self-regulation, including among frontline officers themselves. Yet empirical findings remain mixed and sometimes contradictory, suggesting that such models insufficiently capture how surveillance shapes police behaviour in practice. Moreover, police–citizen encounters are situationally dynamic, and officers' responses to surveillance may vary depending on the perceived stakes and anticipated escalation of an encounter. Beyond such situational pressures, officers' responses to BWCs are also shaped by the organizational context of frontline policing. Reflecting this organizational embeddedness, qualitative studies describe officers becoming more mechanical, cautious, and "robot-like" when recorded, indicating a behavioural shift that remains analytically underconceptualized. Drawing on ethnographic research with Swedish frontline patrol officers, including approximately 40 interviews and over 200 hours of ride-along observation, this paper examines how officers interpret and adapt to camera surveillance in everyday policing. We propose the concept of bureaucratic compliance to capture how BWCs encourage more rule-bound, procedural, and bureaucratically oriented conduct in frontline encounters. The analysis suggests that such compliance is especially likely in encounters perceived as carrying heightened risk of escalation or scrutiny. In a broader perspective, the paper highlights how BWCs as mobile digital surveillance technologies may reshape discretion and decision-making in frontline policing.

Has Anything Changed? A 2024–2025 Follow-up on Body-Worn Cameras and Police Complaints in Poland *Magdalena Tomaszewska-Michalak, Faculty of Political Science and International Studies; Paweł Waszkiewicz, University of Warsaw, Faculty of Law and Administration; Łukasz Kuliński, University of Warsaw; Michal Gorski, University of Warsaw*

The Polish Police introduced body-worn cameras (BWC) in 2018, and by 2023, the National Police Headquarters reported 5,857 units in active use. Despite extensive global research on BWC implementation, Poland lacks comprehensive empirical data. The project "Body-worn cameras in policing and criminal justice" (NCN OPUS 2021/41/B/HS5/02988) addresses this research gap by analysing the tangible impact of these devices. This presentation focuses on the latest stage of the study, which has been expanded to include new data from 2024 and 2025. By integrating these recent findings, the research team aims to determine whether the trends identified before have stabilized or evolved. The analysis examines the frequency of complaints against officers before and after BWC adoption.

The significance and the extent of use of body-worn camera footage as evidence in criminal proceedings: research findings. *Jędrzej Kupczyński, University of Warsaw (Poland)*

Body-worn cameras (BWCs) are small devices designed to record video and audio, worn by law enforcement officers to overtly document their interactions with the public. They have now become a standard component of police equipment in many jurisdictions, including Poland. It was anticipated that BWCs would achieve several goals in modern policing, most notably securing reliable and unbiased evidence for criminal proceedings. Yet the reality of their impact requires empirical verification. This paper presents findings from both quantitative and qualitative research on the evidentiary use of BWC footage in the Polish criminal justice system. It reveals that while audiovisual evidence from BWCs is generally accepted by legal practitioners, it is used to support the body very rarely. Only a handful of all the produced recordings make their way to court files. In instances where they do, the recordings often feature high-quality audio and video but rarely contain the scope of information that would be directly relevant to the case. Nevertheless, such evidence, even if partially obscure or irrelevant, generally provides a solid amount of contextual information that can be utilised by the procedural body to establish the circumstances of the case. Furthermore,

the study identifies a significant disparity in how different police units utilize BWCs, with some units producing substantially more evidence than others despite having similar mandates and responsibilities.

050. Understanding Childhood Harm

Topic 4: Victimology/Consequences of Victimization (Victimology WG)
Paper Session
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.168
Chair:
Paul Andell, University of Suffolk
Participants:

Adolescent happiness and victimization: the role of adverse child experiences *Eva Krulichová, Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences; Zuzana Podaná, Katedra sociologie, Charles University Prague*

Victimization has been consistently associated with lower levels of adolescent well-being, yet less is known about how this relationship is shaped by broader experiences of adversity. This study examines the association between victimization and adolescent happiness and investigates whether this relationship varies depending on exposure to other adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) in the child's family and everyday environment. Using data from the International Self-Report Delinquency Study (ISRD-3), the analysis is based on a sample of 68,526 students nested within classrooms across 34 countries. Multilevel regression models are employed to examine individual- and classroom-level influences on adolescent happiness. The results indicate that victimized adolescents report significantly lower levels of happiness compared to non-victims, and that classrooms with higher levels of victimization are associated with lower overall happiness among students. Family-related adverse childhood experiences—including relative deprivation, parental violence toward the child, interparental violence, parental substance misuse, parental separation or divorce, and emotional neglect—are also negatively associated with happiness, supporting the cumulative adversity perspective. In addition, the negative association between victimization and happiness is stronger among adolescents exposed to multiple forms of adversity. Overall, the findings highlight the importance of considering victimization within the broader context of family and environmental adversity.

Adverse and Positive Childhood Experiences, Resilience, and Alexithymia in Victims and Non-Victims of Non-Consensual Intimate Image-Sharing *Telma Catarina Almeida, Egas Moniz Center for Interdisciplinary Research (CiiEM); Egas Moniz School of Health & Science*

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) have been linked to mental health problems, whereas positive childhood experiences (PCEs) are increasingly recognized as protective factors that promote adaptive functioning. However, less is known about how these experiences relate to psychological resources, such as resilience, and to psychological vulnerabilities, such as alexithymia, among victims of non-consensual intimate image-sharing (NCII). The present study aims to analyze the relationships among ACEs, PCEs, resilience, and alexithymia; compare victims and non-victims of NCII on ACEs, PCEs, resilience, and alexithymia; and identify predictors of resilience and alexithymia. The sample comprised 760 adults (506 female and 254 male). Of the total sample, 160 (21.1%) had been victims of NCII, aged 18 to 59. Participants completed a sociodemographic questionnaire, a non-consensual intimate image-sharing victimization checklist, the Childhood Adverse Experiences Questionnaire, the Benevolent Childhood Experiences Scale, the Resilience Scale, and the Toronto Alexithymia Scale. The results showed that NCII victims reported more ACEs and alexithymia and fewer PCEs and resilience. Resilience was associated with higher PCEs scores and lower ACEs scores, whereas alexithymia was associated with higher ACEs scores and lower PCEs scores. Furthermore, ACEs and PCEs were negatively correlated, as were resilience and alexithymia. In the victims' sample, the multiple linear regression model of resilience showed that biological sex, physical abuse, PCEs, and alexithymia were significant predictors of resilience, explaining 29% of the variance. In the victims' sample, emotional neglect, physical neglect, and resilience were significant predictors of alexithymia, explaining 28% of the variance. Adverse or positive childhood experiences may affect emotional functioning in adulthood. Our findings suggest that these experiences are related to NCII victimization and influence adult alexithymia and resilience. The results highlight the need for targeted prevention and interventions to strengthen resilience and reduce alexithymia, particularly among vulnerable individuals exposed to NCII.

The Effects of Domestic Violence on Dually-Exposed and Chronically Exposed Filipino Children *Sheila Royo Maxwell, Michigan State University*

Research has shown the many harmful effects of domestic violence on the behaviors of youth exposed to such violence, whether as witnesses or victims. However, this research has predominantly focused on Western societies. Additionally, samples have typically been drawn from domestic violence shelters or youth homes, which may introduce bias due to the multiple stressors already faced by respondents in these settings. This study seeks to broaden this body of knowledge by utilizing a sample of youth from the southern Philippines, a non-Western context, selected through a systematic sampling of schools within the study area. The study examines antisocial behaviors associated with dual exposure (witnessing and experiencing violence) and the chronicity of this exposure. Separate models are evaluated for boys and girls. Surveys of elementary students were conducted in a city in the southern Philippines that inquired about various social and behavioral issues, including questions about antisocial behaviors and experiences of familial conflicts. The first wave gathered responses from 860 students. A second wave followed up with a portion of the original sample and successfully re-interviewed 526 students. Analyses for this paper utilized all

respondents from the second wave, employing measures derived from both the first and second wave surveys. Results from Generalized Linear Models indicate that among this general sample of students, those dually and chronically exposed exhibited greater antisocial behaviors than those singly or non-exposed or less chronically exposed. This pattern persisted even when controlling for factors such as peer and family deviance or trust/belief in the law. The threshold for antisocial behaviors is higher for boys than for girls, but girls are more inclined to specific behaviors such as running away. This study underscores the stability of the harmful impact of domestic violence on exposed children across various cultures, providing robust evidence of this effect globally.

Missing and "Lost" – Structural Violence, Social Harm, and Missing Children *Paul Andell, University of Suffolk*

Structural violence refers to the ways in which political, economic, and social systems are organised to systematically disadvantage certain groups while privileging others. It is embedded within institutions, policies, and social norms, producing unequal access to essential resources such as housing, healthcare, and security. As a result, individuals from marginalised backgrounds are denied the conditions necessary for well-being and development (Galtung, 1969; 1990). The concept of the "Lost," as developed in this paper, extends beyond the literal notion of missing persons to include those whose voices, agency, and needs are erased by the very systems intended to protect them. In this sense, being "Lost" can be understood as an outcome of structural violence. While not all children in state care experience this—some are able to draw on supportive relationships and develop forms of "bridging capital" that enable positive trajectories (Andell, 2019)—others are failed by institutional structures and become entangled in harmful networks. Evidence highlights the scale of this failure. Although fewer than 1% of children in England are in care, approximately 66% of children in Secure Training Centres and Young Offending Institutions have previously been looked after (Prison Reform Trust, 2024). This overrepresentation points to systemic shortcomings in care, safeguarding, and early intervention. For many, going missing from care is not an isolated event but a manifestation of deeper structural neglect (Howard League, 2020). These children often remain invisible within both policy discourse and criminological research, particularly when they become victims of criminal exploitation. Their vulnerability is intensified by factors such as out-of-area placements, unregulated accommodation, and fragmented multi-agency responses (APPG, 2019). In this context, the role of criminology is not only to document these patterns but to expose the underlying structural conditions that produce them and to advocate for more just and effective systems of care (Gouldner, 1973).

051. Contemporary Perspectives on Victimisation in the Digital Age

Topic 4: Victimology/Consequences of Victimization (Victimology WG)

Paper Session
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.172

Chair:

Katherine Bright, University of Colorado Colorado Springs

Participants:

Crime Victimization and Non-Institutionalized Political Participation: Evidence from 32 European Countries, 2008–2023 *Mirko Nazzari, Università degli Studi di Sassari; Marco Calaresu, University of Sassari; Mauro Tebaldi, University of Sassari*

Experiences of crime provide an encounter with the state's inability, or perceived inability, to ensure personal safety. Such experiences can heighten fear and erode trust, but may also stimulate political engagement outside institutionalized channels. This study examines how victimization influences non-institutionalized political participation (NiPP) and how this relationship varies across social and institutional contexts. Using eight rounds of the European Social Survey (2008–2023) covering thirty-two countries, we estimate cross-classified multilevel logistic models with random intercepts for countries and years. We find that crime victims are about nine percentage points more likely than non-victims to engage in NiPP, including protesting, boycotting, petition signing, or expressing political views online. This mobilizing effect is stronger in contexts marked by higher perceived corruption and lower social spending, but weaker where institutional trust and crime prevalence are higher. Overall, the findings demonstrate that the political consequences of victimization are heterogeneous and context-dependent across countries.

Beyond the Image: Victimization, Reporting Barriers, and Institutional Responses to Image-Based Sexual Abuse Across Europe and the USA *Alison Marganski, Le Moyne College; Edel Margherita Beckman, Independent Researcher; Lisa Melander, Kansas State University*

Image-based sexual abuse (IBSA), including the non-consensual sharing of intimate images and the growing use of AI-generated sexual deepfakes, represents an increasingly prevalent form of technology-facilitated violence. Despite increasing public awareness and legislative responses, important gaps remain in understanding victims' experiences, emerging technological trends, and the effectiveness of institutional support. This study presents a cross-regional research initiative examining IBSA across Europe and the USA through the perspectives of people who work for organizations that provide direct support to victim-survivors. A structured questionnaire will be distributed to NGOs, advocacy groups, victim-support services, and relevant local agencies to gather insights into patterns of victimization, emerging forms of abuse, and institutional responses. The research explores how organizations describe victims' experiences, including the contexts in which IBSA occurs, the types of content involved (such as manipulated or AI-generated images), and the short- and long-term impacts on victims' psychological wellbeing, social relationships, and digital lives. Additionally, the research investigates

barriers victims face when reporting abuse or seeking support from online platforms, law enforcement, or service providers, and how these interactions influence victims' perceptions of safety, justice, and institutional trust. The study further maps the services currently offered by organizations (including e.g. counseling, legal assistance, advocacy, and image removal) and identifies remaining gaps in support systems and policy responses.By providing a comparative perspective across Europe and the Americas, this study seeks to contribute to a better understanding of patterns of victimization, reporting barriers, and organizational responses to image-based sexual abuse.

The impact of offline and online victimization: insights from survey and register data *Tijmen Fuchs, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement; Chantal van den Berg, NSCR; Susanne van 't Hoff-de Goede, The Hague University of Applied Sciences; Rutger Leukfeldt, NSCR*

In a highly digitized society, the boundaries between offline and online crime are blurring and with them the boundaries between different forms of victimization. While victimological research has traditionally focused on offline crimes, and cybercrime research has focused primarily on online incidents, recent studies show that the risks, experiences, and consequences often extend across both domains. This presentation provides insight into the overlap of offline and online victimization in the Netherlands, focusing on interpersonal offenses and their impact. Interpersonal offenses, such as threats and stalking, are increasingly taking place simultaneously in physical and digital contexts. By linking survey data from Statistics Netherlands to various register data files, offline, online, and overlapping forms of victimization can be systematically compared. This study uses an event study design to analyze emotional and psychological consequences, as well as changes in income, debt, healthcare use, and medication use over multiple years.

Who Owns the Rights to my Rape? The Collateral Consequences of Digital Victimization Records *Katherine Bright, University of Colorado Colorado Springs*

As technology companies gain greater influence and control over our financial, professional, political, and relational lives, existing understandings of privacy, consent, and sexual victimization must be reimagined. Drawing from over 40 media cases and 30 interviews with survivors, legal experts, law enforcement, and technology industry professionals in the U.S., this study explores a new frontier of sexual violence: digital victimization records. Tech economies' depend on data commodification, maximum engagement, and user-generated distribution, which incentivize users to create and circulate exploitative and/or harmful sexualized material. Yet, tech companies' profit-driven values are not the only shifting explanation for this new era of rape-voyerism. A generational, global shift towards "participatory culture," and long-standing gender inequities also shape the perpetration and public reception of violent, non-consensual sexualized digital content. In this new era of sexual violence, the "body" under threat is no longer just physical; instead, traumatized digital bodies emerge as a form of consumable entertainment. A digital victimization record immortalizes "the body" as one under constant violation, extending victimization experiences well beyond the initial rape. Less explored, however, is the question of impact on the physical, offline body, as the digital self remains in a permanent state of sexual victimization. Study findings show that the collateral consequences of a digital victimization record are severe, and are both the result of tech amplification and emerge as a distinct form of victimization facilitated by digital systems. In an increasingly digitalized world, this research calls for a new understanding of sexual consent, embodied data, victimization privacy, and questions who owns the rights to our digital bodies.

052. Protecting or Failing Children? Rights, Representation and Secondary Victimization in Justice Systems

Topic 4: Victimology/Victims' rights (Victimology WG)
Paper Session
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.510
Chair:
Polina Smiragina-Ingelström, The University of Sydney and DIS
Participants:

Child-friendly justice: challenges in the forensic interviewing of child victims in the Polish criminal justice system. *Marta Flis-Śweczkowska, Uniwersytet Gdański, ImpleMendez*

This speech focuses on the analysis of child-friendly justice standards in the context of interrogating minor victims of crime in Polish criminal proceedings. Despite the implementation of regulations aimed at minimizing secondary victimization—including the introduction of a special procedure for questioning in so-called "friendly rooms" more than 20 years ago—trial practice still faces significant barriers. The aim of the presentation is to identify key systemic, psychological, and legal challenges. The analysis will cover, among other things: the issue of the lack of preparation of judges and expert psychologists to conduct interviews, which is directly related to the judges' failure to apply interview methodology and results in interviews that do not comply with the Mendez principles; the issue of waiting time for the interview of a minor victim and the repeated interviewing of minor victims. The presentation compares Polish solutions with the guidelines of the Council of Europe and the Mendez principles, raising the question of the effectiveness of the current model of protection of minor witnesses in the face of the realities of criminal proceedings. The speech will conclude with proposals de lege lata and de lege ferenda, pointing to the need for, among other things, fuller implementation of Directive 2012/29/EU in order to adapt the justice system to the needs of children in a real, and not just formal, way.

Legal Representative of a Child Victim in Criminal Proceedings in Poland: A Qualitative Change in the Protection of Childrens' Rights or a Purely Terminological

Shift? *Sonia Głogowska, Jagiellonian University*

When a minor child is harmed by a crime, the Polish Code of Criminal Procedure, in conjunction with the Family and Guardianship Code, requires the court or prosecutor to appoint a child's representative to secure their interests in criminal proceedings. A child's representative—the institution renamed in 2023—is authorized to perform all activities related to the case on behalf of and for the benefit of the minor victim. Recognizing the need for qualitative change in the support provided by children representatives, the Polish legislature introduced a series of amendments in 2019 and 2023 to the provisions of the Family and Guardianship code, aimed at improving this legal mechanism. To provide but some examples, at present Polish law requires the representative in criminal proceedings be an attorney or legal counsel with specialized knowledge of child-related matters or one who has completed dedicated training on children's rights, and needs. Furthermore, the regulations now encourage the representative to obtain the necessary information about the child, including through direct interviews with the represented minor victim. In addition, the court is explicitly empowered to supervise activities of the child's representative. While these reforms were intended to secure child victims' rights and elevate the quality of services provided by attorneys and legal advisors to child victims, the question remains: was this objective in fact achieved, or are these changes merely a facade? The aim of this presentation is to confront these intentions with reality and discuss the amended regulations in the context of current practice of Polish lawyers. Special attention will be given to issues that did not receive adequate attention, and which materially affect the difficulty and complexity of serving as a child's representative.

Exploited Children as Rights-Holders: Implementing Non-Punishment and Dignity in Responses to Criminal Exploitation in Spain and Sweden *Polina Smiragina-Ingelström, The University of Sydney and DIS; Natalia Rebecca Maystorovich Chulio, The University of New South Wales*

Challenging conventional distinctions between childhood innocence and criminality, this paper interrogates how exploited children, especially unaccompanied migrant boys, are positioned at the intersection of victimisation and offending within European justice systems. Focusing on Spain (as EU entry point) and Sweden (as intended destination), it applies a critical humanitarian lens to reveal the emancipatory yet disciplinary tensions in institutional responses to child criminal exploitation (CCE). Through documentary analysis of international instruments, GRETA reports, and national frameworks, the study highlights implementation gaps in the non-punishment principle, victim identification, and alignment with children's rights under the CRC and anti-trafficking obligations. While Spain codifies protections more explicitly, practical barriers persist; Sweden's discretionary approach and limited statutory scope exacerbate invisibility and secondary victimisation. Drawing on double deviance and ideal victim theories, the study argues that selective recognition perpetuates harm, marginalising boys whose experiences deviate from dominant narratives. It advocates systemic reforms (statutory non-punishment safeguards inter-agency protocols, and dignity-centred prevention) to reframe exploited children as rights-holders entitled to protection, with implications for harmonising European responses to this under-recognised form of trafficking.

053. Developments and challenges in the practice(s) of juvenile justice

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Juvenile Justice and Children's Rights (Juvenile Justice WG)

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.511

Chair:

CARLES FEIXA PAMPOLS, Dep. of Communication, Pompeu Fabra University

Participants:

Factors influencing the effectiveness of enforcement of educational measures imposed to juvenile offenders *Ancuța Pura, University „Nicolae Titulescu" Bucharest - Romania, Faculty of Law*

This article presents the main causes that lead to the adoption and recurrence of criminal behavior among minors, as reflected in the latest studies conducted in this field. The conclusion is that the effectiveness of the sanctioning and enforcement system regarding minors is largely influenced by factors external to the manner in which sanctions are regulated and applied, namely the way in which they are actually enforced. Achieving the purpose of executing educational measures also depends on the promptness of intervention by judicial authorities, as well as on their professionalism and that of the authorities/institutions involved in the enforcement of such measures. However, considering the factors that determine the emergence and recurrence of juvenile delinquent behavior, particular importance must be given to prevention through the combined efforts of state institutions and the community.

Healthy Mattering: Developing Capacity for Change in Youth Justice *Jenny Starzetz, University College London; Ben Bradford, University College London; Claire Cameron, University College London*

The paper reframes responses to youth knife carrying in the UK through a relational, socio-educational lens. Rather than treating knife carrying primarily as deviance or risk, it draws on Morris Rosenberg's psychological concept of mattering and Lothar Böhnisch's social pedagogical paradigm of Lebensbewältigung (coping with life). Together, these frameworks suggest that some harmful or self-protective behaviours can be understood as attempts to secure recognition, control or belonging under conditions of marginalisation. Capacity for change is conceptualised at three interconnected levels: change within young people, change in professional practice, and the creation of space for change at a systemic level. To make it analytically tangible, the paper uses the

three zones of Lebensbewältigung: (1) psychosocial struggles and biographical harms, (2) coping cultures and peer norms that shape what feels possible or legitimate, and (3) systemic pressures such as poverty, exclusion and criminalisation. Drawing on a year-long qualitative study in a youth club, involving interviews, participant observation, fieldnotes and focus groups with young people and youth workers, social pedagogy is presented as a hopeful orientation because of Haltung: an ethically grounded stance that treats people as inherently resourceful and capable, even when their coping strategies are harmful (e.g. harmful recognition-seeking strategies such as dark mattering). From this perspective, intervention focuses on strengthening agency within the life situation as it is – working with the opportunities available "where they are" – while also naming and challenging the structural constraints that limit choice. The paper concludes by proposing a relational theory of change: when practitioners hold a social pedagogic Haltung, cultivate recognition, and work across all three zones, young people might move from "dark mattering" towards healthy mattering, developing resilience and more future-oriented, non-harmful pathways for coping with difficult situations in life.

Juvenile Delinquency in Penal Policy Debates: Enemies of society or victims of socio-economic crises *Yağmur Altay, İstanbul University Law Faculty; Hulya Seyidoglu, University of Leeds; İrem Ünal, İstanbul University - Cerrahpaşa*

This study examines the impact of the recent fluctuations between the economic, social tensions and the fear of crime experienced by public, besides the moral panic on criminal justice policy towards juvenile delinquency. In this context, changes over the years in the number of children referred to the police and gendarmerie will be examined in the light of economic and social factors, whilst the focus will also be on how the resulting panic was addressed in the policy-making process, particularly in parliamentary proceedings. Juvenile delinquency is addressed with a distinct judicial procedures and protective status based on child protection and the principle of the best interests of the child. In recent years, homicides committed by juvenile offenders have caused public outrage, while preventions for reoffending failed. Besides, children are becoming target for organised criminal groups. These have sparked debates regarding the failure of prevention and rehabilitation of juvenile delinquency. Turkish Grand National Assembly joined these debates, and removing the sentence reductions specific to children and re-categorisation of age for being responsible for a crime were offered by some members, while some others advised to call them criminals rather than delinquents. As a result, a research commission has been established to assess the reasons behind children committing crimes and the penal policy.

Juvenicide and the Politics of Youth Killings: Latin American routes *CARLES FEIXA PAMPOLS, Dep. of Communication, Pompeu Fabra University*

Juvenicide is the systematic and persistent annihilation of young people, which operates as a device of violence, perpetrated or permitted by the State, with the complicity of other power groups, which is part of processes of social exclusion, precariousness of life, stigmatization and criminalization of youth, and ultimately leads to the death of young people. As happened with the notion of femicide after several authors nominated it in at the end of the 20th century, the official baptism of the analytical category of "juvenicide" by José Manuel Valenzuela in his book Sed de mal (Thirst for evil, 2012), opened the field of academic analysis of the phenomenon first, and of the journalistic, political and activist treatment later. The phenomenon already existed, but it was not seen. Between 2010 and 2014 the phenomenon intensified and became visible, with central and northern Mexico as its epicenter. This period began on January 31, 2010, with the massacre of Villa de Salvácar (Ciudad Juárez, Chihahua, northern Mexico), when 16 young students who were participating in a party were executed. And it culminates with the massacre in Iguala (Guerrero, central Mexico), on September 26 and 27, 2014, when 43 students from Ayotzinapa were disappeared. All these cases were perpetrated by criminal groups, with the complicity, by action or omission, of the State, the army and/or security forces. The massacres in Mexico were linked to several similar cases in Colombia, Brazil, El Salvador, Ecuador, Argentina and other Latin American countries. These events led to the creation of the Collective Juvenicide and Social Resistance (JUVIR), integrating scholars from several countries and disciplines, wich work will be published in 2026 as an edited book by Springer. This paper will focus on the genealogy of the concept and in its intersections with other concepts like genocide and femicide.

054. EUROC Panel 2 Explaining White-Collar and Organisational Misconduct

Topic 2: Types of Offending/White collar Crime, Organizational Crime, Corporate Crime, Financial Crime (EUROC)

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.516

Chair:

Elina Karpacheva-Hock, Anglia Ruskin University, UK

Participants:

Don't Blame Us: How Organizations Neutralize Scandals *Benjamin van Rooij, University of Amsterdam; Nicholas Lord, The University of Manchester, UK*

Organizations play a major role in sustaining and amplifying harmful behavior. To understand the root causes of harmful conduct we must therefore learn to understand the organizational processes that drive harmful conduct. One such process is how organizations respond to publicity about the harms they cause. The present paper draws on publicly available data (from investigative journalism, court records and academic analysis) of several dozen instances of major organizational harmful behavior to assess organizations responses to public scandals. The paper finds that common leadership, legal, and PR responses closely mimic neutralization techniques. The paper shows how

several such techniques have been adopted by harmful public and private organizations. These includes the denial of responsibility, the denial of harm, the denial of victimhood, and the condemning the condemners. The paper shows the detailed and different ways that these techniques have been used adding to our existing knowledge about neutralization in the white collar and organizational crime sphere. It finds that the techniques largely serve to deflect liability and maintain the external reputation of the organization involved. There is less clear evidence that the neutralizations also help to neutralize shame or guilt, as apart from tobacco companies, there is no indication that the techniques are also adopted internally to rationalize harm within the organization. These neutralizations can obstruct an effective organizational response to the harm as the harm denials and blame shifting the neutralizations produce prelude a true taking of responsibility, learning about the organizational processes at play, and effectively dealing with the root causes of the harmful conduct. The concluding section of the paper discusses what these findings mean both for the practice of corporate legal, PR, compliance and regulatory work, as well as for neutralization theory.

Everyday Unethical Behaviour: The Role of Personality (Big Five), Self-Control, and Morality in Low-Severity Misconduct *José Neves Cruz, CIJ, Faculty of Law, Universidade do Porto; Inês Sousa Guedes, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice, School of Criminology, Faculty of Law of the University of Porto; Ana Sofia Silva, School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, Universidade do Porto*

This study examines whether individuals who engage in everyday unethical behaviour outside professional contexts (EUB) share characteristics with white-collar crime (WCC) offenders, particularly in personality, self-control, and morality. Drawing on the Big Five framework, the General Theory of Crime, and research on moral cognition, a quantitative design was employed using an online questionnaire administered to a sample of 735 adults in Portugal (31% are male, mean age 33 years). EUB propensity was measured through scenario-based items. These scenarios depicted everyday unethical situations involving the use of personal connections to gain advantages in healthcare, the inflation of insurance-related repair costs, and the misrepresentation of residential address to secure school admission. Results indicate that lower agreeableness and conscientiousness are associated with higher EUB propensity, consistent with prior findings on WCC and unethical workplace behaviour (Giluk & Postlethwaite, 2015; Salgado, 2002). Lower self-control predicts EUB, supporting previous meta-analytic evidence (De Ridder et al., 2012). Morality emerges as the strongest predictor, with lower moral beliefs linked to higher EUB, in line with prior research (Mazar et al., 2008). In contrast, sociodemographic variables (e.g., gender, age and education) had no significant effects, differentiating EUB from typical WCC profiles (Benson & Simpson, 2009), which can largely be explained by the professional and organizational context in which WCC occurs. Overall, personality and moral traits appear consistent predictors of offending across contexts, despite differences in severity. These results demonstrate the relevance of moral development and self-control, while also supporting the value of examining unethical behaviour beyond formal occupational settings.

Is It Who They Are, or Where They Stand? Toward an Integrated Model for Profiling C-Suite Corporate Crime *Elina Karpacheva-Hock, Anglia Ruskin University, UK*

Corporate crime perpetrated at the C-suite level remains among the most financially devastating and institutionally corrosive forms of economic offending, yet the profiling frameworks deployed in compliance and fraud prevention practice are ill-equipped to address it. Prevailing approaches rely predominantly on situational models (most notably Cressey's fraud triangle and its derivatives) originally conceived around lower-level employee misconduct and fundamentally unsuited to the dynamics of senior executive offending, where positional power, structural autonomy, and reduced accountability radically alter the conditions under which corporate crime occurs. The central question this paper raises is whether the field has been profiling the wrong dimensions entirely, focusing on situational opportunity while systematically neglecting the dispositional characteristics that make certain individuals disproportionately likely to exploit the positions they occupy. Drawing on the literature documenting the elevated prevalence of dark triad traits: psychopathy, Machiavellianism, and narcissism, among corporate leaders, this study proposes a dual-axis profiling framework that treats personality traits and contextual variables as equally weighted, interdependent determinants of C-suite corporate crime risk. To move beyond purely theoretical analysis, the paper sets out a planned programme of expert elicitation interviews with senior compliance professionals who have direct experience observing and responding to executive-level corporate misconduct. The rationale, design, and anticipated contribution of this empirical phase are discussed. This work-in-progress offers a theoretically grounded reorientation of corporate crime profiling, arguing that who someone is matters as much as where they stand. The work has implications for future empirical validation, executive screening, board-level conduct risk, and the governance of corporate crime prevention.

055. Researcher Wellbeing and Emotionally Challenging Studies (Panel 2)

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Feminist Criminology (Gender, Crime and Justice WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.517

Many European Society of Criminology members undertake studies on emotionally challenging topics (such as gender-based violence, policing in war zones, young people's experiences of crime). Whilst such research can be interesting, inspiring, give academics a sense of purpose, and be vital to change policy and practice for the better; there is growing

recognition that undertaking this type of research can pose many difficulties for us as researchers, including distress, secondary, vicarious and primary trauma. There are still few spaces where we can talk about these issues openly. There are, however, examples of best practice that can help us not only cope with the difficult work we are doing but potentially thrive. After a successful launch of a panel session on this topic at the European Society of Criminology Conference in Bucharest in 2024, and continuation of the panel and a highly successful wellbeing workshop in Athens in 2025. We are expanding the profile of researcher wellbeing at the ESC by hosting two panels and a round table session to facilitate the presentation of empirical papers and further discussion of potential ways to mitigate the impacts of our work and positively improve our wellbeing. This is the second panel that focuses on empirical research findings and recommendations for best practice on this topic. We have also compiled a separate round table exploring the differing approaches currently underway at a handful of universities that are attempting to provide positive leadership in this field.

Chair:

Tina Nicola Skinner, University of Bath

Participants:

Cultivating Researcher Wellbeing Through an Ethics of Care: Feminist Collaborative Autoethnography and Emotionally Demanding Research *Nikki Rutter, Durham University*

Criminological research frequently requires engagement with emotionally demanding material, including violence, trauma, structural inequality and interpersonal harm. Such scholarship can produce secondary emotional impacts on researchers, particularly for those whose own lived experiences intersect with the themes they study. This presentation draws on three interconnected feminist collaborative autoethnography (FCAE) projects to examine how an ethics of care can support wellbeing during emotionally charged criminological research (Yeo et al., 2023; Rutter et al., 2024; Rutter et al., 2021). Across these studies, disabled, working class and neurodivergent women researchers used multivocal inquiry, poetic methods, and the Listening Guide to explore how emotions such as anger, guilt and vulnerability emerge within qualitative research encounters. The development of an affect centred "fifth listen" provided a structured way to attend to emotional resonance within data and within the self, illuminating how personal histories and embodied identities shape the research process. FCAE offered a relational space in which participants could critically reflect on these emotional dimensions, challenge internalised narratives of apology or inadequacy, and collectively repair researcher identities. The presentation introduces Slow Feminism—a praxis of compassionate pacing, attentiveness and reflexive care—as a framework for navigating the emotional labour inherent in sensitive criminological work. This approach highlights how collective practices, rather than individual resilience, can mitigate secondary harms and foster sustainable research cultures. By positioning researcher wellbeing as a structural and ethical concern, this paper offers practical recommendations for supervisors, institutions and research groups. It argues for embedding care centred, reflexive methodologies within criminology to support emotionally sustainable, socially just research practices.

Researching Trauma, Protecting Researchers: Insights from a UK University *Lisa Sugiura, University of Portsmouth; Aram Ghaemmaghami, University of Portsmouth; Katie Short, University of Portsmouth; Stu Lucy, University of Portsmouth*

Research on sensitive or potentially traumatic topics raises important questions not only about participant protection but also about researcher well-being. While universities often implement robust ethical procedures for participants, they frequently pay less systematic attention to the emotional and psychological challenges faced by researchers engaging with distressing material. This study examines how one UK university frames, supports, and manages researcher well-being in the context of sensitive research. The project began with a literature review and a systematic review of institutional policies and procedural documents. This review evaluated the extent to which guidance addressed the practical needs of researchers exposed to challenging or emotionally demanding content. Analysis indicated that, although policies often signalled a commitment to support, they frequently lacked concrete mechanisms to address the psychological burdens of sensitive research. Available support services tended to be generic and were not always tailored to the pressures of working with vulnerable communities or traumatic topics. To understand how these frameworks operated in practice, the study incorporated a university-wide survey of academic and professional staff, alongside interviews with researchers and research governance staff across disciplines. These methods provided insight into researchers' experiences and awareness of support resources. In this talk, we will share key findings, open dialogue on researcher well-being, and highlight practical lessons. We are particularly interested in examples of effective support—or its absence—and in exploring the ethical and methodological challenges of conducting sensitive research. Ultimately, the aim is to inform the development of more responsive institutional strategies that better support researcher well-being in sensitive research contexts.

Emotional wellbeing of researchers studying potentially distressing topics in Hong Kong *Emily Tsang, University of Bath; Tina Nicola Skinner, University of Bath; Sarah Halligan, University of Bath*

Conducting research on potentially distressing topics can have negative effects on researchers' emotional wellbeing, leading to symptoms of secondary and vicarious trauma, such as depression, rumination and emotional fatigue. While existing literature has begun exploring how researchers studying potentially distressing topics may be affected by their work, studies conducted outside of Europe and Northern America are scarce. How cultural background may affect the experience of researchers is therefore a significant gap in the current understanding. This research aimed to explore the experiences of

researchers working on emotionally challenging topics in Hong Kong, with a high power-distance and moderately collectivist culture. 19 researchers from Hong Kong took part in a one-hour semi-structured interview. Thematic analysis of the interviews revealed five key themes across the dataset: “positive research engagement”, “emotional challenges”, “general research pressure”, “institutional-cultural pressure”, and “topic-related social stigma”. Qualitative evidence indicated an overall positive perception of their research experiences. Although negative emotional experiences were discussed by participants, they largely framed them as transient or manageable. The main sources of distress were attributed to work environment and institutional expectations, instead of their topics. Confucianist values emerged as key cultural factors influencing researchers’ emotional wellbeing in the analysis.

Research related distress and trauma in Australia: results from a country-wide qualitative study *Renee Fiolet Deakin, Deakin University, Australia*

While the Australian University Wellbeing survey (2026) shows that 82% of employees working within the Higher Education sector experience high or very high levels of emotional exhaustion, this survey was a general wellbeing survey, open to all roles in academia. There has been less known about the distress experienced by researchers who specifically work in sensitive-topic areas, and the support they are offered by their institutions. In-depth semi-structured interviews with academics across Australia were analysed using reflexive thematic analysis. 42 academics across multiple disciplines shared their experiences of working in sensitive topic research. Three primary themes emerged from the data. The first, "thrown into the deep end," characterises researchers' insufficient awareness and preparation for unforeseen adverse impacts. "Peeling back the curtain and revealing a horror show" captures the cumulative toll of prolonged exposure to traumatic content and narratives. The final theme, "I feel like it's killing me," reflects the acute and chronic effects of secondary stress and vicarious trauma on researcher wellbeing. Two main themes emerged regarding organisational support. The first “Researchers are being failed” reveals that sensitive-topic researchers encounter challenging workplace cultures, substantial barriers to support access, and inadequate institutional responsibility for researcher wellbeing. The second “An isolated fight for survival” demonstrates how researchers compensate for systemic failures through disconnection, coping mechanisms, and self-directed physical and mental health strategies. This research addresses an urgent and under-recognised phenomenon requiring immediate institutional intervention and further investigation. We advocate for the development of Australian best practice guidelines and national standards for managing secondary stress and vicarious trauma in research, alongside systemic reform in researcher preparation and enhanced institutional accountability across universities, ethics committees, and management structures.

056. Environmental Harms and Rural Environments: Contemporary Perspectives in Green Criminology

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Environmental/Green Criminology

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.610

Chair:

Sammie Verbeek, VU Amsterdam

Participants:

Vandalism of natural and cultural heritage in rural areas in Poland *Maciej Andrzej Duda, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn*

This paper focuses on the issue of vandalism against natural and cultural heritage in rural areas of Poland. It discusses the criminological aspects of this phenomenon, specifically identifying its causes, describing its manifestations, and proposing methods to counteract this pathological behaviour. It also reviews criminological theories explaining the phenomenon of vandalism. Furthermore, it outlines the principles of criminal liability for this act under the Polish Act on the Protection and Care of Monuments. On the empirical level, the study is based on the results of examinations of criminal cases involving the destruction or damage of a monument (including a natural monument) committed in rural areas. A criminological profile of this crime was also presented in light of criminal statistics. Furthermore, this phenomenon is presented as a point of intersection in the relationship between green criminology and rural criminology.

Green criminology and protection of natural environment: from theory to ethical practice *Magdalena Monika Nowak, Wyższa Szkoła Kształcenia Zawodowego we Wrocławiu; Janusz Bryk, Wyższa Szkoła Kształcenia Zawodowego we Wrocławiu; Irena Malinowska, Wyższa Szkoła Kształcenia Zawodowego we Wrocławiu*

Green criminology, as a sub-discipline of criminology, takes an interdisciplinary approach to the analysis of environmental crimes and harms – including both illegal and legal but harmful activities – and their impact on ecosystems, wildlife, domestic animals and society. The fundamental ethical foundations of this discipline encompass several key principles, including: recognising the value of nature not only for its utility to humans, but also for its intrinsic value; ecological and intergenerational justice – the aim to ensure that the burdens and benefits of environmental protection should be distributed fairly, including across generations; the protection of species and habitats, which treats ecosystems as entities requiring protection, rather than merely as resources; the precautionary principle in economic decision-making to limit the risk of irreversible damage; the ‘polluter pays’ principle and corporate responsibility, environmental monitoring and transparency of actions. A key element of eco-criminology, closely linked to moral principles, is the humanitarian protection of animals as beings capable of suffering and experiencing other emotions. The presentation will outline a range of legal provisions that combine legal

standards with a consideration of ethical values, aimed at establishing mechanisms for accountability towards the natural environment and its components, as well as promoting public education and engagement. Legislation and the system of state bodies should enable more effective protection of the environment as a common good.

No farmer is an island: a critical-historical analysis of the criminalization of manure fraud *Sammie Verbeek, VU Amsterdam*

The Netherlands are the second largest agricultural exporter globally. In the 1960s, concerns grew about the environmental costs of large-scale agricultural production – specifically in relation to a national manure surplus. In the 1980s, the Dutch government introduced legislation and 'manure accounting' to tackle these problems. Nowadays, creative accounting that removes manure 'from the books' – 'manure fraud' – is a priority for regulatory authorities (Van Brederode & Goemans, 2021). Yet, these acts of individual farmers have to be understood within a context of a two-faced role of the government, market forces and continuously changing legislation. In previous case studies on environmental harms and crimes, theoretical frameworks such as state-corporate crime (Kramer et al., 2002) and the treadmill of production (Stretesky et al., 2013) have been applied to explain a recurring trend of deregulation. However, non-compliance of manure legislation has been prosecuted through both (economic) criminal law and administrative law from the beginning. Moreover, a lack of results and non-compliance have led to increasing regulation. Thus, 'manure fraud' may be an exception to this general trend of decriminalizing environmental harms. This begs the question, if the interaction between state actors and corporations is also fit to explain a trend of increasing regulation rather than deregulation during this political period characterized by neoliberalization (1980s – 1990s). This study looks into the interaction between industry representatives and governmental actors between 1980 and 1995, the beginning of manure legislation in the Netherlands. It applies a combination of archival research and twenty semi-structured expert- interviews. After discussing preliminary results of an upcoming publication, this presentation will focus on theoretical implications and place this study within the broader scope of this research project, its theoretical and methodological framework and future goals.

057. Community Sanctions 2: Punishment Beyond Prison: Community Sanctions, Penal Expansion, and the Limits of Decarceration

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Community Sanctions (Community Sanctions WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.611

Over the past three decades, community sanctions and measures have expanded across penal systems worldwide, yet their decarcerative promise remains uncertain. In many jurisdictions, imprisonment rates have remained persistently high, while community-based penalties have developed not as clear alternatives to custody, but as extensions of penal control in new institutional forms. Punishment beyond prison, in other words, has often reconfigured rather than reduced the reach of the penal state. This panel addresses a central question in contemporary penology: under what conditions do community sanctions mitigate reliance on imprisonment, and when do they instead intensify or displace penal power? Bringing together empirically grounded and theoretically informed contributions from Europe, the United States, India, and post-Soviet Eastern Europe, the panel offers a comparative examination of how legal design, administrative discretion, institutional capacity, and political context shape punishment beyond the prison walls. The first paper revisits the net-widening thesis through a large-scale European analysis based on three decades of Council of Europe data. The second examines the United States federal system, showing how community supervision became embedded within an increasingly incarcerative penal order. The third brings Norwegian and Indian perspectives into conversation, examining how community sanctions are framed, justified, and contested across contrasting penal settings shaped by welfare, reform, and penal citizenship. The fourth turns to post-Soviet Eastern Europe, showing how the formal adoption of European penal standards has coexisted with durable punitive institutional cultures, further sharpened under wartime conditions. Together, the papers illuminate the conditions under which punishment beyond prison may either constrain or extend penal power.

Chairs:

Henriette Tøssebro, University of Bergen
KVK Santhy, NALSAR University of Law

Participants:

Alternatives to Imprisonment or Net-Widening? A European Comparative Perspective *Marcelo F. Aebi, University of Lausanne*

Drawing on the Council of Europe's SPACE I and SPACE II datasets covering three decades, this paper revisits the net-widening thesis in the context of the sustained expansion of community sanctions and measures (CSM) across Europe. Earlier analyses found limited aggregate evidence of net-widening but left substantial cross-national variation unexplained. This study examines whether developments in the subsequent decade have altered this assessment and identifies the structural conditions — including welfare infrastructure, legislative design, and probation capacity — under which CSM function as genuine alternatives to imprisonment. The analysis demonstrates that the relationship between CSM expansion and imprisonment rates is neither linear nor uniform. Decarceration, substitution, and net-widening may each occur depending on jurisdiction-specific institutional configurations. These findings provide a comparative empirical baseline for the panel's country-level case studies and link macro-level statistical patterns to underlying structural mechanisms.

The Carceral Continuum: How Transitions have Reshaped Social Control in Eastern Europe *Rita Elisabeth Haverkamp, University of Tübingen; Dmytro Yagunov, Eberhard and Karl University (Tübingen, Germany)*

This paper analyses the transformation of alternative sanctions and social control mechanisms in post-Soviet

Eastern Europe, with particular emphasis on Ukraine. Using the conceptual framework of the "carceral continuum", it argues that the formal adoption of European penal standards following the collapse of the Soviet system constituted an institutional rupture without a corresponding transformation of underlying organisational cultures. Drawing on theoretical insights from Foucault, Rusche and Kirchheimer, Cohen, and Bauman, the article demonstrates how probation systems have reproduced administrative control beneath a rhetoric of rehabilitation. The analysis further examines how Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine since 2022 has intensified punitive dynamics through expanded policing powers, mobilisation policies, and the stigmatisation of deviance. These developments underscore the need for therapeutic and rehabilitative restructuring aligned with contemporary European penal norms.

Supervision in an Incarcerative Age: How the United States Turned Community Penalties into a Feeder of Incarceration *Fiona Doherty, Yale Law School*

This paper examines the transformation of community supervision in the United States during an era characterised by punitive penal policy and declining commitment to rehabilitative sentencing. The Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 reconfigured federal supervision as a supplement to imprisonment, introducing supervised release as a post-custodial mechanism of control. This reform effectively abolished early parole and required prisoners to serve longer custodial sentences prior to entering supervision regimes that allow for summary reincarceration. Similar developments occurred at the state level, where early release mechanisms were curtailed and supervision practices expanded the effective reach of custodial punishment. Drawing on statistical data, legislative analysis, and reincarceration trends, the paper argues that contemporary community supervision in the United States should be understood as a contributor to mass incarceration rather than a penal alternative.

Community Sanctions in Norway and India: Welfare, Reform, and Penal Citizenship *Henriette Tøssebro, University of Bergen; KVK Santhy, NALSAR University of Law*

This co-authored paper brings Norwegian and Indian perspectives on community sanctions into conversation. In Norway, where such sanctions are embedded in a comparatively welfare-oriented penal model, it examines electronic monitoring, community sanctions, and administrative discretion, showing how vague legal criteria may produce inconsistent outcomes and shape penal citizenship. In India, where recent legal reform has renewed debate on reformative and restorative alternatives to incarceration, it examines penological thought, the drawbacks of incarceration, and the case for alternative sanctions.

058. Another Chance: a realist multi-centred randomised controlled trial of a focused deterrence violence intervention in England

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Crime prevention
Pre-arranged Panel

10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.616

Focused deterrence is widely regarded as one of the most promising forms of community violence intervention, informed almost by exclusively by evidence from the US. Another Chance is a realist multi-centred randomised controlled trial of focused deterrence that has began in England in 2022. It is now the largest individual-level community violence trial ever undertaken. In addition to an ongoing randomised trial with over 2,900 participants, the project includes over 100 interviews with practitioners, cohort members and stakeholders. In this panel, we will reflect on four years of the trial, bringing together empirical evidence about the flow of participants through the trial and how the programme's multi-agency nature shaped an intervention design consistent with the principles of UK violence prevention. We will also critically consider theories of how focused deterrence is intended to cause desistance from violence and attempt to reconcile this with the existing literature.

Chair:

Iain Brennan, University of Hull

Participants:

A multi-centred randomised trial of focused deterrence: participant characteristics and process results *Iain Brennan, University of Hull*

The Another Chance Fund project was a multi-centred randomised trial that was delivered between May 2023 and March 2026. The intervention group received a violence intervention developed according to a focused deterrence framework while the control group received business as usual statutory and voluntary sector responses. The trial involved almost 3,000 people aged 14 years and over with a history of violent offending in five cities in England making it the largest-ever randomised trial of a violence intervention delivered to individuals in the community. Throughout the programme, quantitative process data was collected documenting individual pathways through the trial. This paper will provide preliminary process evaluation results for the trial addressing several formative evaluation questions that were specified in the project protocol. We will (1) describe the demographics characteristics of the sample, their patterns in eligibility criteria and baseline offending history, (2) describe intervention fidelity, allocation compliance, intervention dose and adherence and (3) compare these findings across the five programme sites. Using qualitative data collected at project baseline, we will also provide a brief description of 'business as usual' available to the control group. Finally, we will interpret the implications of these results for the forthcoming impact evaluation, reflect on the challenges and opportunities of conducting a multi-centred violence trial and situate our findings within the wider literature on focused deterrence as a response to violent offending.

Multiagency partnership in focused deterrence *Tia McPherson, University of Hull*

The delivery of Another Chance, a community-based focused deterrence intervention, relies on a strong multiagency partnership between a range of statutory,

non-statutory, and voluntary services. While collaboration of some agencies, such as the police and the probation, has been a standard practice in violence prevention in the United Kingdom (UK), other new and fairly uncommon partnerships emerged throughout the program – such as the police working closely with individuals with lived experience of violence and the criminal justice system to co-deliver a violence intervention. This paper uses data from a realist evaluation of Another Chance program to discuss enablers and barriers to partnership working more broadly, before reflecting specifically on this new type of collaboration where individuals with lived experience of the justice system work alongside the police and statutory services to support young people involved in violence. It further examines ways of maintaining engagement with stakeholders over a prolonged time, raises some of the potential cultural and organisational differences between partners, and provides implications for strengthening partnership work in the future. As violence prevention initiatives in the UK are bound by Serious Violence Duty to use multi-agency collaborations in their efforts to tackle violence, the findings from this paper bring new knowledge and could inform the design of future violence prevention programs.

Focused deterrence: a hypercritical review *Alex Sutherland, Alex Sutherland*

Focused deterrence is a well known intervention. As it is being adopted more broadly, it is important to assess the evidence base that underpins this approach. This session takes a hypercritical view to illustrate the definitional, theoretical and empirical weaknesses of focused deterrence and the caution required when importing this intervention. The paper ends by pointing to research gaps that, if filled, will improve the application and portability of focused deterrence.

059. The Afterlives of Criminal Justice Involvement: Convictions, Consequences, and Continuity

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Non-Criminal Justice Responses to Delinquency (WG on Collateral Consequence of Criminal Records)

Pre-arranged Panel

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.617

This session explores how criminal justice involvement generates long-lasting effects that extend far beyond the formal boundaries of punishment. Across legal, sociological, and historical dimensions, the papers collectively examine how criminal records shape access to rights, opportunities, and full membership in society. They highlight the ways in which criminal convictions travel across borders, restrict mobility, and complicate efforts to build new lives; how they influence employer decision-making and structure labour-market exclusion; and how the very systems that produce and maintain criminal records are rooted in deep institutional continuities that shape contemporary practices. The session also interrogates the moral and epistemological foundations of expungement and rehabilitation regimes, revealing how certain groups are persistently "othered" and subjected to ongoing social punishment. Together, the papers in this session illuminate the enduring power of criminal records as tools of classification, control, and social meaning. By tracing their historical development, contemporary operation, and normative implications, the session invites a rethinking of how societies understand reintegration, manage risk, and negotiate the boundaries of belonging in the aftermath of criminal justice involvement.

Chair:

Alessandro Corda, Queen's University Belfast

Participants:

Collateral consequences of conviction and citizenship acquisition: The travelling blemish of a criminal record *Milena Tripkovic, University of Edinburgh*

Awareness is rising about the negative effects of collateral consequences and their impact on the offender's ability to 'start over'. This paper contributes to this debate by assuming a so far unexplored perspective: the external one. Namely, the paper looks at how the blemish of a criminal conviction undermines the ex-offender's ability to start over properly in another state, by exposing obstacles to the acquisition of citizenship in a country which the convicted person made their new home. Based on the empirical analysis of European citizenship acquisition laws, the subsequent part of the paper seeks to determine the appropriate effects of a criminal conviction on citizenship, critically examining citizenship conditions that are set in relation to citizenship acquisition, and suggesting what restrictions (if any) might be considered justified.

Employer attitudes towards hiring people with a criminal record: A review of empirical methodologies *Cody Normitta Porter, UWE Bristol*

Employment is a crucial part of the desistance process; however, individuals with criminal records often face substantial challenges in finding and maintaining jobs. This paper reviews the existing literature on employability and decision-making. To achieve this, we provide a critical review of the experimental literature on employer decision-making regarding candidates with a prior criminal offence. Three methodologies used to capture this are discussed: correspondence testing, in-person audit studies, and laboratory-based experimental research. This talk will provide an overview of our latest paper demonstrating that research examining employer decision-making varies substantially, making it difficult to get a comprehensive overview of the employment barriers faced by individuals with a prior offence. Targeted research is necessary to develop and implement effective employment interventions. We highlight the complexities of experimental research in this field and provide recommendations on how to navigate them effectively.

When change fails to fracture: Continuity, reconfiguration, and the long history of criminal records *Alessandro Corda, Queen's University Belfast*

This paper challenges rupture-based narratives that depict the history of criminal records as a sequence of sharp breaks driven by bureaucratic or technological innovation. Instead, it argues that criminal documentation, identification, and recordkeeping have

evolved through enduring continuities shaped by deep-rooted institutional routines, long-standing classificatory logics, persistent policy problems, and shifting criminological and legal demands. Tracing the development of criminal records — from early punitive and identification practices to the emergence of recidivist statutes and today's expansive online databases — the paper highlights how new systems typically build on, adapt, or repurpose existing technologies, infrastructures, and rationales rather than replace them outright. This evolutionary continuity carries significant implications for both communities and the state. Recognizing these continuities clarifies how change unfolds within inherited frameworks that structure what individuals and institutions can know and do, and underscores that even major shifts occurred within, rather than in departure from, the longue durée of criminal record policies and practices.

Should spent conviction schemes be extended to include sex offenders?: The epistemology of 'othering' and social punishment *Margaret Fitzgerald O'Reilly, University of Limerick*

Spent conviction schemes are a prime example of the recognition that disclosing all types of criminal convictions in all circumstances can be counterproductive to the rehabilitation and reintegration of ex-offenders. The benefit of such schemes is that they remove the blanket prejudice that applies to persons with a criminal background, allowing them the opportunity to become law-abiding, valued members of society. Ordinarily such schemes are reserved for minor offences and will require the passing of a rehabilitation period before the conviction can be expunged from the person's public record. Apart from serious offences, there are certain categories of offences which can never become spent, namely sexual offences. Regardless of the degree of seriousness of the individual crime, a blanket exclusion of this category of offenders applies in the context of most expungement schemes and demonstrates the innate public perception of such persons as unworthy and incapable of reform. The process of 'othering' which precludes such persons from the right of belonging, serves to enforce social stereotypes and differentiate the identities of the collective community and that of sex offenders as a homogenous group. It is argued that in the absence of individualized risk assessment this blanket exclusion is unnecessary and disproportionate and operates to deny many low-risk sex offenders, access to opportunities that would encourage their reintegration. Moreover, the ban operates to signify the role and importance of social punishment in further ostracizing and 'othering' this group.

060. Eurogang Session

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Gangs (Eurogang WG)
Paper Session
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.012
Chair:
Margrét Valdimarsdóttir, University of Iceland
Participants:

Exploring the Trends and Patterns of Urban Youth Gangs in Bangladesh *Mohammad Azizur Rahman, Texas A&M International University; Farzana Rahman Khandaker, University of Illinois at Chicago; Mahfuzul Khondaker, Kutztown University*

Youth gang activity has emerged as a growing concern in Bangladesh, particularly in rapidly urbanizing metropolitan areas. Members of these gangs engage in different criminal activities. While existing criminological literature has largely focused on the causes of gang involvement, less attention has been paid to what gangs do in their everyday operations, particularly in the Global South. Little is known about the nature, trends, causes, and prevention of youth gang crimes in Bangladesh. This paper addresses this gap with evidence from an opinion survey of 50 students aged 13-18, six in-depth case studies of young people associated with gangs in three metropolitan cities: Dhaka, Narayanganj, and Gazipur, and qualitative interviews with 15 professionals, including public prosecutors, journalists, investigation officers, victims' and perpetrators' families associated with those case studies, and some university professors from the criminology and law fields. The findings show that youth gangs engage in a diverse range of activities, including physical violence, drug distribution, extortion, harassment, and territorial conflicts. Gangs are also involved in less visible practices such as informal control of neighborhoods, participation in local power dynamics, and coordination through social networks and digital platforms. Factors such as the absence of a parent, economic hardships, or legal issues within the family can contribute to vulnerability and an increased likelihood of gang involvement. Adverse family environments, characterized by neglect, abuse, or the presence of criminal elements, may further exacerbate the propensity of youth to seek solace and validation within the gang culture. The study has immense policy implications for this multidimensional challenge, which requires coordinated interventions from families, schools, community institutions, and law enforcement agencies in Bangladesh. By focusing on gang practices rather than solely on causes, the study offers a more nuanced understanding of youth gangs. It contributes to comparative criminological discussions on gang behavior beyond Western contexts.

Recruitable lives: a critical analysis of the recruitment and participation of young people in criminal gangs in Latin America *Rolando Carmona, University of Cambridge; Catalina Droppelmann, Pontificia Universidad Catolica Chile; Matilde Elton, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile; Francisca Ximena Gonzalez, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile*

The involvement of children and adolescents in criminal violence in Latin America is one of the most urgent and, at the same time, least understood phenomena in contemporary public debate. In the case of Chile, although it does not have a history of armed conflict or long-standing criminal organizations, it has experienced a significant increase in the participation of adolescents in illicit economies and criminal violence. Although much of the existing knowledge

comes from research conducted in Central America and Colombia, these contexts characterized by internal wars, transnational gangs, consolidated armed economies, and high levels of territorial control by criminal organizations differ substantially from the Chilean scenario, where criminal structures are more recent, less hierarchical, and do not necessarily operate through systematic recruitment mechanisms. This article critically examines how children and adolescents in Chile become involved in criminal violence and illicit economies, challenging dominant narratives of organized and coercive recruitment. Drawing on 55 in-depth interviews and two focus groups conducted in a northern border region and the urban periphery of Santiago, the study reconstructs youth trajectories of criminal initiation, participation, and desistance. Findings show that involvement in crime emerges primarily through everyday socialization, affective peer ties, and moral economies of survival, rather than through hierarchical recruitment structures. The article introduces the concepts of "structural recruitability" and "porous articulations" to capture the fluid, relational, and territorially embedded nature of youth participation in crime, with implications for juvenile justice and prevention policies in Latin America

Carceral Orders: Informal Prison Hierarchies in Contemporary Europe and the Political Weaponisation of Prison Subculture *Dmytro Yagunov, Eberhard and Karl University (Tübingen, Germany)*

This paper examines informal prison hierarchies in contemporary Europe as sites of political power, social ordering, and geopolitical contestation, with particular focus on the Russian Federation's deliberate weaponisation of carceral subculture across post-Soviet space. Drawing on penological theory, criminological sociology, and critical carceral studies, the paper argues that informal inmate hierarchies are not merely adaptive responses to the pains of imprisonment but structurally embedded phenomena whose origins, in the Russian context, predate both the Soviet Union and the Russian Empire. The paper traces the genealogy of Russian criminal and prison culture and the consolidation of the vory v zakone tradition. Central to the analysis is the argument that what was once a prison subculture has, over centuries of state co-optation and imperial reproduction, lost its prefix and become a dominant national criminal and prison culture. This transformation has created the structural conditions for what the paper conceptualises as the Wagner Phenomenon — the systematic mobilisation of prison populations as military canon fodder, and the concurrent exportation of carceral logic as an instrument of statecraft. The Wagner model reveals how Russia governs not only its prisoners but its citizens and dependent territories: through hierarchical coercion, enforced loyalty, and the normalisation of violence as social discipline. The paper further analyses the importation of this carceral order into post-Soviet states as a form of neocolonial influence, examining how informal prison hierarchies function as transmission vectors for Russian political and cultural hegemony. The conclusion addresses implications for European penal policy, democratic resilience, and human rights standards under the CPT and ECHR frameworks.

Marginalization and Youth Gang Involvement in Iceland: A Multilevel Analysis Using ISRD4 *Margrét Valdimarsdóttir, University of Iceland*

This study examines individual- and class-level risk factors associated with youth gang involvement in Iceland, focusing specifically on social marginalization and perceived discrimination. While Iceland has a limited history of entrenched street gangs, recent concerns mirror broader Nordic patterns, where gang-affiliated youth are often characterized by social disadvantage, weak institutional attachment, and experiences of exclusion. Drawing on ISRD4 data from students aged 13–17, the study investigates how a lack of sense of belonging, perceived discrimination, and immigrant background relate to self-reported gang involvement. Building on theories of multiple marginalization and strain, the analysis assesses whether indicators of social exclusion operate both at the individual level and as contextual risks within classroom environments. Additional established risk factors, such as low self-control, delinquent peers, and weak bonds to school, are included to provide a more comprehensive account of pathways into gang involvement. Multilevel logistic regression models are used to distinguish individual-level associations from class-level influences. Preliminary results suggest that immigrant background alone may not be a strong predictor of gang involvement once experiences of marginalization and discrimination are considered, and that school-level social climates shape opportunities for gang-affiliated peer networks. The findings contribute to emerging scholarship on youth gangs in the Nordic contexts and highlight mechanisms through which social exclusion processes may place certain youths at elevated risk, even within a relatively egalitarian welfare-state setting.

061. Ransomware, Insider Threats and Cybercrime-as-a-Service

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Cybercrime (Cybercrime WG)
Paper Session
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.110

Chair:

Julia von Ferber, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY

Participants:

Learning to Ransom: Social Learning Mechanisms in Dark Web Ransomware Communities *Hervé Borrion, University College London; Lena Yuryna Connolly, Zayed University; Yichao Wang, University of Kent; Budi Arief, University of Kent*

According to Europol's Internet Organised Crime Threat Assessment (IOCTA) 2025, cybercriminals increasingly target organisational data due to its high value, which underpins the growing prevalence of data-centric crimes. As a result, ransomware continues to represent one of the most significant cyber threats. The emergence of the Ransomware-as-a-Service (RaaS)

model has further accelerated its growth by lowering barriers for entry for offenders. While research on technical aspects of ransomware has expanded significantly in recent years, studies on ransomware offenders remain limited due to anonymity and inaccessibility of offender population and the resulting scarcity of available data. However, understanding the behaviour of, and communication between actors directly responsible for the crime is essential for designing effective countermeasures. To address ransomware crime, this work draws on data from a well-known dark web forum called Dread. The raw dataset covers almost 2 million posts from February 2018 until December 2023 and represents valuable accounts on how participants discuss, share and engage with ransomware-related knowledge and practices. Inspired by Aker's Social Learning Theory, this study applies inductive content analysis to explore key learning mechanisms that may shape pathways into ransomware crime.

Mapping Cybercrime as a Service marketplace communication: even villains need tech support sometimes *Ema Mauko, UCL; Shane Johnson, Dawes Centre for future crime at UCL; Enrico Mariconti, University College London*

Cybercrime as a Service (CaaS) represents a significant and evolving threat that mirrors legitimate 'as a Service' business models, providing sophisticated, user-friendly toolkits that lower the barrier to entry for malicious actors. To expand accessibility and reach more customers, CaaS operations have increasingly migrated from traditional dark web marketplaces to decentralised communication platforms. This work aims to further investigate the CaaS lifecycle and the engagement between service providers and their clientele. We map the acquisition process through a crime script analysis of 500 posts across Discord, Telegram, and dark web forums. Our analysis identifies key stages in the CaaS supply chain, identifying various types of communication, including service advertisements, performance updates, peer reviews, recruitment drives, and "formal" Terms of Service. The findings highlight a reliance on specific digital enablers, such as direct messaging, external websites, and mainstream payment processors, including CashApp and PayPal. Furthermore, we identify distinct communicative strategies employed to maintain engagement while evading detection, such as coded emojis, platform-hopping, and the use of image-based materials to bypass automated text analysis. By identifying these technical and social enablers throughout the CaaS process "in the wild", this work concludes by proposing targeted crime prevention strategies to disrupt the CaaS ecosystem.

The Insider Threat Spectrum In Cybercrime: From Negligent Employee to Malicious Actor - a Criminological and Criminal Law Analysis Across the Extended Enterprise *Maxim Dobrinoiu, Faculty of Law, Nicolae Titulescu University of Bucharest*

This paper examines insider threat as one of the most prevalent yet systematically underestimated vectors of cybercrime, arguing that the threat actor perimeter extends well beyond the traditional disgruntled employee to encompass contractors, supply chain partners, and managed service providers, the extended enterprise, whose privileged access, combined with inadequate oversight, creates structural vulnerabilities that criminal doctrine and judicial practice have largely failed to address. Using the criminological and criminal law framework, the paper maps the principal typologies of insider threat actors, their motivational drivers, spanning financial gain, revenge, ideological radicalization, and ego-driven challenge, the cybercrime offences most frequently associated with insider conduct, and the key risk indicators and Indicators of Compromise (IoC) detectable across the threat lifecycle. A central and doctrinally innovative contribution concerns the mens rea dimension: the paper challenges the assumption that cybercrime offences require intentional fault in all circumstances, arguing that systematic non-compliance with binding information security obligations may satisfy the legal requirements for recklessness or criminal negligence, and that omission-based liability may attach to the insider who foreseeably fails to prevent a cyber harm in breach of mandatory security duties. The paper further analyses Artificial Intelligence as both an amplifier and a facilitator of insider-driven cybercrime across all fault categories, from the malicious insider weaponizing generative AI tools for data exfiltration, polymorphic malware generation, or deepfake-enabled authentication bypass, to the negligent insider who inadvertently enables an attack through unsafe AI usage or AI-powered social engineering, and concludes with an assessment of emerging judicial trends and de lege ferenda proposals for a more coherent, technologically adaptive criminal law response to the insider threat challenge. Keywords: insider threat, cybercrime, threat actor typology, criminal motivation, Indicators of Compromise, mens rea, negligence, extended enterprise, supply chain, artificial intelligence, criminal liability

Inside the Ransomware Enterprise: A Network Analysis of Internal Communication Patterns to Uncover Evolving Roles and Group Dynamics *Julia von Ferber, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY*

Ransomware-as-a-Service (RaaS) enterprises pose a persistent and evolving threat to global cybersecurity. They continually challenge traditional law enforcement responses and demand innovative investigative strategies. This study applies network analysis techniques to internal chat communications to reveal the structural and temporal dynamics of a RaaS criminal organization. By examining metadata derived from exchanges between members, we can identify key leadership roles, map group hierarchies and track behavioral shifts over time. The results reveal distinctive interaction patterns that correspond to member status, offering new empirical insights into collective group behavior and individual actor profiles. These results have direct implications for law enforcement, informing targeted intervention strategies.

062. Digital Criminology: The everydayness of digitally

mediated deviance and crime

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Cybercrime (Cybercrime WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.116

The everyday character of illegal activity and deviance, particularly in its digitally mediated forms, remains insufficiently addressed in criminological research, which has often privileged notions of novelty and disruption over continuity and embeddedness. This panel advances an alternative approach by foregrounding the everydayness of such practices and situating them within the routines and structures of social life, including cultural norms, social relations, embodied experiences, and material conditions. It brings together contributions that examine how digitalisation reconfigures, rather than replaces, the socio-technical nature of crime and deviance, highlighting the dynamic interplay between technological infrastructures, human practices, and institutional environments. In doing so, the panel emphasises that activities conducted through digital technologies remain grounded in physical resources, temporal rhythms, and access to connectivity, while also involving affective and embodied dimensions such as trust, anticipation, and risk. By adopting this perspective, the panel challenges reductive dichotomies between online and offline or digital and physical domains, and instead promotes analyses that conceptualise crime and deviance as unfolding within hybrid environments where social practices, technological affordances, and regulatory frameworks co-evolve as part of ordinary, routinised social practice. This panel is part of collection of digital criminology panels at EUROCRIM2026 and contributes to innovative crime and justice scholarship within the emerging field of 'digital criminology'. Instead of positioning technology as separate from society more broadly, digital criminology takes up the idea that all technologies are embedded in social structures and that all societies are embedded in technological infrastructures. More specifically, digital criminology examines the incorporation of digital technologies, media, and infrastructures in criminological settings (Stratton, Powell and Cameron, 2018; Wood, 2020; Kaufmann and Lomell 2025, Van Brakel and Govaerts, 2025).

Chairs:

Meropi Tzanetakis, Vienna University of Economics and Business

Silje Anderdal Bakken, Norwegian Police University College

Participants:

Local chats, formalized markets: Platform affordances and the everydayness of darknet illicit drug exchange *Piotr Siuda, Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz*

This paper examines how the everydayness of digitally mediated drug trade varies across darknet platforms. Rather than treating the online drug trade as a single, uniform sphere, it compares three platforms that differ in architecture, language, and geographic orientation: a Finnish chat-based site, a Polish forum, and an English-language cryptomarket. Drawing on a mixed-methods analysis of web-crawled data, the paper develops the concept of drug trading ecologies to show how platform design, locality, and linguistic boundaries co-shape distinct drug-selling environments. Here, everydayness refers to the extent to which illicit exchange resembles ordinary, low-threshold coordination: immediate, locally embedded, minimally formalized, and woven into routine communication and practical action. The comparison shows that this quality is unevenly distributed across platforms. On the chat-based site, exchange is fast, hyperlocal, and ephemeral, making it the closest to everyday coordination. On the forum, illicit trade remains relatively embedded in ongoing interaction, semi-public trust-building, and community dynamics. On the cryptomarket, by contrast, exchange is more standardized, procedural, and temporally stretched, organized through branding, escrow, reviews, and structured shipping practices. In this sense, it appears less everyday and more formal. The paper argues that the digitally mediated drug trade is shaped not simply by criminal intent or market demand but by socio-technical conditions that make illicit action more or less ordinary, immediate, and manageable. It thus shows that the everydayness of digitally mediated crime depends on platform affordances and locality rather than being a stable feature of online drug markets.

"When it comes to rumours and legitimate information it's a never-ending arms race." The everyday labour of a cryptoforum community *Tove Westberg, Lund University*

The Darknet and the communities that inhabit it are often portrayed in the media as networks of deviant hackers, as spaces where individuals engage in insidious activities, while being protected by layers of encryption. This portrayal has support by previous research given the presence of activities such as CSAM distribution, fraud, data-leaks and drug trade. This paper however instead examines the mundane everydayness of a cryptoforum community, i.e. a Darknet forum, drawing on several years of ethnographic fieldwork and interviews with its members. Rather than the spectacular narratives that dominate public discourse, most activity in this community revolves around the, often times boring and tedious, routine dismantling and evaluation of information shared within the forum. Members scrutinize posts, assess the credibility of the member sharing the information, analyse the content itself, and ultimately judge its reliability. Central to these practices is the community's understanding of FUD, (fear, uncertainty, and doubt), defined as the deliberate sharing of inaccurate information intended to sow distrust and destabilise the cryptoforum. Due to the affordances enabled by the encryption and the motives of claim makers often remaining opaque, any user could potentially be a malicious actor with motivations to cause fear, uncertainty and doubt. As a result, participants must continuously evaluate whether information posted in the forum might be harmful or deceptive, or in other words, participate in a never-ending arms race against FUD. By focusing on this routine work of managing information, I highlight the mundane practices of this cryptoforum community, shedding light on broader questions of digitally mediated trust, and socio technical organisation. Thus, I aim to challenge simplistic distinctions and to demonstrate how embedded this cryptoforum

community's evaluative practices are in social environments that co-evolve.

Locally Embedded, Digitally Mediated: Illicit Alcohol Markets on Snapchat and Instagram in Sweden *Oscar Waldner, Malmo University*

Social media platforms have recently become important facilitators for illicit markets, not only for prohibited products, but also for products whose distribution is regulated under law. In Sweden, alcohol is subject to strict regulations and high age limits, making it a sought-after grey-market commodity among minors, with illicit sales increasingly migrating to social media. Previous qualitative research has shown this practice to be well-known among youths, yet no empirical studies have analysed how the market is organised. In this study, I analyse 557 accounts on Snapchat and Instagram advertising illicitly sold alcohol in Sweden, examining their self-presentation, geographic distribution and survival over time. The dataset was built through platform searches informed by a previous netnographic study, with searches repeated at three-month intervals to track account turnover. For each account, we coded variables relating to advertising practices, product offerings and self-disclosed geographic orientation. The results show a geographically fragmented rather than unified market. Sellers advertise using jargon that differs between cities, suggesting that illicit alcohol sales on social media are better understood not as a distinctly digital phenomenon, but as an extension of locally embedded youth practices mediated through platform affordances. The longitudinal design offers novel insights into market durability. While very few accounts were removed by platform administrators, half of those identified in previous search waves did not reappear. This high turnover suggests that seller visibility is precarious, shaped by algorithmic logics beyond the understanding of both sellers and researchers. The resulting instability may undermine the relational trust-building found crucial in other illegal markets, potentially constraining the conditions under which such everyday market practices can persist.

AI-tools and Positive Safety: Community Empowerment in Community Policing *Marc Schuilenburg, Professor Digital Surveillance Erasmus University Rotterdam*

This paper investigates the movement, replication, and transformation of data throughout the development and use of AI-tools in security assemblages. As part of the EU-funded KOBAN-project, we have collaborated over 2 years with six European law enforcement agencies, tech companies, and research institutes to design AI tools that foster 'trust', 'care', and 'well-being' between citizens and local police; shifting away from enforcement-driven systems that risk discrimination, overpolicing, and social harm. Our longitudinal (total of 3 years), empirical approach addresses a gap in research on AI development and use in policing, particularly regarding AI surveillance tools aimed at empowerment, trust and societal equity. Through (1) in-depth interviews with police officers, data scientists, and tech developers, (2) observations in local sites, and (3) participating in AI development workshops, we examine how data is selected, collected, stored, replicated, wrangled, and transformed during the research and development process of two pilots in the KOBAN project. In this paper, we focus on the Dutch pilot Zaanstad, where around 1,500 migrants are being housed on two boats, asking: where and how do frictions in data mobilities arise, how and when is data reshaped, and to what extent do these mobilities support community empowerment? By tracing these dynamics, we aim to contribute to more transparent, accountable, and socially responsive AI surveillance practices for community policing.

Illegal drug markets as a human-centered hybrid reality *Silje Anderdal Bakken, Norwegian Police University College*

Illegal drug markets are first and foremost social arenas shaped by human participants. Whether the selling takes place online, offline or any mix of the two so-called "realities". In this presentation, I will explore the complexity of online illegal drug markets by presenting stories from people posting advertisements for illegal drugs on social media. Stories of motivations, social situations, family relations, life events, and other individual factors underscore the importance of a hybrid view of digital drug dealing where the bodily and local dimensions are put to the fore. The findings are based on a data set of 106 qualitative interviews with participants of illegal drug trade on social media and darknet markets within the Nordic countries. 79 of the interviews were selected for a closer analysis of how people's offline lives merge with digital tools when selling drugs on social media. The individual stories highlight the importance of the heterogeneous realities of who the people in drug markets are, and why and how they are participating in illegal activity. Where the dualism of 'offline' and 'online' or 'digital' and 'physical' seem to contribute to overshadowing the real complexity of illegal drug markets as social arenas and events built by individuals.

063. Modelling Collaboration, Learning, and Network Dynamics in Crime

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Organized Crime (Organized Crime WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.130

This panel brings together research that advances theoretical and empirical understanding of how collaboration, learning processes, and network structures shape criminal behaviour. The contributions examine why offenders collaborate, how skills and behaviours diffuse through co-offending ties, and how relational structures influence participation in serious and organized crime. Across the presentations, particular attention is given to the conditions under which co-offending emerges and persists. Findings highlight how opportunity structures, access to partners, and individual preferences jointly shape collaboration and criminal diversification. Formal models further show how skill decay, turnover, and social learning mechanisms sustain long-term patterns of cooperation within offender populations. In addition, computational approaches are used to model the stock and flow of organized crime groups, demonstrating how recruitment, incapacitation, and member

trajectories affect group resilience. Network-based analyses provide insight into behavioural contagion within tightly connected groups, emphasizing the importance of relational proximity and structural dependencies. Together, these contributions illustrate how modelling and network analysis can connect micro-level decision-making to macro-level crime patterns. The panel offers new insights into the drivers of collaboration, the diffusion of criminal expertise, and the structural dynamics of group crime.

Chair:

Christophe Vandeviver, Ghent University

Participants:

Environment and Partner Choice Co-Govern Collaboration, Diversification, and Efficiency in Crime *Christophe Vandeviver, Ghent University; Ruslan Klymentiev, Ghent University; P. Jeffrey Brantingham, University of California Los Angeles; Rafael Prieto-Curiel, Complexity Science Hub Vienna; Luis Enrique Correa da Rocha, Ghent University*

Crime often involves collaboration, yet formal models usually treat offenders as isolated decision-makers. We develop a generative agent-based model of social foraging in which offenders choose solo or partnered offending in response to the structure of criminal opportunities, access to potential partners, and preferences for trustworthy or skillful collaborators. The model shows that spatial clustering of opportunities disperses potential partners and suppresses collaboration, whereas greater access to partners restores it. Co-offending broadens offenders' criminal repertoires and increases the speed of opportunity exploitation, especially in clustered environments. Additionally, trust-based selectivity lowers collaboration, while skill-based preferences modestly narrow repertoires. By linking micro-level choices to macro-level patterns, the model explains why co-offending varies across settings and identifies when collaboration yields system-level gains. Here, we show that environment and partner choice co-govern collaboration, diversification, and efficiency in crime.

Skill Decay And Offender Turnover Sustain Endemic Co-Offending *Ruslan Klymentiev, Ghent University; P. Jeffrey Brantingham, University of California Los Angeles; Christophe Vandeviver, Ghent University*

Co-offending, defined as criminal activity carried out by multiple offenders, provides advantages such as physical support and opportunities for skill acquisition. At the same time, it involves high costs and risks because collaboration requires coordination, reduces individual payoffs, and increases exposure to betrayal or detection by law enforcement. Despite these disadvantages, co-offending remains common and stable over time. While research has focused on the causes of co-offending emergence, less attention has been given to why it persists. To address this gap, we present a formal framework that conceptualises co-offending as a form of skill exchange among offenders. We use compartmental models based on the SIR (Susceptible-Infectious-Recovered) framework to derive a set of mechanisms that can sustain co-offending within offender populations. The analysis indicates that several mechanisms can generate persistent co-offending. Skill decay creates a need for offenders to periodically co-offend to acquire or refresh relevant skills. The inflow and outflow of offenders also contribute to persistence, since novice offenders typically require co-offending to gain initial skills. A greater tendency among offenders to learn through individual trial-and-error lowers the overall prevalence of co-offending. The proposed model provides a formal explanation for the persistence of co-offending and supports systematic testing of different scenarios for reducing co-offending within a population.

Modelling The Flow And Stock Of Organised Crime Cartels In Mexico *Rafael Prieto-Curiel, Complexity Science Hub Vienna*

Approximately one in three intentional homicides worldwide occurs in Latin America, even though the region accounts for only 8% of the global population. Violence remains the region's top concern, much of it linked to organised crime cartels. These groups have established transnational networks that fuel a global public health crisis through the supply of illicit drugs, but also survive financially via domestic crimes. Yet despite their devastating impact, data on their presence, ways to stop them, and effects remain limited. Organised crime cartels must therefore largely be studied as "black boxes", since direct observation is rarely possible and the available evidence consists mainly of imperfect proxies, fragmented records, and data that are often incomplete or systematically biased. I will present a compartment model using agents in which each cartel member is assigned attributes such as dates of birth, death, recruitment, and incarceration, as well as sentence length. The model is used to analyse the stock and flow of organised crime cartels in Mexico, their recruitment, and their losses. I define a global indicator of organised crime activity, termed the "cartel potential", as the total time members spend within the group. The results suggest that incarcerating cartel members has only a limited effect on reducing cartel potential, even under harsher sentencing regimes. The model enables the estimation of the demographic cost of organised crime cartels in Mexico over the coming decades.

Organized Crime Contagion Among Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Members: A Network Autoregressive Analysis Of Peer Influence In Organized Crime *Arjan Blokland, NSCR; Julie Erber, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement; Stijn Ruiter, NSCR / Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*

Outlaw motorcycle gangs (OMCGs) have become a source of social concern in the Netherlands and elsewhere, as OMCG members have been shown to disproportionately engage in serious and organized crime. While prior research suggests a criminogenic effect of OMCG membership, the mechanisms through which this effect takes shape remain poorly understood. The current study uses police registry data to examine organized crime contagion among 822 Dutch OMCG members identified by Netherlands Police between 2010-2015, applying network autoregressive models to estimate behavioral interdependence between members. Network autoregressive models include a

network weights matrix (W) to capture structured dependencies between individuals. By comparing models with differently operationalized weight matrices, the current study assesses whether organized crime engagement is primarily associated with fellow club members, fellow chapter members, or co-offending ties with fellow bikers outside organized crime contexts. We control for observable criminal propensity by including prior OC offending, the temporal lag of the dependent variable.

064. Fear of Crime and Risk perception III

Topic 6: Perceptions of Crime and Justice/Fear of Crime and Risk perception

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.136

Chair:

Gorazd Meško, University of Maribor

Participants:

The Case for Public Stakeholder Feedback in Corporate Income Tax Structures and AML Governance *Monika Lewko, Kozminski University*

Anti-money laundering (AML) systems typically rely on financial institutions, regulators, and compliance professionals to detect suspicious financial activity. Yet corporate income tax (CIT) structures increasingly create grey areas where aggressive tax planning may overlap with mechanisms capable of concealing illicit financial flows. This paper explores whether broader public input could serve as a supplementary signal within AML governance, while strengthening trust in the financial system through direct participation. To examine this question, a two-wave online perception study (n = 117) was conducted using short fictional scenarios describing corporate tax arrangements involving corporate structures. Participants, who were not AML specialists, evaluated each scenario in terms of legality, suspicion, potential links to money laundering, harm to public finances, and whether financial institutions should pay attention. Across both waves, respondents showed consistent patterns. They distinguished between relatively straightforward tax minimization strategies and more complex structures involving layered entities or limited economic substance. The latter were more often perceived as suspicious and linked to money laundering, while simpler arrangements were primarily viewed as harmful to public finances. These findings suggest that non-expert stakeholders can recognize structural risk indicators commonly discussed in AML practice. Interpreted through a cybernetic perspective, the results indicate that stakeholder input may function as an additional feedback channel. Broader public consultation could enhance legitimacy and early risk detection in AML governance, where stakeholder assessment provides an early signal before traditional lines of defence.

The heterogeneous impact of public security cameras on safety perceptions in cities: Evidence from China *Fanqi Zeng, University of Oxford; Pinghan Liang, Sun Yat-sen University*

Digital public security systems in cities, such as surveillance cameras, can record illegal behavior and deter crime, thereby enhancing residents' perceptions of safety. However, the impact of public surveillance cameras on residents' safety perceptions in urban environments remains insufficiently understood, especially at the national level. Drawing on a novel dataset from Chinese government procurement records on surveillance cameras (2013–2017) and a representative national household survey, we find that a 10% increase in per capita camera expenditure results in a 0.2-unit increase in residents' perceived safety. Notably, this effect is observed only among local residents. For migrants, surveillance cameras improve perceived safety only when complemented by social ties, with neighborhood ties being more effective than distant ones in shaping these perceptions. Furthermore, the effectiveness of surveillance cameras on migrants' perceived safety is moderated by weather conditions and the inclusiveness of the urban environment. Our findings highlight that while public security technology can improve residents' safety perceptions, human-centered development remains essential for sustainable urban governance.

Who Feels Unsafe? Exploring Psychological Determinants of Fear of Crime *Alexander Engström, Malmö University; Karl Kronkvist, Malmö Univeristy*

Much of the existing research on individual differences in fear of crime has primarily emphasized broad demographic factors, such as age and gender, while psychological dimensions have received comparatively limited attention. This study contributes to a deeper understanding of the person–fear nexus by analysing how a set of theoretically relevant psychological variables relate to different manifestations of fear of crime. Drawing on data from a web survey (N = 499), a series of regression models were conducted to examine associations between psychological characteristics and three distinct fear of crime outcomes. The results show that two personality traits, anxiousness and suspiciousness, as well as conservative beliefs about crime and justice, are positively linked to worry about victimisation even when controlling for individual characteristics. In relation to behavioural fear of crime, recent symptoms of anxiety and conservative crime related beliefs display positive associations with the outcome. For the third outcome, worry about victimisation in one's neighbourhood, anxiousness and conservative crime related beliefs again emerge as significant positive predictors. Overall, these findings underscore the relevance of psychological factors in the study of fear of crime, particularly various forms of anxiety and conservative views on crime and justice. However, because different psychological variables appear to matter for different fear of crime outcomes, the results also highlight the importance of conceptualising fear of crime as a multidimensional construct shaped by diverse psychological mechanisms.

Students' Perceptions of Security Problems at the Faculties *Gorazd Meško, University of Maribor; Mojca Tancer Verboten, University of Maribor; Rok Hacin, University*

of Maribor

The safety of students at the faculties presents the necessary precondition for the implementation of the study process. Ensuring the safety of the learning environment is the domain and responsibility of universities and requires the cooperation of various actors within the institutions (management, employees, and students) as well as cooperation with external institutions (e.g., police, health centers, etc.). The study, based on a sample of 548 students of the University of Maribor, Slovenia, focuses on students' perception of safety and security problems at the faculties. Results of statistical analyses highlighted correlations between the quality of relations at the faculties, perception of security problems in the place of study, and students' perception of security problems at the faculties. Differences were also detected between male and female students' perceptions of security problems in the place of study and the consequences of victimisation.

065. PWG Panel 6: Bodies, Food and Physical Activity in Prison

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Imprisonment, Prisons, Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment (Prisons WG)
Paper Session
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.156
Chair:
Lys Van de Voorde, NSCR / VU
Participants:

From Physical Education Instructor to Physical Activity Expert. A model for the professional development of a prison sports provider. *Piotr Łapiński, Jozef Pilsudski Universirty of Physical Education in Warsaw; Matthew Maycock, Monash University*

This presentation will present a proposal for the professional development of prison staff responsible for designing and implementing leisure-time physical activity programs for people living in prison. This model assumes the gradual acquisition of specialized competencies specific to prison-related activities by newly recruited PE Instructors. The authors' intention was to ensure that the professional development of PA Experts would align their work as closely as possible with the core mission of the prison system.

Masculinities in prison life: Narratives of food, physical activity and the body in a Norwegian prison *Stein Egil Kolderup Hervik, University of South-Eastern Norway; Astrid Kolderup Hervik, University of South-Eastern Norway*

In men's prisons, masculinity plays an important role in everyday life. Previous research has explored how masculinity both shapes and is shaped by social relations, practices and values in prison, including dominance and the organization of social hierarchies. However, there have been calls for further research on how masculinity is expressed through prisoners' lay perspectives on everyday practices. This study explores how masculinity is expressed through incarcerated men's talk about food, physical activity and the body. The study draws on qualitative interviews with 20 men in a Norwegian low-security prison, analysed using reflexive thematic analysis. The analysis shows that men's talk about food, physical activity and the body reflects a range of masculine expressions along a continuum between control and indifference. At one end, masculinity is expressed through narratives of control and rational self-regulation; at the other end, through narratives of indifference toward food, physical activity and bodily discipline. Across this continuum, the analysis identifies different contextual configurations of masculinity, including disciplined, pragmatic, vulnerable, and detached configurations. These configurations do not represent fixed types of men, but rather different ways of positioning oneself in relation to bodily discipline, health practices and masculine ideals. Individual participants drew on different configurations in their narratives. The findings suggest that masculinity in prison cannot be understood as a single hierarchical order but is shaped by context and varies across situations and subcultural dynamics. Rather, men's talk about food, physical activity and the body reveals a more complex landscape of masculine expressions enacted through everyday bodily practices, where men negotiate control, distance and belonging.

More than a matter of taste: Needs, satisfaction, and experiences of prison food (PWG) *Bram de Heide, Universiteit Leiden*

Food is a central yet often overlooked aspect of daily prison life. While prior qualitative research suggests that prison food carries social and symbolic meaning, incarcerated persons' subjective food needs and their implications remain underexplored. In this presentation the main findings of a 4-year PhD project examining incarcerated persons' needs, satisfaction and experiences related to prison food will be synthesized and discussed. The project used data from (1) a systematic review of international qualitative literature and (2) a large-scale survey study among all incarcerated persons in the Netherlands. The findings have shown that incarcerated persons expressed a range of subjective food needs, comprised of practical, health, lifestyle, and self-determination needs; a conceptual hierarchy, reflecting their relative importance within the prison context, is proposed. Based on the survey data, food sufficiency was found to differ amongst subgroups of incarcerated people, which were related to several personal and lifestyle characteristics. Furthermore, various aspects of food satisfaction were found to relate to misconduct and to incarcerated persons' experienced severity of imprisonment. Together, these findings underscore the relevance of prison food for the lived experience of incarceration and the broader prison climate. They also highlight the potential for food policies that better accommodate the diverse needs of incarcerated persons, thereby supporting well-being and humane prison conditions and mitigating the adverse effects of incarceration.

Work out before you get out: An exploratory study on CrossFit in Dutch penitentiaries *Lys Van de Voorde, NSCR / VU*

The Dutch prison system emphasizes societal reintegration, yet the custodial environment often fails to support personal growth or well-being. Sports have been proposed as a promising intervention to enhance mental health, social skills, and prosocial behavior among inmates. Evidence indicates that exercise can improve life satisfaction, reduce stress, anxiety, and depressive symptoms, and facilitate coping with incarceration. For youth in juvenile detention, strength- and sport-based interventions may further promote social belonging, prosocial identity development, and reduce antisocial behavior. Although research has been conducted on the effects of sports among inmates, empirical and longitudinal research remains scarce to date, especially regarding community-oriented modalities such as CrossFit. CrossFit may offer unique benefits compared to other sports through its structured training, strong community focus, and emphasis on building both physical and mental resilience, which can support rehabilitation and reduce stress. This exploratory study examined the effects of CrossFit on young inmates in the Netherlands, focusing on psychological and physiological outcomes, including well-being, personal growth, heart rate variability, and interpersonal interactions with fellow inmates and staff. Using a cross-sectional design, the experimental group participated in CrossFit sessions three times per week for three months, while the control group engaged in regular sports or no sports. Socio-demographic, criminological, and mental health data were extracted from institutional records. Outcomes, including wellbeing, interpersonal functioning and aggression, were assessed using validated questionnaires at pre-, mid-, and post-intervention. Physiological activity was assessed exclusively in the experimental group using wearables. Results will be interpreted within existing theoretical frameworks and will address both intrapersonal changes over time and intergroup differences in well-being and interpersonal relationships. We hypothesize that, compared to the control group, adolescents in the CrossFit group will demonstrate greater resilience, which in turn will be associated with improvements in their mental and physical health, identity development, and social interactions.

066. PWG Panel 1: Human Rights, Prison Conditions and Institutional Accountability

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Imprisonment, Prisons, Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment (Prisons WG)
Paper Session
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.158

Chair:

Patrick Cacicedo, University of São Paulo

Participants:

Behind Bars: Human Rights Violations in Polish Prisons Through the Lens of the Ombudsman *Ewa Dawidziuk, SWPS University, Poland*

The Ombudsman considers several dozen complaints filed by prisoners in Polish penitentiary institutions to be justified each year. In my presentation, I will present statistics over the past five years showing what types of violations concern convicted or pre-trial detainees. An analysis of the subject matter of complaints recognized by the Ombudsman as justified will also reveal some trends. There are frequent violations of the right to respect for private and family life in the context of granting compassionate leave, as well as breaches of the principle of humane treatment in connection with the use of direct coercive measures or compulsory medical treatment (including force-feeding). Moreover, violations of the right to defense occur relatively frequently. Presenting the issues raised in prisoners' complaints that have been found justified after examination by the Ombudsman may provide a basis for discussion and for comparing the situation in Poland with that in other countries, as well as the scale of human rights violations that occur there.

The state of human rights in Greek prisons: Overcrowding, vulnerability and institutional challenges *Anastasia Chalkia, Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR)*

This paper discusses the current human rights situation in Greek prisons on the basis of the recent report of the Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR), the independent advisory body to the Greek State in accordance with the UN Paris Principles, and treats this report as an important framework for examining detention as a field in which institutional practices, material conditions, and structural limitations shape the everyday experience of imprisonment. The paper places particular emphasis on prison overcrowding and on the broader challenges that continue to affect the Greek penitentiary system, including pressure on living conditions, limited responsiveness to individual needs, and the cumulative impact of systemic shortcomings on the protection of fundamental rights. Rather than approaching overcrowding as a merely numerical issue, the paper examines it as a condition with broader implications for dignity, safety, access to care, everyday prison life, and the overall quality of detention. Drawing on the structure and findings of the GNCHR report, the analysis also focuses on the specific situation of groups facing heightened vulnerability within prison, including foreign nationals, LGBTI+ persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, and minors deprived of liberty. From a criminological perspective, the paper explores how these groups may experience imprisonment in unequal ways, not because vulnerability is understood as an inherent or fixed characteristic, but because prison environments often interact with pre-existing inequalities, barriers, dependencies, and forms of social exclusion in ways that intensify disadvantage. In this respect, the paper adopts a human rights-informed criminological approach that links prison conditions with broader questions of penal policy, institutional legitimacy, and the differentiated distribution of harm within carceral settings.

Hunger strikes and forced feeding: a study on medical and prison administration liability *Mariana Pinto Zoccal, Universidade Estadual Paulista (UNESP)*

This paper aims to analyze the liability of medical professionals and prison administrations in cases of hunger strikes by incarcerated individuals, based on a study of the regulations in two European countries: Spain and Portugal. The research examines regulations, operational protocols, and judicial decisions within the legal systems of both nations. Prisons are generally regarded as environments prone to hunger strikes, given the prohibition of other forms of protest, such as marches or assemblies. In these instances, literature describes how forced feeding is sometimes employed against the will of prisoners, despite guidelines established in medical ethics codes and documents such as the Declaration of Tokyo and the Declaration of Malta. It is generally understood that if a prisoner, freely and consciously, expresses disagreement with coercive feeding - even if it entails a risk of death - their will must be respected. However, legal debates persist regarding the potential liability of physicians and prison administrations for crimes such as: a) illegal constraint, in the case of coercive feeding; and b) inducement, instigation, or aid to suicide, in cases of willful omission where negligence in health assistance is proven with the intent of the striker's elimination. The issue is further complicated by the State's duty as a guarantor of the prisoner's physical integrity, the duty to provide healthcare, and the necessity to safeguard patient autonomy to avoid violating human dignity. Methodologically, this is a bibliographic and documentary research that seeks to analyze the main doctrinal debates, regulations, and institutional resolutions on the subject. Generally, it is concluded that forced feeding can be used as a means to silence inconvenient protests under the guise of safeguarding the striker's own rights. In these circumstances, medical practice gains centrality through its potential to counter state violence and abuses that disregard ethical principles of conduct.

Prison, Reform and Contradiction: Humanisation and Everyday Rights Violations in an Inner-State Prison in Maranhão, Brazil *Patrick Cacicedo, University of São Paulo*

This paper examines the contradictions between official prison humanisation discourse and everyday rights violations in Maranhão, Brazil. Over the last decade, the state has been portrayed as a model of prison reform after the crisis of the Pedrinhas prison complex and the adoption of policies framed as expansion, modernisation, and humanisation. Yet this trajectory coexists with persistent features of the Brazilian prison system, including overcrowding, institutional violence, administrative opacity, and degrading conditions of confinement. The study focuses on the Prison Unit of Santa Inês, in the interior of Maranhão, to analyse how these tensions materialise in the daily functioning of a specific institution. Its central argument is that prison humanisation does not eliminate punitive violence, but reorganises it into less visible and routinised forms embedded in administrative decisions, standard operating procedures, and ordinary management practices. Punitive transfers, humiliating strip searches, restrictions on family contact, disproportionate control measures, torture, and ill-treatment thus appear not as exceptional deviations, but as constitutive elements of prison governance. The paper is grounded in critical criminology and the political economy of punishment, approaching prison not as a neutral institution of rehabilitation, but as a mechanism of social control shaped by political, economic, and racialised inequalities. Methodologically, it combines documentary analysis, semi-structured interviews, and critical discourse analysis. The empirical material includes prison inspection reports, internal administrative records, state regulations, official communications, and interviews with public defenders, family members of incarcerated people, formerly incarcerated individuals, and prison staff. By examining a prison outside the state capital, the paper highlights less visible dimensions of penal power and contributes to debates on penal reform, institutional opacity, and the limits of humanisation policies in contemporary Brazil.

067. PWG Author-meets-critics: Ben Crewe 'Deep Confinement: Everyday Imprisonment and Extremity in the Close Supervision Centres'

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Imprisonment, Prisons, Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment (Prisons WG)
Author meets critics
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.164

In the England & Wales prison system, around 60 men considered too difficult or dangerous to be managed in normal conditions are held in Close Supervision Centres, or the 'CSC system'. Men within this system, most of whom have murdered other prisoners or committed very serious assaults on prison staff while in custody, are held in acutely restrictive conditions within small and highly staffed units, completely segregated from the rest of the prison population. Progression back out of the system typically takes several years, with some men remaining in such conditions for decades. Based primarily on interviews with 40 CSC prisoners and informal discussions with staff, Crewe's monograph, 'Deep confinement: Everyday Imprisonment and Extremity in the Close Supervision Centres', represents an attempt to convey in unprecedented detail the texture of these units (i.e. their depth, weight and tightness), their social dynamics, and the often conflicting narratives of sanctuary, suffering, liberation and despair that they produce. Emphasising the extreme nature of both the CSC environment and the men held within it, the analysis is animated by the idea of the 'crucible', i.e. a container whose contents are exposed to intense heat or stress, subjecting them to a trial of personhood that exposes or transforms their nature. This author-meets-critics sessions will discuss the content and implications of this analysis.

Critics:

Bucerius Sandra, University of Alberta
Ian O'Donnell, University College Dublin, Ireland
Fergus McNeill, University of Glasgow

Book Author:

Ben Crewe, University of Cambridge

068. Neurocriminology, personality, agnecy and culpability

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Biological, Biosocial and Psychological Perspectives

Paper Session
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.166
Chair:
Fabio Delicato, Criminiseriali Association
Participants:

Testing Gottfredson and Hirschi's Spuriousness Thesis in a Longitudinal Study *Alexander T. Vazsonyi, University of Kentucky; Marek Blatný, Masaryk University; Shabnam Ghorbani Kalkhajeh, University of Kentucky; Leila Moosavi, University of Kentucky*

The present study revisits the spuriousness thesis part of self-control theory (Gottfredson & Hirschi, 1990; 2019), namely whether Big Five personality traits are uniquely and additively associated with developmental changes in deviance, net the effects by low self-control. Longitudinal data were collected as part of the Brno Longitudinal Study of Youth (BLSY) from two cohorts of 6th and 7th-grade students in a large city in the Czech Republic. A total of 582 adolescents (58.4% female; Mage = 12.34 years) participated in the study and were followed over the course of three assessments, 6 months apart. Key measures included a 28-item measure from the Big Five Inventory (BFI) of the Big Five traits (4-point Likert type scale), low self-control was measured by two instruments, the 4-item impulsivity subscale of the Weinberger Adjustment Inventory (5-point Likert type scale), and the 6-item impulsivity subscale part of the Zuckerman-Kuhlman Personality Questionnaire (5-point Likert type scale); finally, deviance was measured by 21 items (5-point Likert type scale). Two competing, hypothesized models were tested. Model 1 tested whether Big Five traits predicted developmental changes in Time 3 deviance, net the effects of low self-control (operationalized by impulsivity), whereas Model 2 tested whether low self-control predicted developmental changes in Time 3 deviance net the effects of Big Five Traits. Findings based on competing structural equation models with fully latent constructs provided empirical support for Model 2, but not for Model 1. Thus, low self-control uniquely predicted developmental changes in deviance over time, net the effects by Big Five traits; however, Big Five traits did not uniquely predict developmental changes in deviance, above and beyond the effects by low self-control. Thus, study findings provide important empirical evidence supporting the original spuriousness thesis part of the self-control theory, based on longitudinal data.

Rehabilitating the brain, displacing the person? Neurocriminology and human agency *Aleksandra Lewandowska, University of Bialystok*

This paper examines whether neurocriminology, while expanding our understanding of antisocial and criminal behavior, also contributes to a weakening of human agency. Drawing on research on the theoretical foundations of neurotherapy in juvenile rehabilitation, it addresses a central tension between two frameworks: a personalist account of the person as a free and morally responsible agent and a neuroscientific account that emphasizes neurobiological determinants of behavior and the growing role of targeted interventions in social rehabilitation. The paper argues that neurocriminology does not necessarily negate agency, but it can marginalize it when adopted in a reductive and deterministic form. Neuroscientific explanations of impulsivity, aggression and emotional dysregulation may strengthen diagnosis and intervention, especially in work with juveniles. At the same time, when deviant behavior is framed primarily as a dysfunction of neural processes, rehabilitation risks shifting from moral and social transformation toward correction, optimization and control. Agency is then not openly denied, but gradually displaced. This problem is discussed through the example of neurotherapy, particularly neurofeedback. Such interventions may support self-regulation and adaptive functioning, but only if they are embedded in an ethical and pedagogical framework that preserves the juvenile as the subject of rehabilitation: informed, consenting, capable of refusal and actively participating in change. The paper therefore proposes a non-reductive approach in which neuroscience informs rehabilitation without eclipsing human agency as its central moral and educational principle.

The Shadow of Violence: Investigating ETV, Psychopathic Traits, and Moral Disengagement as Predictors of Stalking and Interpersonal Aggression. *Fabio Delicato, Criminiseriali Association*

The "cycle of violence" hypothesis posits that exposure to violence (ETV) during developmental stages is a robust predictor of future deviance (Widom, 2019). While previous research has established a link between work-related ETV and psychopathic traits (Delicato, 2023) and identified psychopathy as a core predictor of both stalking and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) (Delicato, 2021), the specific cognitive pathways that facilitate this transition in the general population remain underexplored. This study aims to investigate the interplay between different forms of ETV (direct, witnessed, and digital) and antisocial outcomes. Building on the "Pathologic Adaptation" framework (Hecht et al., 2023), the research tests a multiple mediation model where psychopathic traits (distinguishing between primary and secondary factors) and moral disengagement mechanisms explain the relationship between victimization and later interpersonal aggression. A community sample will be assessed via an online survey. Psychopathic traits will be measured using the Levenson Self-Report Psychopathy Scale (LSRP) (Somma et al., 2014), while moral justifications will be evaluated through the Moral Disengagement Scale (MDS). Self-reported behavioral clusters will assess the frequency of stalking behaviors and physical aggression. The moderating role of the timing of exposure (Childhood/Adolescence vs. Adulthood) will be specifically examined. By identifying the precursors of interpersonal violence in a non-inmate sample, this research offers critical insights for early intervention. The findings will be discussed in terms of their implications for clinical criminology and the development of targeted prevention programs for breaking the cycle of violence.

069. Developmental pathways to adolescent delinquency: Evidence from the Generation XXI Portuguese birth cohort

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Development and Life Course Perspectives (Development and Life Course Criminology WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.170

Youth delinquency is a major concern for criminological research and public policy, yet longitudinal evidence on the developmental origins of juvenile offending remains limited in Southern Europe. This panel presents findings from the Generation XXI (G21) birth cohort, the first population-based cohort in Portugal to include assessments of delinquent conduct. Drawing on prospective data collected from childhood through age 18, the panel examines key risk factors associated with later delinquent behavior. The first study provides a description of the prevalence, frequency, and variety of delinquency within G21 adolescents, highlighting the presence of chronic offending patterns. The remaining studies investigate early-life risk and protective factors associated with adolescent delinquency. Study 2 shows that cumulative exposure to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) is associated with higher levels of delinquent behavior in adolescence. Study 3 tests whether exposure to incarceration within the family predicts later offending, independent of other socioeconomic and family-related adversities. Study 4 examines whether exposure to psychological aggression and physical punishment is associated with increased delinquent behavior in late adolescence. Finally, Study 5 investigates whether lower cognitive ability in childhood predicts higher levels of delinquent conduct. Together, these studies adopt a developmental and life-course perspective to assess how early family environments and individual characteristics shape later offending. By combining multiple domains of risk within a single longitudinal framework, the panel provides integrated evidence on the initiation and development of delinquent behavior. The findings stand as the first prospective evidence on key developmental predictors of delinquency in a Portuguese cohort and contribute to international comparisons by extending the evidence base beyond traditionally studied Anglo-Saxon contexts. The implications will be discussed, highlighting the importance of early identification and intervention to address adversity and cognitive risk factors. Overall, this panel advances knowledge of delinquency etiology by contributing to longitudinal criminological research in Southern Europe.

Chair:

Hugo S. Gomes, EPIUnit ITR, Institute of Public Health of the University Porto, University of Porto, Rua das Taipas, n° 135, 4050-600 Porto, Portugal

Participants:

Prevalence, frequency, and chronic offending in late adolescence: Evidence from the Generation XXI cohort *Hugo S. Gomes, EPIUnit ITR, Institute of Public Health of the University Porto, University of Porto, Rua das Taipas, n° 135, 4050-600 Porto, Portugal; Carla Sofia Cardoso, CIJ-Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice; CEJEIA - Center for Legal, Economic, International and Environmental Studies; School of Criminology, Faculty of Law of the University of Porto; Patrícia Damas, School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto; Rabea Naseer, Northeast Normal University; Beatriz Almeida Teixeira, School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal*

Background. Delinquent behavior is widespread in adolescence, but it is typically highly concentrated within a small group of individuals who engage in frequent and varied offending. These high-rate or chronic offenders are often responsible for a disproportionate share of total crime and tend to be more involved in serious and violent acts. However, most evidence on the distribution and concentration of delinquency comes from Anglo-Saxon countries, and little is known about these patterns in Southern Europe. The present study aims to provide a description of adolescent delinquency in a Portuguese birth cohort. Method. The study is based on the Generation XXI (G21) cohort, a prospective population-based study in Portugal. Self-reported delinquency at age 18 was assessed using a questionnaire covering a range of behaviors, including violent, property, and other offenses. We examine lifetime and past-year prevalence, frequency, and variety of offending. The distribution of delinquency is analyzed to assess the extent of skewness and to identify non-offenders, low-rate offenders, and high-rate offenders. We also examine sex differences and the overlap between different types of offending. In addition, associations between delinquency and key correlates, including socioeconomic status, victimization, and peer delinquency, are explored. Results and Conclusions. We will first present findings on the prevalence and distribution of delinquency, highlighting the extent to which offending is concentrated within a small proportion of individuals. Secondly, we will identify groups of offenders (e.g., non-offenders, low-rate offenders, and high-rate offenders) and compare them on key characteristics, including involvement in different offense types. Thirdly, we will examine sex differences in patterns of offending. Finally, we will explore the relationship between delinquency and socioeconomic status, victimization, and peer delinquency. These findings will provide the first comprehensive description of adolescent delinquency in a Portuguese cohort and contribute to the international literature on the distribution and development of offending.

From childhood adversity to adolescent delinquency: A prospective analysis in a Portuguese birth cohort *Beatriz Pereira, Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences (FPCEUP), University of Porto, Porto, Portugal; Tânia Gonçalves, Universidade do Minho; Hugo S. Gomes, EPIUnit ITR, Institute of Public Health of the University Porto, University of Porto, Rua das Taipas, n° 135, 4050-600 Porto, Portugal*

Background. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) have been consistently associated with higher levels of juvenile delinquency, with research suggesting that the risk increases as the number of adverse experiences accumulates. However, much of the existing evidence is based on cross-sectional and correlational studies,

which makes it difficult to fully understand how these early experiences shape behavior over time. In addition, there is still limited research from Southern European countries. This study aims to examine how cumulative exposure to childhood trauma is linked to delinquent behavior in adolescence, using data from a Portuguese population-based birth cohort. Method. Data were derived from the Generation XXI (G21) birth cohort (N = 8,647), which follows children born in the metropolitan area of Porto between 2005 and 2006. Exposure to ACEs was assessed at ages 10 and 13 using a 13-item questionnaire based on established ACE frameworks and the Child and Adolescent Survey of Experiences. Delinquent behavior was measured at age 18 through self-reports, using indicators from the International Self-Reported Delinquency (ISRD) study. Findings from regression analyses will be presented to examine the relationship between cumulative ACE exposure and later delinquent behavior, while accounting for key sociodemographic and psychosocial factors, including sex and household income. It is expected that higher levels of ACE exposure will be associated with greater involvement in delinquent behaviors at age 18. Results and Conclusions. By following participants over time, this study aims to provide strong evidence about the role of early-life adversity in the development of delinquent behavior and violence. It also contributes to the literature by offering prospective evidence from a Southern European context. The findings are expected to improve our understanding of how childhood trauma influences later outcomes and to support the development of effective prevention and intervention strategies for young people exposed to adversity.

Parental imprisonment and adolescent delinquency: Longitudinal evidence from a Portuguese birth cohort *Tânia Gonçalves, Universidade do Minho; Beatriz Pereira, Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences (FPCEUP), University of Porto, Porto, Portugal; Joana Silva, Psychology Research Center (CIPSI), University of Minho, Braga, Portugal; Hugo S. Gomes, EPIUnit ITR, Institute of Public Health of the University Porto, University of Porto, Rua das Taipas, n° 135, 4050-600 Porto, Portugal*

Background. Parental imprisonment is progressively regarded as an important adverse childhood experience (ACE) that may shape children's development and behavior. Research suggests that children who experience a parent's imprisonment are more likely to show externalizing behaviors and engage in delinquency. However, it is still unclear whether parental imprisonment has an independent effect on delinquent behavior, especially when other social and family-related adversities are taken into account. This study analyzes whether exposure to parental imprisonment assessed at ages 10 and 13 is associated with delinquent behavior at age 18, using data from the Portuguese Generation XXI (G21) birth cohort. We expect that (H1) children exposed to parental imprisonment will show higher levels of delinquent behavior, and (H2) this association will remain even after accounting for socioeconomic status, family structure, and early-life adversity. Method. Data comes from a population-based longitudinal cohort of children born in the metropolitan area of Porto and followed over time into adolescence. Information on parental imprisonment was reported by caregivers and children, while delinquent behavior at age 18 was assessed through adolescents' self-reports using behavioral indicators. Regression models will be used to examine the relationship between parental imprisonment and delinquency, adjusting for key sociodemographic and family-related factors, including socioeconomic status, family structure, and early-life adversity. Results and Conclusions. By following participants over time, this study intends to improve the understanding of the specific impact of parental imprisonment on the development of delinquent behavior during late adolescence, while controlling broader contextual risks. The findings will contribute to international literature by clarifying an important but still understudied risk factor. From a policy and practice perspective, the results may help inform early identification strategies and the development of interventions for children affected by parental imprisonment across different social and cultural settings.

Harsh parenting and adolescent delinquency: Longitudinal evidence from the Generation XXI Cohort *Sara A. Martins, Faculty of Human and Social Sciences, University Fernando Pessoa (FCHS-UFP), Praça 9 de Abril, 349, 4249-004 Porto, Portugal; Hugo S. Gomes, EPIUnit ITR, Institute of Public Health of the University Porto, University of Porto, Rua das Taipas, n° 135, 4050-600 Porto, Portugal*

Background. Harsh parenting practices, characterized by psychological aggression and physical punishment, have been consistently considered robust predictors of antisocial behavior. These practices often promote a coercive cycle of family interaction that promotes deviance as children transition into adolescence. Despite the extensive international literature on the subject, longitudinal evidence specifically focused on the Portuguese population remains limited. In this context, examining how early adolescent exposure to severe discipline shapes subsequent delinquent trajectories within a large-scale Portuguese birth cohort is fundamental for developing domestic prevention strategies and public policies formulated to the country´s specific family dynamics. Methods. In a prospective birth cohort study following 8,647 children born in 2005 in Porto, Portugal, we examine the impact of harsh parenting on juvenile delinquency. Exposure to harsh parenting, including psychological aggression and physical assault, was assessed at age 13 (y13) using the Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS) reported by the adolescent. Delinquent behavior was measured at age 18 (y18) through an adapted version of the International Self-Report Delinquency (ISRD4) module, including property, violent, cybercrime, and other offenses. Using regression modeling, we will examine the association between early harsh discipline and later offending while controlling for key variables such as sex, parental education, and household income. Results and Conclusions. We will first present findings describing the prevalence of harsh parenting and

delinquent behaviors in this Portuguese cohort. Secondly, we will examine the association between severe discipline at age 13 and the frequency of delinquent acts at age 18. Finally, we will explore the potential role of confounding variables in influencing the impact of a coercive family environment. These results will provide important new evidence on criminal behavior in the Portuguese context, underscoring the need for evidence-based interventions to prevent juvenile delinquency.

Intelligence as a protective factor? The role of cognitive ability in adolescent delinquency *Ricardo Cunha, School of Law, University of Minho, Braga, Portugal; Tânia Gonçalves, Universidade do Minho; Joana Silva, Psychology Research Center (CIPSI), University of Minho, Braga, Portugal; Ömer Aktaş, Turkish National Police Academy, Ankara, Turkey; Hugo S. Gomes, EPIUnit ITR, Institute of Public Health of the University Porto, University of Porto, Rua das Taipas, n° 135, 4050-600 Porto, Portugal*

Background. Low intelligence has long been identified as a risk factor for antisocial behavior and delinquency. Individuals with lower cognitive ability tend to experience difficulties in school achievement, problem-solving, and self-regulation, which may increase the likelihood of offending. However, not all individuals exposed to risk factors become delinquent, suggesting that some characteristics may reduce this risk. Intelligence may be one such factor. Despite extensive research, there is limited longitudinal evidence on the role of intelligence in predicting adolescent delinquency, particularly in Southern European populations. The present study will test whether intelligence predicts delinquent behavior in late adolescence. Methods. Data are drawn from the Generation XXI birth cohort (N = 8,647), which follows children born in the metropolitan area of Porto, Portugal. Intelligence was assessed at age 10 using the Portuguese version of the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC-III). Delinquent behavior was measured at age 18 using a self-reported questionnaire covering property, violent, and cyber offenses. Measures of offending prevalence, frequency, and variety were constructed. Regression analyses will be used to examine the association between IQ and delinquent outcomes, controlling for key sociodemographic variables, including sex and family income. Results and Conclusions. It is expected that lower IQ will be associated with higher levels of juvenile delinquency. By using prospective data, this study provides evidence on the role of intelligence in the development of offending. The findings will contribute evidence on individual differences in delinquent conduct and will have implications regarding early identification and prevention.

070. Penal Expansion, Incarceration and Sentencing

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Criminal Policy, Criminalization, Policy of Criminal Sanctions (Criminal Law Making Policy WG)

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.015

Chair:

Javier Guardiola-García, University of Valencia (Spain)

Participants:

Changes of Prison Population in Hungary between 1985 and 2024, and its explanatory factors *Miklós Lévay, Széchenyi István University*

The number of prison population is influenced by the type of political system and the character of penal policy, which includes attitudes toward incarceration and sentencing practices. In dictatorial, authoritarian political systems, the number of prisoners and the incarceration rate are generally higher than in democracies. In the case of punitive policies focused on severity and exclusion, which promote the principle that "prison works," the prison population is also higher than in the case of inclusive penal policies, which view "prison as bad" and favor non-custodial sanctions. Using Hungary as a case study, the paper examines based on a completed research the extent to which the correlations outlined above hold valid. It discusses the political changes in Hungary between 1985 and 2024, the transition from a dictatorial system to democracy governed by the rule of law, the transformation of consensual democracy into authoriter „illiberal democracy", and the changes in penal policy during the period in question. The sentencing practice also will be discussed. The paper primarily seeks to answer the question of what factors explain why, in 1985—during the era of dictatorial political conditions—the incarceration rate in Hungary was 202, while in 2024, in the fourth decade following the democratic transition, it was roughly the same, at 196.

Criminological and Criminogenic Aspects of Brazilian Criminal Legislation: the Setbacks of the Violent Organized Crime Anti-Law (No. 15,358/26) and Its Impacts on the Brazilian Legal System. *Luís Henrique de Abreu Teixeira, Federal University of Goiás; Franciele Silva Cardoso, Federal University of Goiás; Alan Cabral Júnior, Federal University of Goiás*

The present article aims to examine the drafting and enactment of Brazilian Law No. 15,358/26, entitled the Anti-Faction Bill, now enacted as law, addressing the criminological aspects of its formulation. First, it is necessary to problematize the concept of a violent criminal organization, its scope, and its lack of precision in generalizing conduct, thereby fostering mass incarceration in Brazil. Subsequently, the study investigates the relativization of fundamental rights, such as sentence progression and access to social security benefits, including incarceration assistance benefits, which function to prevent the financial collapse of prisoners' families. Finally, the article analyzes the criminogenic potential of the measure adopted by the Brazilian legislature and sanctioned by the executive branch, considering that, according to data from the National Secretariat for Penal Policies (SENAPPEN) in 2024, most violent criminal organizations (factions) are, in fact, located within the country's prison system, which constitutes the primary environment for recruiting new members. Thus, it becomes evident that the legislative measure, in

material reality, actually promotes the growth of so-called violent criminal organizations, enabling their expansion both inside and outside Brazilian prisons by introducing new individuals precisely into the environment where recruitment by such factions is most prevalent.

Jury trial penalty in Russian district courts *Ekaterina Khodzhaeva, Paris Nanterre University, ISP*

Official statistics aggregated at the national level revealed one of the main mechanisms of judicial jury reform's resistance: professional judges sentenced individuals much more severely after jurors' convictional verdicts than in ordinary non-jury trials (Khodzhaeva, 2023). Nonetheless, this effect has not been proven statistically. Based on the case-level data collected, this paper supplements the current literature on jury trial penalties (Smith & Stevens, 1984; Spohn, 1992; King & Noble, 2005; Ulmer & Bradley, 2006; Breen, 2011) with a Russian case.

Liquid incarceration or Sustainable punitivism? – about criminalization and punishment enforcement in Spain *Javier Guardiola-García, University of Valencia (Spain)*

Since 2010, Spain has managed to curb the rise in its prison population … within a context in which penal sanctioning has expanded and imprisonment continues to claim a central role. Over the past quarter of a century, the country has quadrupled the number of criminal convictions—largely as a result of the criminalisation of phenomena that had traditionally remained outside the scope of criminal law (such as domestic and gender-based violence, and offences related to road safety, among others). Moreover, although imprisonment has lost its status as the primary modal sanction, declining from 70% to 30% of the main criminal sanctions imposed, it continues to perform a fundamental symbolic function. Thus, while the number of custodial sentences imposed in Spain has almost tripled over the past 25 years, the prison population increased from the beginning of the century until 2010 but has subsequently declined. Short-term imprisonment, parole, sentence substitution, and non-custodial execution with domestic electronic monitoring are the technical mechanisms employed to increase the number of sentences imposed while simultaneously reducing the prison population. This prompts reflection on whether we are witnessing a form of expansion of incarceration—one that is compelled to adopt configurations different from traditional ones—or whether punitive rhetoric is combined with an economistic approach and, despite repeatedly invoking imprisonment and affirming both its symbolic function and its potential for control, the Spanish criminal justice system ultimately favours fines and community-based sanctions as the standard responses. This research has been made under Grant PID2021-123441NB-I00 funded by MCIN /AEI /10.13039/501100011033 and by ERDF A way of making Europe

071. Reimagining Justice through Restorative and Transformative Frameworks

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Restorative Justice (Restorative Justice WG)

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.025

Chair:

Nanrapat Chaiakaraphong, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Faculty of Social Sciences, Kasetsart University

Participants:

Recharacterising Restorative Justice: Detoxifying and Depolarising Public Discourse *Mara Schiff, Florida Atlantic University; Simon Green, University of Hull*

As world orders shift and the political increasingly infuses the personal, individual and community relationships have become increasingly discordant. While restorative justice has historically been recognized as an alternative to address harm and conflict in criminal-legal settings, it has been underutilized in noninstitutional community frameworks and strayed from its most impactful roots as an intimate dialogic process to address harm, conflict, relationship and reparation. In a moment where both electoral and identity politics have become toxic and divisive, and the essence of both procedural and relational justice has been diluted, this presentation offers a new framework to explore when and how it may be appropriate to consider restorative dialogic strategies for navigating divisive conversations in healthy and civil ways. Building on our previous work claiming the mischaracterisation of restorative justice, here we define and consider, 1) the essential intimate nature of restorative dialogue; 2) the potential of restorative dialogue to bring opposing viewpoints into respectful civic relationship; 3) specific practical restorative resources that might weave individual and community relational fabric; 4) how such resources might be utilized for both intimate discourse and local policymaking. We explore how generative questions can expand rather than impede constructive conversation to rediscover rather than fracture relationships. Fundamentally, we investigate how might restorative dialogue provide an antidote to the toxicity of social media, political rhetoric, media spin, and identity politics.

Restoring Peacemaking Criminology in the Classroom: A Pedagogy for Transformative Justice *Brian Gregory Sellers, Eastern Michigan University; Emily Whitlow, Eastern Michigan University*

This paper endeavors to explicate the promise Peacemaking Criminology holds for educating towards a transformative justice by way of nurturing Restorative Practices in everyday classroom interactions. Peacemaking Criminology acknowledges human conflict as at the core of crime and social harm, but advocates for policy responses that deescalate in favor of reconciliation, mediation, and efforts to reforge trust and restore a sense of community among conflicting parties. Peacemaking is a movement to transform society; a massive peaceful protest seeking to bring hope in the face of hopelessness, whereby reclaiming a culture of healing becomes a measure of justice done. First, we explore how the tenets of

Peacemaking Criminology critically examine the intricate workings of inner and outer peace, which are dynamically affected by various forms of direct, indirect, cultural, and structural violence that abound when imbalances of power are exploited through the politics of domination to produce extreme inequality within and across societies. Next, the paper outlines how educators may employ pedagogical strategies to utilize restorative practices, rooted in Indigenous traditions, that foster social capital, fortify relationships, expand individual's capacities, and promote communal interconnectedness through critical participatory dialogue, storytelling, and collaborative problem solving intended to prevent social harms and cultivate understanding that counters hegemonic spaces. The pedagogy of justice that ensues embodies more tender, loving, sharing and salubrious spaces to breathe hope into pain and rehearse our liberation from a culture of warmaking. Lastly, challenges that await efforts to educate for justice are evaluated. This work reminds us that settler colonialism is a structure, not an event. To decolonize justice within the current adversarial systems, we must learn to apply this gift and not appropriate it so that we might build circles instead of walls for a new vision of the world to which we are all intimately connected and share.

Transforming Conflict through Restorative Justice: A Case Study – From Misunderstanding to Gunfire in Thailand *Nanrapat Chaiakaraphong, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Faculty of Social Sciences, Kasetsart University*

This article aims to study the good practices of the Community Justice Center in Saeng Sawang Subdistrict, Nong Saeng District, Udonthani Province, Thailand. It synthesizes lessons learned, successes, and limitations of applying restorative justice to manage conflict and violence within the community, utilizing the CIPP Model by Stufflebeam and Shinkfield. The case study revealed that the dispute arose from a misunderstanding between two groups of adolescents from different villages, each believing the other intended to ambush them, which escalated into a shooting incident. Implementing restorative justice processes to address this conflict and violence revealed that several input factors contributed to the successful mediation. These factors include the strength of community leadership, mediation training provided by the Provincial Justice Center, close kinship and familial ties within the community, and the local community charter and regulations. The mediation process led to a successful resolution, in which both parties agreed to provide compensation and extend mutual forgiveness. This reconciliation encouraged the parties to interact peacefully, without any remaining hostility or further personal or community conflicts. This approach emphasizes that restorative justice processes are not only a Restorative process but also a preventive measure to deter recidivism.

072. EUROC Panel 12. New directions for business crime research: Theory and methods

Topic 2: Types of Offending/White collar Crime, Organizational Crime, Corporate Crime, Financial Crime (EUROC)

Pre-arranged Panel

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.110

The criminological subfield of corporate and business crime has been infused with new ideas, applications, and expansions stemming largely, but not exclusively, from the collection of new or reanalysis of existing longitudinal data. Informed by developments in criminology (trajectory analysis, criminal careers, and developmental life course criminology) but also by corporate life histories/life cycles and new/expanded applications of old ideas (guardianship), these studies offer insights into whether there is overlap or discontinuity in actor offending patterns; if corporations have criminal careers, what offending patterns look like in different sectors, and whether offending can be understood developmentally; and the manner in which guardianship can be extended into the regulatory settings. The papers point to the importance of longitudinal studies to unpack these questions but also how mixed methods and theoretical elaboration can strengthen inference by enhancing generalizability and contextual understanding.

Chair:

Sally S Simpson, University of Maryland

Participants:

Work as a Criminogenic Context? A Joint Trajectory Analysis of Personal and Occupational Misconduct *Jelmar Meester, VU Amsterdam; Marieke Kluin, Leiden University*

Personal behaviour is often seen as predictive or indicative of occupational behaviour. For example, the personal life is evaluated in hiring and promotion processes and in the public assessment of politicians. Negative, unethical, or criminal behaviour is reviewed through vetting procedures or criminal record checks for prospective employees. Likewise, top level management may lose their position when such behaviour is (publicly) detected. Inspired by literature from philosophy, business studies, psychology, and compliance studies, this study aims to answer the question whether this apparent relationship exists for personal and occupational misconduct and whether the association differs between trajectory groups. Using data on corporate regulatory offending in the Dutch inland shipping industry (2015-2020) and data on personal misconduct (2010-2025), the association between the offending behaviours of the involved personnel is first determined using traditional regression. Next, through a joint trajectory analysis the probabilities of developmental linkages of the two behaviours are reviewed. Finally, implications and recommendations for research and practice are discussed.

Enforcement in an Emerging Industry: Patterns of Offending in the Financial Technology Sector *Natalie Schell-Busey, Rowan Univeristy*

This study introduces a novel longitudinal dataset to examine regulatory, civil, and criminal violations among 195 public U.S financial technology (fintech) firms. Fintech firms provide innovative, technology-enabled financial services to businesses and consumers and operate within an industry historically

characterized by significant corporate misconduct. In this preliminary analysis, we provide a descriptive summary of patterns of offending in the fintech sector. We examine the prevalence and frequency of violations, the distribution of misconduct across offense categories, and the concentration of offending among firms. The study further explores how violation patterns vary across industry type and fintech specialties (e.g., payments, lending, crypto, real estate, etc.) and how enforcement is distributed by agency. Our goal is to document and characterize misconduct in this emerging sector to establish a foundation for future research.

Assessing the Overlap and Continuity in Traditional and Business Offending: New Evidence from Related Birth Cohorts *Sally S Simpson, University of Maryland; Megan Augustyn, University of Texas at Dallas; Bianca Bersani, University of Maryland*

Criminology has learned a great deal about offenders and offending patterns from longitudinal studies. Most studies tend to focus on traditional (conventional) offenders, but a non-trivial number have examined white-collar offenders (individuals and/or companies.) To our knowledge, none has utilized related birth cohorts to assess: (1) the overlap between corporate/business crime and traditional offending; and (2) patterns of corporate/business crime across generations. This study reports findings from a pilot of recently added business crime questions to the Rochester Youth Development Survey (RYDS), a prospective, longitudinal study following a birth cohort (beginning in adolescence) at an elevated risk for delinquency and drug use from Rochester, New York since 1988, and its intergenerational extension, the Rochester Intergenerational Study (RIGS), which follows the firstborn biological child of RYDS participants. Both generations were queried about involvement in corporate/business crime; offspring were also questioned about attitudes towards business/corporate crime. Involvement in corporate/business crime is rare among both generations, with little overlap between business and traditional offenders regardless of generation and no evidence of continuity in behavior. Supplemental analyses focus on the overlap in attitudes of traditional and corporate/business crime. We discuss the implications of our research, limitations, and suggestions for future studies.

Reconceptualizing "Capable Guardians": Toward understanding and improving the effectiveness of guardianship networks *Rachel Boratto, GuArdean Centre for Conservation Research; Fiona Chan, Indiana University; Carole Gibbs, Michigan State University*

Over the last decade, criminologists have advanced theoretical understanding of capable guardianship in routine activities theory, increasingly recognizing guardians as decision makers whose choices about whether and how to intervene are shaped by individual and social factors. While offering important advances, the emphasis on "informal" guardians of street crime has limited the range of factors theorized to influence guardian capability and willingness to intervene. It also overlooks the role of multiple guardians operating in different capacities within a guardianship structure or network, which may impact overall guardianship effectiveness. In the current paper, we propose a framework that further delineates and defines the full scope of guardianship structures, as well as the multiple elements that contribute to their effectiveness. We do so by making the case for a more complex understanding of guardianship informed by consideration of the regulatory arena.

073. Roundtable: Repeatability in Criminology

Topic 8: Methodologies in Criminology/Advances in Evaluative Research (Qantitative Methods WG)

Roundtable

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.120

Repeatability is widely acknowledged as a cornerstones of science. It encompasses the reproducibility, replicability, and robustness of scientific findings. The ability of independent researchers to access research materials and obtain comparable results using the same or similar procedures, is fundamental to cumulative knowledge building and to the credibility of a discipline. Yet, in criminology, many studies are difficult or impossible to repeat. Whether for legitimate reasons or less defensible ones, criminologist do not practice open science often. This limits opportunities to verify findings, assess robustness, and build confidently upon prior work, ultimately undermining the discipline's scientific standing. Departing from the premise that repeatability is both desirable and necessary, this round table aims to: exchange experiences with attempts to repeat criminological research; discuss how scientific communities can navigate opportunities and challenges of repeating criminological research; and share recommendations for increasing repeatability in the field. Four scholars who will offer brief presentations followed by a collective discussion: - Amy Nivette will address transparency in analytical processes, highlighting how numerous methodological choices, from sampling to model selection, shape research outcomes, and argues for opening the 'black box' of researcher decisions to improve interpretability and credibility. - Alex Trinidad will discuss many-analyst studies as tools to assess analytical robustness. He will outline how independent re-analyses by multiple researchers can test the stability of findings, the practical value of this approach for criminology, and the trade-offs involved. - Sandy Schumann will examine opportunities and challenges of direct replications. She will offer practical recommendations for conducting replications, including collaboration with original authors, and discuss how to strengthen the epistemic value of failed replications. - Wouter Steenbeek will reflect on repeatability under restricted data access. Drawing on a computational replication, he will argue that improving repeatability requires greater transparency about data construction, versioning, and analytical dependencies, alongside the sharing of research materials.

Chair:

Asier Moneva, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR); The Hague University of Applied Sciences

Discussants:

Amy Nivette, Utrecht University

Alex Trinidad, Department of Sociology and Social

Psychology, University of Cologne
Sandy Schumann, University College London
Wouter Steenbeek, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement

Participants:

Increasing transparency in the analytical process *Amy Nivette, Utrecht University*

There are a multitude of choices to make during the process of conducting research, for both qualitative and quantitative researchers in criminology. From choosing samples, interview questions, variables, timeframes, and analytical models, each potential choice is a "forking path" that could substantially influence the results. Opening up this 'black box' of researcher choices is essential to understanding precisely how results are produced and interpreted.

Many-Analyst studies as tools for assessing analytical robustness in criminological research *Alex Trinidad, Department of Sociology and Social Psychology, University of Cologne*

Analytical robustness in criminological research has been addressed through a range of approaches, though not always systematically, which is particularly important given the considerable degrees of freedom available to researchers. One promising strategy for evaluating the robustness of empirical findings and theoretical claims is the use of many-analyst studies, which have gained increasing attention in the past few years. In a recent many-analyst project, the robustness of results in the social and behavioural sciences was examined through the independent reanalysis of 100 published studies by multiple analysts. Such independent reanalyses can provide a powerful means of assessing the stability of findings and can either reinforce or challenge existing theoretical claims within criminology. However, many-analyst studies are not without limitations. As with other approaches to robustness, they involve important trade-offs and require substantial time, coordination, and resources. It is therefore essential that their feasibility and practical implications for criminological research are carefully considered.

Opportunities and challenges of direct replications *Sandy Schumann, University College London*

Direct replications have been celebrated as a means to confirm the robustness of empirical findings. However, in criminological research, direct replications are rare. In other fields, the epistemic value of failed direct replications has been called into question, and the practical implementation of replications is often complicated by the fact that study designs, methods, or measures are not reported with sufficient detail. Based on my own experience, I share, first, practical suggestions for conducting direct replications; collaborating with the author of the original study is a key recommendation. Drawing on recent scholarship in philosophy of science and an example from my work, I then propose how the epistemic value of failed direct replications can be enhanced.

Repeatability under restricted data access: lessons from a computational replication in criminology *Wouter Steenbeek, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement*

This contribution presents a replication of a recent study on the effects of acquiring legal rights at ages 16 and 18 on victimisation risk, using the original code and administrative microdata from Statistics Netherlands. The results are fully reproducible: all estimates underlying the main claims can be replicated exactly. At the same time, the replication highlights practical challenges, including dataset versioning, incomplete access to customised data, and the need to adapt code to evolving data environments. Additional analyses confirm the main conclusions, while showing that effect sizes depend on how outcomes are defined. Building on this case, I reflect on what repeatability means in criminology when data access is restricted, and argue that improving it requires greater transparency about data construction, versioning, and analytical dependencies, alongside the sharing of code and materials.

074. Femicide in Europe

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Homicide and Violent Crime (Homicide Research WG and European Violence Monitor WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.128

Femicide – the killing of women because of their gender – has gained substantial attention in media coverage and political debate over recent years. Alongside this public awareness, an expanding body of academic research has emerged addressing this particular category of homicide. The present panel presents contributions from multiple countries, examining diverse research perspectives on femicide.

Chair:
Nora Markwalder, University of St. Gallen

Participants:

Feminicide in Spain: A review of scientific production and its implications for the justice system *Amanda Lagreca, UFMG; Esther Fernandez Molina, Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha*

Reflecting on criminology and the study of the criminal justice system from a comparative perspective (Nivette, 2025) is particularly relevant in a context of increasing complexity of social problems in a globalized world. However, significant methodological challenges persist, as the international dimension may involve conceptual differences, issues of translation, and variations in social contexts themselves (Linde & Aebi, 2021; Kivivuori et al., 2024). In the case of gender-related killings, the UNODC has developed specific materials addressing this phenomenon, highlighting the difficulties involved in its measurement and international comparison. Even so, it emphasizes the need to analyze the problem from a global perspective, as it affects all societies worldwide (UNODC, 2022). The concept of femicide varies according to the normative frameworks and gender conceptions that structure justice systems.When presenting data for 2024, the UNODC identifies Spain as one of the countries with the most advanced institutional responses to femicide (UNODC, 2025). Among the highlighted measures are the inclusion of a registry of

children orphaned by femicide and the development of specific reparation mechanisms. This progress is particularly relevant within the conceptual debate, in which the term femicide incorporates the dimension of state responsibility, understanding these deaths as part of a continuum of violence in which the omission or insufficiency of public policies plays a decisive role (Corradi & Stöckl, 2014). In this context, the present research conducts a scoping review of the literature on femicide in Spain, carried out in March 2026. Preliminary results indicate a predominance of studies focused on risk factors and profiles of victims and perpetrators, with limited attention to the functioning of the justice system and scarce critical engagement with the reproduction of gender stereotypes in institutional responses.

Finnish Female Homicide victimization *Miisa Törölä, University of Helsinki*

Public discussion about violence against women have taken place in Finland since the 1990's. Since then, the understanding of gender-specific characteristics of violence victimization has gradually deepened. It is a well-established fact that female homicide victimization typically occurs in intimate partner relationships or other domestic settings. Finland joined the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence in 2015. The rates of female homicide victimizations in Finland remain higher than in many European countries. One explanation that has been suggested is the relatively late onset of governmental action against domestic violence. The rate of intimate partner homicides with female victims declined in the early 2000's, but this decrease has not continued during the 2010's. In this presentation, I will discuss the development of the incident rates and characteristics of female homicide victimization in Finland from 2013 to 2023. The analysis is based on data from the Finnish Homicide Monitor, which contains information on all homicides committed in Finland that have come to the attention of the police from 2002 onwards.

Two Sides of the Same Coin? Gender and the Victim–Offender Nexus in Serious Youth Victimization *Maiju Tanskanen, University of Helsinki; Karoliina Suonpää, University of Helsinki*

Female and male violent victimization are often conceptualized as distinct phenomena, frequently assumed to involve different degrees of victim–offender overlap. In particular, gendered explanations of violence tend to portray female victims as "ideal victims," with limited association with criminal offending. This study examines whether gender differences in the criminal backgrounds of young victims of serious violence correspond to the gendered explanatory frameworks. The analysis is based on complete data on all homicide and attempted homicide victims between age 13 and 29 in Finland in 2019-2021 (n=475) and matched non-victim controls (n=2,375). Gender differences were examined both in terms of absolute prevalence and relative risk across multiple offense types based on comprehensive police register data on all suspected criminal offenses. In addition, latent class analysis (LCA) was applied to enable comparisons based on data-driven offender profiles. Overall, the results indicate that while the absolute prevalence of prior offending is higher among male victims, the relative risk – compared with same-gender non-victim controls – is higher among females. These findings challenge dominant gendered explanatory frameworks of violent victimization and highlight a substantial victim–offender nexus among both female and male victims, underscoring its relevance for prevention and policy.

Are femicides punished less severely than homicides? The sanctions practice of femicides compared to other homicides in Switzerland *Simone Walser, University of St. Gallen; Nora Markwalder, University of St. Gallen; Martin Killias, University of St. Galen*

In recent years, several countries have introduced specific legal provisions for femicide to acknowledge the context in which these killings occur and to avoid femicide offenders to be sanctioned less severely than offenders of other homicide. In this context, the presentation examines the sanctioning of femicide in Switzerland compared to that of other homicide using data of the Swiss Homicide Monitor. The findings indicate that, contrary to concerns frequently raised in public debate in Switzerland, offenders who commit femicide in Switzerland are not punished more leniently. Rather, the data suggests that these offenders tend to receive harsher sanctions than individuals convicted of other types of homicide.

Adjucating in femicide cases in the Netherlands: recognition, acknowledgement and sentencing. *Suzan van der Aa, Maastricht University*

Femicide – or the (intentional) killing of women, because they are women – has recently gained significant scientific, societal and political attention, both on a national and international level. Fierce debates have also been held around the question of how this particular phenomenon is best addressed within the criminal justice system. At this moment, the Netherlands does not have a legal definition or separate provision criminalising femicide, nor are there legal aggravating circumstances or sentencing policies that require sentence en-hancement in cases that may be seen as femicide. In the Netherlands, suspects of femicide are prosecuted and tried under the generic criminal provisions of murder (art. 289 Dutch Criminal Code) and man-slaughter (art. 287 Dutch Criminal Code). Despite this lack of legislative guidance, public prosecutors and judges may nonetheless take certain gender-related / femicide characteristics into account in their handling of lethal violence against women in practice. During this presentation, the results of a study commissioned by the Dutch Ministry of Justice and Safety (WODC) will be discussed. It tried to answer the following research question: To what extent is femicide recognised, acknowledged, framed and legally assessed, in Dutch criminal justice practice, and to what extent do gender-related aspects play a role in the judicial assessment and sentencing of (attempted) murder and manslaugh-ter of women? Using a multi-method research approach – involving case law

analysis, interviews and a qualitative vignette study with public prosecutors and judges – this study tried to uncover how criminal justice practitioners conceptualise 'femicide'; which gender-related aspects they consider relevant in questions regarding evidence and sentencing; and what potential implications the findings may have for future criminal law, policy and research. These findings are not only relevant to the Netherlands, but also other jurisdictions grappling with the pertinent question of how to effectively tackle femicide.

075. WG EXTREME PANEL 5. Identifying and Assessing Extremist Threats: Classification, Risk and Foresight

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Terrorism and Terrorism Financing, Radicalization, Extremism (Radicalization, Extremism, Terrorism WG)

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.132

Chair:

Merel de de Nijs, Netherlands Institute for Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology | Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement

Participants:

Defining the Indefinable? Toward an Operationalization of Incidents Motivated by A "Far-Left" and/or "Radical Environmental" Ideology *Jennifer Varriale Carson, University of Central Missouri; Elizabeth Jordan Hilkemeyer, University of Central Missouri; Marissa Kendrick, University of Central Missouri*

Collectively, research on terrorism and ideologically-motivated crime has inordinately focused on jihadist and far-right ideologies. Far fewer studies have examined the far-left and "radical" environmental movements, despite their historic role as one of the most frequent perpetrators of ideologically-driven crime in the United States. This research contends that one important barrier to this trajectory of research has been definitional. We present our own operationalization of far-left and environmentally-motivated crime through a multi-stage decision-tree. We then examine how this operationalization compares to other major databases and their identification of far-left and environmentally-motivated incidents. We then conclude with an overview of what these incidents look like in the United States in terms of frequency, lethality, and other important characteristics.

Mapping the Future Extremist Landscape in the Nordic Countries: Insights from a Foresight-centred Pilot Initiative *Bruna Antonio, IPS_Innovative Prison Systems; Pedro Liberado, IPS_Innovative Prison Systems; Kacper Nosarzewski, 4CF; Ioannis Armakolas, ELIAMEP*

In line with the recently published ProtectEU's Agenda to Prevent and Counter Terrorism (2026), the Strategic Orientations on a Coordinated EU Approach to Prevention of Radicalisation for 2024-2026, and ProtectEU's Security Strategy (2025), the European Commission's efforts on preventing radicalisation are concentrated within the DG HOME-led EU Knowledge Hub on the Prevention of Radicalisation (EUKH). Building on the Radicalisation Awareness Network's success, EUKH is a major initiative aimed at bolstering the EU Member States' efforts against radicalisation leading to violent extremism and terrorism. One of the key workstreams of the EUKH is Foresight, aiming to support EU Member States in devising their next internal policies by grasping emerging trends and threats. Following a mixed-method approach, this paper presents an overview of the findings of the first-ever EUKH-led foresight effort on P/CVE, following the pioneering request from Denmark, Finland, Sweden, and Norway. Based on desk research, interviews, a Delphi questionnaire, and scenario-building workshops with a selected group of 18 experts, it identifies key challenges the Nordic countries may face across diverse contexts in the area of radicalisation and violent extremism, while recognising existing strengths and institutional and societal capacities that can support effective responses. By anticipating emerging trends and examining cross-border dynamics affecting the Nordic region, it examines how strategic foresight can be a valuable tool for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers to prepare for possible future scenarios and enhance the resilience of radicalisation prevention strategies. Ultimately, the study reinforces the Nordic countries' capacity to prevent and respond to radicalisation, extremism and security challenges. Study limitations are presented, along with reflections on future research needs and recommended next steps for strengthening foresight-informed P/CVE policy development. This paper presentation draws on a subset of the main findings authorised for public dissemination. The complete results remain confidential.

Using Open-Source Data to Test a Routine Activity Theory of Mass Casualty Terrorist Attack Success *Gary LaFree, University of Maryland; Michael Jensen, American University; Yesenia Yanez, University of Maryland*

Leveraging a novel open-source dataset, we apply routine activity theory (RAT) to understand why mass casualty terrorist plots in the United States either succeed or fail. We test the impact of all three of RAT's components: motivated and capable offenders, suitable targets, and lack of guardianship. Specifically, we apply a three-part hurdle model to separately examine which plots are interdicted before execution, which executed plots fail, and which succeed partially or fully. Consistent with RAT, offender and guardianship variables dominate the interdiction failure stages, while target characteristics and offender capability predict degrees of execution success. A convergence test confirms that the highest-risk profile—high offender capability, high target vulnerability, and low guardianship—achieves the highest attack success rate. By distinguishing the different ways that mass casualty plots can fail or succeed, and by testing all three RAT elements simultaneously, we illustrate the utility of open-source databases and address gaps in prior research on mass casualty attack outcomes.

Differences in VERA-2R Scores Across Ideological Groups: An Analysis of Extremist Offenders *Merel de de Nijs, Netherlands Institute for Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology | Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime*

and Law Enforcement; Maarten van Leyenhorst, Program Approach on Radicalization and Extremism Dutch Custodial Institutions Agency; Maaike Kempes, The Netherlands Institute for Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology (NIFP) & Leiden University; Elanie Rodermond, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Across Europe and beyond, the growing threat of increasingly individualised and complex forms of extremist ideologies makes it even more difficult to predict violent extremism and terrorism. This calls for sophisticated and effective risk assessment tools to accurately identify and evaluate individual risks. The Violent Extremism Risk Assessment – Version 2 Revised (VERA-2R) is specifically developed to support the risk analysis and management of violent extremist offenders, encompassing all forms of violent extremism and terrorism. Given the diversity of extremist ideologies in the current landscape, it is important to explore how different ideologies may exhibit distinct risk profiles across the VERA-2R indicators. This study aims to identify whether certain VERA-2R risk indicators are more prominent in specific ideological groups. Utilising a quantitative approach, this study employs statistical comparative analyses to examine differences in VERA-2R scores across subgroups of individuals within the criminal justice system who have been assessed by professionals as posing extremist risks. These subgroups include individuals with ideologies such as jihadism, right-wing extremism, left-wing extremism, anti-institutionalism, and nihilism. The VERA-2R is applied to 200 judicial files from extremists, including mental health reports, probation service reports, criminal records, detention documentation, and other relevant reports. The study compares the professional ratings on risk indicators in the VERA-2R in order to assess potential differences and similarities across different forms of extremism. The results will provide professionals with insights into subgroup differences that could inform the application of the VERA-2R and highlight relevant considerations when assessing different groups of extremist offenders.

076. How Systemic Harm is Obscured by the British Modern Slavery Agenda and What to Do About It

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Human Trafficking
Pre-arranged Panel
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.142

This four paper panel discusses how the UK's modern slavery agenda has been constrained by crime led narratives and immigration governance. It presents research that recentres structural inequalities, overlooked forms of exploitation, and the multidimensional complexities of lived experience — including voices that are not always easy to hear or comfortable to listen to.

Chair:

David Gadd, University of Manchester

Participants:

Beyond Rescue? The Unravelling of the UK's Modern Slavery Agenda *David Gadd, University of Manchester*

The concept of vulnerability—central to the UK's modern slavery agenda—has reinforced one dimensional understandings of an inherently complex problem. Since 2013, British responses to modern slavery have been framed through organised crime, border control, and resilient survivor narratives that obscure the roles of structural inequalities, labour rights, and immigration injustice. Despite this crime centred policy focus, prosecutions of modern slavery offenders remain rare, while the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) has been unduly affected by system overload and the wider hostile environment. Although the Independent Anti Slavery Commissioner has proposed a national prevention strategy informed by survivors' experiences, prevention in practice continues to be narrowly equated with early intervention for victims who have already been exploited. Addressing these systemic shortcomings requires a public debate that connects everyday patterns of consumption—what people are willing to pay for the goods and services they rely on—to questions of labour injustice, including the remuneration and treatment of workers across both legitimate and grey economies. Leadership in this area must amplify the voices of the diverse groups of exploited people who are most frequently marginalised and scapegoated in political efforts to mobilise electoral support. Otherwise, as a call to rectify injustice, the UK's modern slavery agenda risks becoming beyond rescue.

Identifying Exploitation Experiences in Multiply Excluded Lives *Emily Kenway, None*

People experiencing multiple exclusion, including chronic homelessness, problematic substance use and mental ill-health, are subject to exploitation crimes, including forced labour, debt bondage and human trafficking. But because these experiences are embedded in a wider context of systemic and interpersonal harm, they are not articulated as these crimes but rather as part of the everyday reality of lives marked by harm. Drawing on methods applied in interviews with 16 multiply excluded people collected in Edinburgh, Scotland in 2024, this paper explains how experience can be approached, framed and drawn out to illuminate overlooked victimisation when the research participants' own articulation of their experiences does not match crime or research terminologies and constructs. This includes navigating gatekeepers who may have low understanding of crime types; finding the ethical line between explaining the purpose of research and derailing it; ensuring psychological safety for participants when applying new crime categories to their experiences and; representing such findings to meet criminological aims while respecting participants' lifeworlds.

The Exploitation of Albanian Men in Exploitative Labour and Cannabis Cultivation in the UK *Andrew Papworth, University of York, UK; David Gadd, University of Manchester*

In this paper, we present preliminary findings from our study, Improving the Police and Policy Response to Modern Slavery. The study involved extrapolating case studies from 26 police investigations and reconstructing them into vignettes, which were then

discussed in focus groups with two populations: people who had lived experience of exploitation; and professionals responsible for tackling modern slavery. This presentation concentrates on vignettes concerning Albanian men who had entered the UK illegally and undertaken undocumented work in car washes before being recruited to work in cannabis farms, where some were also further exploited. Police emphasized the need for: improved digital data sharing; coordinated efforts to tackle professional 'enablers' and gateway business 'fronts'; greater powers to destroy the technology used in cannabis farms; and efforts to moderate the demand for cannabis among UK consumers. Albanian men who had worked illegally stressed their need for legitimate employment to pay off ever increasing debts that left them susceptible to life-threatening violence and new forms of slavery upon return to Albania. The paper concludes by identifying points of consensus between the two groups regarding international police cooperation, the disentangling of the response to exploitation from immigration enforcement, and by cautioning against returns policies likely to compound the increasingly risky circular migration that entails those once exploited start exploiting others.

Joining the dots': A Review of Greater Manchester's Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Partnerships Approach *Jon Davies, The University of Manchester; Tomáš Diviák, University of Manchester; Celine Giese, University of Manchester; Rose Broad, University of Manchester; David Gadd, University of Manchester*

This paper presents the key findings and recommendations from the first comprehensive review of Greater Manchester's Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT) Partnerships approach. While terms such as 'partnership' and 'multi-agency/organisational' cooperation are hardly new developments in the various policy spaces associated with MSHT, their understanding and application to different localised contexts can vary significantly and hence remain understudied. In a similar vein, the value and perceived impacts of partnerships on victims and survivors of MSHT can be overlooked due to a predominant emphasis on 'systems'-related challenges. Drawing on a combination of data from surveys, semi-structured interviews, social network analysis, as well as input from a Lived Experience Consultant (LEC), this paper argues that while Greater Manchester has achieved demonstrable success in its ongoing MSHT partnership efforts, it faces several practical and systemic challenges that are holding the city-region back. These challenges primarily relate to a perceived lack of longer-term strategy, disjointed funding models, inconsistent support for victims and survivors (including the positioning of LECs in such projects), as well as a lack of engagement with the private sector. The review findings are intended to help address these longer-term and embedded challenges and so provide a robust platform on which to develop Greater Manchester's existing MSHT partnerships in future efforts.

077. Fairness, Courts and Policing Practice

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Criminal Justice Policy (Crime, Science and Politics WG)

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.146

Chair:

Dusan Stankovic, Malmö University

Participants:

Judicial Well-Being, Institutional Pressure, and the Status of Justice: Rethinking Quality and Legitimacy in Contemporary Courts *Andrej Bozhinovski, Faculty of Law University of Zagreb; Viktor Gotovac, Faculty of Law University of Zagreb*

This paper examines how judicial well-being, labour conditions, and institutional pressures shape the contemporary status of justice. Building on the project Status of Justice at the Faculty of Law in Zagreb, the paper argues that the quality and legitimacy of adjudication cannot be understood solely through formal guarantees of independence, procedural rules, or institutional design. They must also be assessed through the concrete working conditions under which judges perform their role. Rising caseloads, managerial reforms, performance demands, digitalisation, staff shortages, and growing public pressure increasingly affect the capacity of courts to deliver reasoned, fair, and timely justice. The paper situates these developments within a broader criminological and socio-legal discussion on criminal justice policy, institutional trust, and the administration of justice. It argues that deteriorating professional conditions in the judiciary, especially financial conditions, are not merely labour-law or organisational concerns; they directly affect procedural fairness, judicial autonomy, public confidence, and ultimately the legitimacy of the justice system. In that sense, judicial well-being becomes a structural issue of criminal justice governance rather than a private matter of individual resilience. The paper is also placed in dialogue with the newest European standard in this field, CCJE Opinion No. 28 (2025) on the importance of judicial well-being for the delivery of justice, which expressly links the well-being of judges to the quality, efficiency, independence, and impartiality of judicial work. Against that background, the paper explores how the "status of justice" should be reconceptualised at the frontier of contemporary criminology: not only as a question of legal norms and institutional competences, but also as a question of sustainable professional conditions for those who administer justice. The paper contributes to current debates on criminal justice policy by showing that the resilience of courts depends on how justice systems protect the professional dignity and well-being of judges.

Too special? Special Measures and perceptions of procedural (un)fairness *Natasha Carver, University of Bristol, UK*

Most jurisdictions in Europe afford 'Special Measures' to complainants of sexual assault, measures which were introduced in part in response to survivors voicing complaints of re-traumatisation and in part to address high attrition rates. In the UK, Special Measures were introduced for all vulnerable and intimidated witnesses

in 1999. Recent research with victim-survivors finds that special measures are vital to securing justice in that they make the court process "bearable" (Moroz and Dinesman 2024). However, uptake is deemed to be patchy and victim organisations argue that special measures are not sufficiently utilised or sufficiently robust (Victims Commissioner 2021; Moroz and Dinesman 2024). Data collected by way of interviews with legal professionals on the other hand, indicates that some barristers believe that special measures have a deleterious impact on outcomes precisely because they limit embodied displays of trauma (Carline et al. 2021). Others, meanwhile, have questioned the impact of special measures on procedural fairness given the comparative lack of adjustments made for vulnerable defendants (Fairclough 2021). Based on a two-year ethnography including court observations and analysis of 35 closing speeches in four group-based trials of child sexual exploitation, this paper explores court users' informal and formal reactions to special measures during court hearings, and analyses how barristers explain - and attack - special measures when speaking directly to juries. I find that special measures reduce the impact of emotional testimony, which can serve the prosecution as well as the defence, but do not appear to protect against retraumatisation. Further, as defendant vulnerabilities are commonly ignored by prosecutors, special measures can be presented to juries as undermining the equality of arms necessary to ensure a fair trial.

Victim-Centred Responses to Policing Domestic Abuse: Safeguarding, Risk and Justice *Kelly Johnson, Glasgow University; Charlotte Barlow, University of Leeds; Michele Jane Burman, University of Glasgow*

Building on previous work under 'Operation Soteria' (see Hohl and Stanko 2024), Operation 'Bright Light' seeks to transform the police response to domestic violence and abuse. This paper, from the 'Pillar 3' team, engages with the questions and tensions that arise in police discourse about delivering a 'victim-centred' response in the context of domestic abuse, and examines what such a commitment translates into practice within the contemporary UK policing landscape. Drawing on qualitative engagement with police officers of varying roles and ranks, and domestic abuse support service providers, the paper examines how the stated aspiration to place victim-survivors at the centre of police responses is interpreted, operationalised, and negotiated in everyday practice. Particular attention is paid to the institutional and legal mandates that shape police decision-making and practice, including requirements to take positive action, safeguard victims, and pursue justice outcomes. We examine how these facets are adapted to different victim-survivor contexts, or otherwise, with our analysis highlighting the practical and normative tensions that can emerge, for example, between safeguarding and autonomy, and procedural compliance and relational engagement. By examining these tensions, the paper contributes to ongoing debates about the possibilities and limits of reforming police responses to domestic abuse, and the conditions under which victim-centred practice can be meaningfully realised.

Postmodernity of Policing Public Space: Systematic Social Observations in Malmö (Sweden) *Dusan Stankovic, Malmö University*

Hot spot policing, defined as various police activities focused on small areas of crime, disorder or unsafety, has emerged as a prominent strategy in evidence-based policing and mainstream criminology. Its proponents suggest detailed crime analysis and frequent but short, random but engaged police presence in those areas to achieve crime prevention. On the other hand, recent technological (e.g. CCTV) and societal developments (e.g. privatisation of institutions) push policing towards a more administrative and bureaucratic model. Systematic social observations conducted in four central squares (hot spots) in Malmö offer initial evidence to support such claims: greater frequency and amount of policing has been practiced by private security guards than by the police officers (1); police foot patrol, which resembles traditional and community policing, has not been practised except for the "coming by car, parking and walking the area" (2); policing model relies on pure presence rather than community engagement since both state or private policing have not been followed by any interaction in most of the observations (3). These trends may influence the role and impact of the police in society concerning crime prevention and safety, community relations and legitimacy, and democratic governance.

078. Plenary Roundtable 1 (Thursday) European Entanglements in Atrocity Crimes and Transitional Justice: A Dialogue?

ESC

Plenary Session

12:00 to 1:15 pm

Old University Library: Old University Library

Why should you be there? Because in a time of crises, conflict, and contestation, we need to engage in critical and constructive dialogue surrounding mass violence. To this end, this dialogue seeks to create a space for mutual engagement and rigorous yet respectful exchange on Europe's multifaceted entanglements with atrocity crimes and transitional justice. The dialogue features key criminologists working on atrocity crimes and transitional justice to discuss European entanglements with atrocity. Regardless of the locus of atrocity crimes and the subsequent pursuit of justice, European states, societies, and institutions are entangled with events in one way or another: economically, politically, legally, historically. It follows that a European Society of Criminology take on responsibility for unpacking, explaining, and critiquing this situation.

Chair:

Stephan Parmentier, KU Leuven, Faculty of Law and Criminology

Discussants:

Alette Smeulers, University of Groningen
Joachim Savelsberg, University of Minnesota
Annika van Baar, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Mirza Buljubašić, Faculty of Criminal Justice, Criminology, and Security Studies, University of Sarajevo
Valeria E Vegh Weis, Konstanz University

079. Gender, Crime and Justice Working Group Panel 3: Challenges to normative understandings of GBV

Topic 3: Crime Correlates/Gender and Crime (Gender, Crime and Justice WG)
Paper Session
2:15 to 3:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.110
Chair:
Csaba Győry, ELTE University Faculty of Law, Budapest /Institute of Legal Studies, Centre for Social Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Participants:

Domestic Violence Against Women and Animal Abuse: Does the Violence Prevention System in Poland Recognize All Victims? *Julia Berg-Bajraszewska, Wydział Prawa i Administracji Uniwersytet Warszawski*

The connections between violence against women and violence against animals have increasingly become the subject of scholarly inquiry within green criminology on the so-called violence link. This perspective suggests that different forms of violence within the private sphere rarely occur in isolation; rather, they frequently co-occur and mutually reinforce one another. In the context of domestic violence, animals may be both direct victims of the perpetrator's aggression and instruments of coercion or emotional blackmail directed at women. The analysis draws on the theoretical contributions of green criminology, which expands the traditional understanding of victimhood and harm by emphasizing that violence against non-human beings forms part of wider relations of domination and control. From this perspective, domestic violence may be understood as a relational and multispecies phenomenon, extending beyond the boundaries of the human community of victims. These reflections are situated within the broader evolution of feminist thought. Historically, the structural oppression of women remained largely unrecognized as a social problem. Contemporary strands of feminist thought increasingly extend their critical gaze beyond the human community, recognizing that the idea of sisterhood may encompass not only solidarity among women but also sensitivity to the suffering of female animals and to forms of violence embedded in systems of human domination over other species. Against this background, the presentation examines whether Polish legal regulations and the institutional framework for combating domestic violence acknowledge the links between violence against women and animal abuse. In particular, it considers whether law and institutional practice recognize animals as part of the dynamics of domestic violence, or whether they remain invisible victims within existing responses to violence. If these interconnections remain insufficiently recognized, presentation also reflects on what systemic changes might facilitate their recognition and enable more effective responses to violence affecting both women and animals within the domestic sphere.

When Violence and Victims Do Not Fit the Norm: LGBTQ+ Individuals' Experiences of Intimate Partner Violence in Sweden *Susanne Boethius, Lund University*

This study is based on interviews with 28 LGBTQ+ individuals exposed to intimate partner violence (IPV) in Sweden and examines factors that hinder and enable victims to seek, or refrain from seeking, support. The findings show how help-seeking operates across multiple levels; individual, interpersonal, and sociocultural, and is shaped by broader lifetime experiences of stigmatization and responses to sexual orientations and gender identities. These conditions further shape how violence and victimhood are understood and defined by professionals and IPV victims themselves, and how the help-seeking process unfolds. Experience of everyday discrimination, as well as prior interactions with healthcare systems, social institutions, and personal networks, particularly during processes such as coming out, affect whether and how the participants seek support when being exposed to intimate partner violence. Furthermore, access to appropriate formal services was not self-evident, as uncertainty about where to turn when one does not fit the dominant narratives of intimate partner violence, as well as limited societal awareness and knowledge about LGBTQ+ IPV created additional barriers. The participants' experiences often diverged from dominant heteronormative understandings of intimate personal violence, contributing to its invisibility and discouraging disclosure. Help-seeking emerged as a non-linear and dynamic process, shaped by responses from both professionals and personal networks. Concerns about stigma, further victimization, and the potential impact on partners and the broader LGBTQ+ community were found to inhibit disclosure. While the study highlights the need for tailored services, it also underscores the heterogeneity within LGBTQ+ populations, emphasizing the importance of an intersectional approach to understanding and addressing diverse experiences of victims that do not conform to dominant norms of a crime.

Male Victims of Domestic Violence: Clinical, Forensic, and Behavioral Characteristics from a Retrospective Italian Emergency Department Study *Csaba Győry, ELTE University Faculty of Law, Budapest /Institute of Legal Studies, Centre for Social Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences; Barbara Gualco, University of Florence; Defraia Beatrice, University of Florence; Focardi Martina, University of Florence; Bianchi Ilenia, University of Florence*

Background: Although domestic violence (DV) is traditionally framed as affecting women, many victims are men, with 20–40% experiencing DV during their lifetime. Male victimization remains under-recognized owing to stigma, gender-role expectations, and institutional biases that discourage disclosure and delay access to care and legal protection. This study characterized the clinical, forensic, and behavioral features of male DV victims presenting to an Italian Emergency Department, focusing on factors influencing reporting and help-seeking. Methods: A retrospective observational study was conducted on adult male DV victims presenting to the Emergency Department of Careggi University Hospital (Florence, Italy) between January 2017 and December 2022. Demographics, victim–perpetrator relationships, injury patterns, reporting behaviors, and acceptance of

protective interventions were extracted from medical and forensic records. Chi-square tests and multivariable logistic regression identified factors associated with formal reporting to judicial authorities. Results: Eighty male victims were included (mean age 44.2±15.1 years; range 18–90), mostly Italian nationals. More than half (55%) involved intimate partner violence by female partners. Most injuries were minor (≤7 days' prognosis; 78.8%), primarily abrasions and contusions of the head (52.5%), upper limbs (41.3%), and neck (28.8%). Despite seeking emergency care, only 58.8% formally reported the assault, and acceptance of referral to protective services was low (15%). Visible facial injuries (OR=3.85, p=0.004) and female perpetrators (OR=8.23, p<0.001) independently predicted reporting. Documented barriers included perceived stigma (68%), fear of not being believed (45%), and internalized masculine norms discouraging disclosure (52%). Conclusions: Male DV victims are a relevant yet overlooked population shaped by individual and systemic barriers to recognition and support. Even after presenting to emergency services, many remain reluctant to engage legal or protective pathways. These findings underscore the need for clinician awareness, trauma-informed and gender-inclusive screening, forensic documentation, and public health initiatives to reduce stigma and ensure equitable support for all DV victims.

080. Criminology Beyond English: Synthesizing Non-English Evidence Bases

Topic 7: Comparative and Historical Perspectives/Historical Comparisons of Crime (Historical Criminology WG)
Roundtable
2:15 to 3:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.120

This roundtable brings together contributors to the special issue 'Criminology Beyond English: Synthesizing Non-English Evidence Bases', which will be published in Evidence Base in 2027, to reflect on the implications of linguistic barriers in criminological knowledge production and to showcase insights from four linguistic traditions represented in the issue. Despite the increasingly global scope of criminology, much of what is recognised as the field's "evidence base" remains disproportionately shaped by English-language scholarship. This roundtable addresses the epistemic consequences of this imbalance and explores how incorporating non-English research can reshape theoretical, empirical, and methodological debates. The session will feature four papers from the special issue, each synthesising criminological knowledge developed within a distinct linguistic context. Together, these contributions highlight diverse intellectual traditions, including alternative conceptualisations of crime and social control, locally grounded empirical research programmes, and methodological innovations that have received limited attention in English-language literature. The roundtable will identify points of convergence and divergence across contexts, as well as opportunities for cross-fertilisation. Beyond presenting substantive findings, the roundtable will engage with broader questions about the structure of knowledge production in criminology. How do language barriers shape citation practices, theoretical recognition, and policy transfer? To what extent have key concepts in criminology been independently rediscovered due to limited cross-linguistic exchange? And how can scholars, journals, and institutions foster more inclusive and globally representative evidence bases? 1. French-language criminology. Authors: Julien Chopin and Marcelo F. Aebi 2. Contemporary Korean Criminology: Practices, Priorities, and Knowledge Production—A Scoping Review. Authors: Bitna Kim, Hyeokjin Kim and Gibbeum Hong 3. Italian-language criminology. Authors: Stefano Caneppele and Fabio Ferretti 4. Between Doctrine and Data: The Evolution and Limits of Russian Criminology. Authors: Alexandra Lysova

Chairs:
Marcelo F. Aebi, University of Lausanne
David Buil-Gil, The University of Manchester

Discussants:
Bitna Kim, Sam Houston State University
Hyeokjin Kim, Sam Houston State University
Gibbeum Hong, Sam Houston State University
Alexandra Lysova, Simon Fraser University
Stefano Caneppele, University of Lausanne
Fabio Ferretti, University of Siena

081. Violence against women: femicide, neutralisation techniques, alleged suicide, and social and health outcomes

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence (Gender, Crime and Justice WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
2:15 to 3:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.128

This panel addresses a variety of aspects of female violent victimisation. First, prof. dr. Marieke Liem will examine the role migration may play in both perpetrators and victims of femicide drawing on analyses of data from the Dutch Femicide Monitor and national registry data from Statistics Netherlands. Next, Róisín Downes will provide insights into neutralisation techniques used by victims of (attempted) femicide, as identified in interviews with relatives of women killed by their (ex-)partner. Third, Floor van Dalen will, drawing from forensic records, present the extent to which domestic violence preceded deaths of women that were recorded as suicide by forensic physician, potentially pointing to cases of missed femicide. Finally, Merel Sprenger will present associations between female interpersonal violent victimisation and social and health outcomes based on 17 years of general practitioners' records, illustrating that violence against women constitutes a public health problem.

Chair:
Marieke Liem, Leiden University

Participants:
Femicide and the role of migration *Marieke Liem, Leiden University*

It has been suggested that migration plays a discerning role in both perpetrators and victims of femicide. Several hypotheses have been proposed to explain this: migration may be associated with lower socioeconomic position and more mental health problems. Further, status differences within heterosexual couples with a migration background may narrow over time, potentially contributing to the use of intimate partner violence – including lethal violence. In this study, we link data from the Dutch Femicide Monitor to national

registry data from Statistics Netherlands on socioeconomic, health care, and criminal history characteristics. First, we examine to what extent suspects and victims of femicide with a migration background are overrepresented compared to people without a migration background. Second, we explore whether any overrepresentation of individuals with a migration background persists when controlling for socioeconomic, health and criminal history variables. Subgroup analyses will be presented based on individuals' countries of origin. The findings are important for informing societal debates around who commits and who falls victim to femicide.

"I had been drinking too": Neutralisation techniques among victims of (attempted) femicide *Roisín Esther Downes, Institute of Security and Global Affairs, Leiden University*

Aggression and violence can become more frequent and severe over the course of a violent relationship and may ultimately lead to (an attempted) femicide. To be able to cope with the violence, victims sometimes rationalise what has happened by trivialising, reinterpreting or justifying the violence. Such neutralisation techniques used by victims may partly explain why violence can persist. The aim of this study is to identify neutralisation techniques used by victims of femicide and attempted femicide. To this end, we are using data from the Femicide Monitor, which records all cases of femicide in the Netherlands over the past twelve years. To gain a deeper understanding of the nature of the neutralisation techniques used, we draw on dozens of interviews (>20) with the relatives of women killed by their (ex-)partner, combined with analyses of dozens of case files (>50) of female victims who have suffered serious violence and attempted femicide at the hands of their (ex-)partner. The findings have important implications for our theoretical understanding of neutralisation techniques, as well as relevant policy implications for the prevention of femicide.

Hidden violence: an exploration of domestic violence in women who died by suicide *Floor van Dalen, Institute of Security and Global Affairs, Leiden University*

Prior studies show that exposure to violence poses a significant risk factor for suicidality. This is particularly relevant given that, globally, intimate partner violence (IPV) is the most common type of violence against women as nearly one in three women has experienced IPV in their lifetime. In this context, suicide can be directly related to prior exposure to IPV and seen as an escape from the violence, or it can be indirectly related when it is mediated through other processes. Additionally, some cases of suicide are possibly staged suicides, meaning they are homicides made to look a certain way. To further explore the role of violent victimization prior to death, data from forensic physician records was used, spanning from 2015 to 2025, including 545 cases of women that died by suicide. We hypothesize that amongst these women, there will be a significant number of women that follow similar patterns to women that have been killed by their partner or ex-partner. We aim to shed light on the missed violence against women and provide insights for professionals and academics on how to approach these deaths.

Female violent victimisation as a public health problem: associations with health and social outcomes *Merel Sprenger, Institute of Security and Global Affairs, Leiden University*

Women may become victims of various forms of interpersonal violence, and it is well known that violence is associated with health outcomes. Nevertheless, studies investigating associations with health and wellbeing outcomes often focus on a) specific types of violence, and b) specific outcomes, such as either mental health or specific physical conditions. This study therefore aims to, first, examine the association between interpersonal violence and social, mental health, and physical health outcomes amongst women using general practitioner's registration data from 2007 to 2023, adjusting for individual and community level factors. Our first analyses reveal that interpersonal violence is significantly associated with higher odds for experiencing outcomes in all domains studied: social outcomes related to finances/housing, non-romantic relationships, and education/employment, and health outcomes including substance abuse, mental health disorders, disability, somatic, psychological, metabolic, respiratory, gastrointestinal, neurological, cardiovascular, and musculoskeletal problems. For our next analyses, we hypothesise that multiple social and health outcomes will overlap and interact, potentially even indicating a syndemic.

082. Young People's Experiences with Online and Offline Crime: First Findings from the ISRD4 Study

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Juvenile Crime (ISRD WG)
Author meets critics
2:15 to 3:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.138

In this Author Meets Critic session, Young People's Experiences with Online and Offline Crime: First Findings from the ISRD4 Study on Victimization and Offending Across the World, published by Springer (2025) will be discussed. The book has been edited by the ISRD Steering Committee, and has contributions from over 30 international ISRD4 participants. Critics are Manuel Eisner (University of Cambridge), Klaus Boers (University of Muenster), and Jan van Dijk (NSCR).

Critics:
Klaus Boers, University of Muenster
Jan van Dijk, NSCR
Manuel Eisner, University of Cambridge

Book Authors:
Ineke Haen Marshall, Northeastern University
Dirk Enzmann, University of Hamburg
Janne Kivivuori, University of Helsinki
Anna Markina, University of Tartu
Zuzana Podaná, Katedra sociologie, Charles University Prague

083. Critical Criminology: incarceration, surveillance and social control

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Critical Criminology
Paper Session

2:15 to 3:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.141
Chair:
Sergio Grossi, John Jay College (City University of New York)
Participants:

Abolition Reentry: The Case to Expand Proactive Care & End Mass Incarceration & Surveillance *Calvin John Smiley, Hunter College-CUNY*

The concept of "reentry" – the transition from confinement to community – has become a central focus across social science disciplines such as sociology, criminology, psychology, and other related fields since the onset of the 21st century. This attention is drive by the scale of the issue, which is that more than 600,000-700,000 individuals exit state and federal prison facilities each year in the United States, while approximately 9 million people cycle through local jails annually. This vicious cycle of incarceration and reentry constrains both individuals and communities, reinforcing carceral logics and compelling stakeholders – practitioners, organizations, and scholars alike – to continually "do reentry" work. While acknowledging the immediate necessity of reentry support, this paper argues for a long-term abolitionist vision: to eliminate the need for reentry services altogether. Drawing on W.E.B. Du Bois' framework of "abolition democracy" and building off Alex Vitale's abolitionist epistemologies as well as other abolitionists' scholarship such as Angela Davis, Mariame Kaba, Ruth Wilson Gilmore, and more, this paper contends that the very existence and expansion of reentry systems reproduce the inequities generated by carceral regimes. An abolitionist reentry framework critically interrogates the role of organizations and institutions that benefit from the persistence of reentry needs, thereby contributing to ongoing cycles of incarceration and surveillance. At the same time, this framework recognizes the importance of immediate support for those returning to their communities. Using a qualitative content analysis approach, this paper advances an abolitionist framework aimed at reducing reliance on reentry systems. It explores how organizations and communities can resist the expansion of policing, corrections, and surveillance, while building alternative structures of care and support. Ultimately, abolitionist reentry seeks to dismantle the harms of social stratification, economic inequality, and racial hierarchy produced by mass incarceration—and intensified by the expansion of reentry itself.

Between the Penal State and the Social State: Toward a Relational Criminology *Hanna Debska, University of Warsaw; Tomasz Warczok, University of Warsaw*

This paper presents the results of research on the social determinants of the emergence of what Loïc Wacquant calls the "penal state," an approach which traces the origins of this type of state to the specific structure of its administrative field (in Bourdieu's sense), and which is here further extended to include a comparative analysis encompassing all OECD countries. Drawing on geometric data analysis (GDA), and incorporating a wide range of variables relating both to public policies (the levels of redistribution and decommodification, public spending, etc) and to broader social phenomena and structural characteristics (including levels of inequality, unemployment, poverty, net migration, and various types of crime), the study reconstructs the entire international space of countries and their interrelations. On this basis, it becomes possible to identify the complex and multidimensional determinants shaping the orientations of individual countries, which are distributed along a spectrum ranging from highly "penal" to strongly "social" configurations. In this way, Wacquant's binary framework—the penal state ("masculine," "individualistic") as opposed to the social state ("feminine," "collective")—is not only retained but also significantly expanded and reformulated into a more differentiated typology grounded in a multidimensional structure. At the same time, such a relational perspective, while drawing on insights from political economy and from approaches that seek to explain varying degrees of penalization across states within the framework of the "varieties of capitalism," also moves beyond their limitations. Rather than relying on subjectivist typologies or on ostensibly sophisticated models (such as synthetic indexes of social phenomena), which often remain vulnerable to political arbitrariness and to different forms of reductionism, the paper advances a radically relational approach that situates both criminal phenomena and penal policies within a multidimensional configuration of mutually interconnected social and symbolic structures.

Social Capital as a Mediating Mechanism: Neighborhood Disadvantage and Juvenile Offending in a Systemic Control Framework *Meghan Ashly Peuterbaugh, University of Missouri- St. Louis*

Numerous scholars of crime have examined neighborhood disadvantage on juvenile offending, but it is not well understood how measures of social capital may act as a mediator between structural disadvantage and offending patterns over time. This study investigates whether social capital mediates the relationship between neighborhood disadvantage and juvenile offending within the systemic control framework. Moving beyond purely structural explanations of crime, the systemic model conceptualizes neighborhoods as networks of social relationships in which informal social control is maintained by effective socialization and institutional connectedness. Thus, this study asks whether neighborhood disadvantage increases primarily through the erosion and weakening of these relational networks. Utilizing longitudinal data from the Pathways to Desistance Study, this research employs multilevel modeling to examine how neighborhood conditions such as concentrated poverty, residential instability, and racial/ethnic heterogeneity shape individual offending trajectories over time. Social capital is operationalized through measures of perceived cohesion, trust, and informal social control. Mediation is assessed by estimating both direct and indirect pathways between neighborhood disadvantage

and juvenile offending.

The privatisation of the port security and its influence on the risk- taking perception of cocaine distribution a case study in the port of Algeciras *Teresa Martín, Graduated Student of the Utrecht University Global Criminology Master and current student for the EPSO Competitions in the European Institute of Bilbao; Veronika Nagy, Utrecht University*

The semi-private port of Algeciras has been widely known for its key role as a gateway for commerce and illicit cocaine trade to Europe. Focusing on the pivotal role of the private sector as the primary security guarantor for the terminals, especially susceptible for trade, this research employs a qualitative case study approach, combining document analysis and interviews to explore these intricate connections and how this new security approach has is influenced the risk assessments among of port workers. Drawing on from criminological security, and sociological theories, the aim is to explore how port workers anticipate risks. Examining security shifts, the changing dynamics between security agencies and distributors, and the features influencing risk-taking perceptions, the research uncovers a complex and problematic landscape. Despite heightened security measures, the privatisation process introduces vulnerabilities, shaping an environment where organised criminal networks can exploit gaps. This phenomenon will mainly be conceptualised under the theories of deterrence, commodification of security and intersectionality. The findings emphasise the nuanced impact of privatisation of security on individual self-perceptions, risk-taking behaviours, and the interplay with the evolving nature of illicit activities at the port of Algeciras. This current thesis hopes to spot a light on this new security approach - which emerged due to the globalised and neoliberal market system – and its influence on the maritime South Spanish cocaine trade.
Keywords: cocaine organised crime, globalization and neo-liberalism, privatisation of security, ports, Algeciras, commodification

Global South Global Community Safety: APAC "Prisons Without Police" and the Political Economy of Decarceration in Brazil *Sergio Grossi, John Jay College (City University of New York)*

Amid the contradictions of the contemporary penal present, measurable decarceration in some jurisdictions coexists with renewed right-wing investments in aggressive policing, detention, and deportation. Against this backdrop, this presentation examines the Brazilian APAC model (Associação de Proteção e Assistência aos Condenados), often described as "prisons without police," to clarify when harm-reducing innovations in penal execution can support decarceration rather than stabilize incarceration through more legitimate and politically durable forms. APAC emerged in 1972 in São José dos Campos through volunteer-led experimentation with community administration of a deprivation-of-liberty space without conventional correctional-officer staffing. Institutional accounts describe APAC as oriented toward rehabilitation, protection of society, relief for victims, and restorative justice. Its methodology rejects police, weapons, uniforms, and armed officers within its centers, reorganizing custody around shared responsibility, work, education, and sustained civil-society involvement. People serving sentences are referred to as recuperandos, a terminology intended to reject stigma and foreground dignity, transformation, and reintegration. The analysis situates APAC within a Global Community Safety frame and treats it as a Global South innovation in community-based penal governance. Three mechanisms are emphasized. First, APAC shifts custody from coercive to relational security, producing order through routines, co-governance, and non-militarized authority rather than force. Second, APAC "communitarizes" confinement by fostering public participation and sustained contact, preserving relationships and preparing communities for reentry. Third, APAC integrates education and pedagogy, inspired in part by Paulo Freire, treating reintegration as a collective project. At the same time, APAC sharpens the dilemma of decarceration versus reconfiguration. Because it is portrayed as orderly, less costly, and more humane, it can be mobilized to expand penal capacity. The presentation therefore concludes by identifying decarceral conditions: capacity caps, substitution rules, independent oversight, and strong investment in extra-penal social rights.

084. Evidence, Algorithms and AI in Criminal Adjudication

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Courts and Sentencing and Penal Decision Making (Sentencing and Penal Decisionmaking WG)
Paper Session
2:15 to 3:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.147

Chair:
Andrei Zarafiu, Associate Professor habil., Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest

Participants:

Equitable Calculability and Algorithmic Continuities: How Machine Learning Extends Actuarial Governance in Criminal Justice Risk Assessment *Kelly Hannah-Moffat, University of Toronto (Canada); Fernando Avila, Brock University*

This paper critically examines the role of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) models in recidivism risk assessment, interrogating their claims to neutrality, efficiency, and fairness. While AI-driven models are often framed as a new step in the race to enhance predictive accuracy and mitigate bias, they largely reinforce long-standing actuarial logics that categorize and manage penal subjects through probabilistic risk classifications. This paper integrates literature from actuarial justice, algorithmic governance, and AI ethics to situate the rise of AI within a historical trajectory of risk-based penal governance. We argue that AI-driven risk governance operates through three interlocking dynamics: an expansion of reach (incorporating new data sources and domains), a continuity of actuarial rationality (the same probabilistic logic of risk classification), and an

epistemic intensification (a qualitative deepening in how knowledge about risk is produced, rendered opaque, and made progressively harder to contest). Machine learning models inherit systemic biases from criminal justice datasets, complicating efforts to achieve equitable outcomes. Efforts to "debias" AI risk assessment tools often obscure the structural inequalities embedded within penal systems, reconfiguring rather than challenging the mechanisms of social control. By reframing AI as a continuation of actuarial penality rather than a disruption to it, the paper highlights the urgent need for critical engagement with how AI shapes contemporary penal decision-making and whether it serves to reform justice or merely provides a sophisticated technical veneer for the existing inequities and punitive structures.

Fair and Gender-Sensitive AI in Courts: Advancing Recidivism Risk Assessment for Transparent Sentencing and Penal Decision-Making *Inês de Castro, IPS_Innovative Prison Systems; Sofia Almeida, IPS_Innovative Prison Systems; Claire Machan, IPS_Innovative Prison Systems; João Gomes, IPS_Innovative Prison Systems; Álvaro García Recuero, IPS_Innovative Prison Systems*

Across Europe, judicial and correctional systems increasingly rely on risk assessment tools to inform decisions on sentencing, conditional release and supervision. Yet longstanding challenges persist: assessments frequently draw on incomplete or biased datasets, and machine-learning models can unintentionally reproduce gendered or socio-demographic disparities. Although recent EU and CoE standards emphasise the need for transparent, explainable and non-discriminatory AI, operational models that meet these requirements remain limited. This paper presents results from the FAIR-PReSONS project, an EU-funded initiative developing a bias-aware, gender-sensitive AI system to support recidivism risk assessment. Conducted across Greece, Portugal, Bulgaria and Cyprus, the project responds to the growing adoption of data-driven tools by aligning technological development with legal, ethical and transparency standards. Findings from the project's initial gender analysis will be presented, demonstrating how AI-based predictions may differentially affect women and men across diverse backgrounds, a key issue for sentencing and release decisions. A central methodological contribution is the creation of the Reoffending Risk Assessment Ontology (RRAO), which semantically structures judicial/correctional data to enhance interpretability, cross-country comparability and bias detection. This work was accompanied by the development of harmonised recidivism-related datasets and Linked Open Data resources, enabling interoperable modelling across partner jurisdictions. Early system testing indicates that integrating gender-sensitive variables, semantic enrichment and adversarial debiasing techniques can reduce disparate error rates, while maintaining predictive performance. Training sessions with judicial professionals further demonstrate that the FAIR-PReSONS system is valued as a "judicial co-pilot," offering explainable reasoning rather than deterministic outputs and supporting evidence-informed decision-making. Finally, an ethics-based code of conduct clarifying the respective responsibilities of AI tools and judicial actors reinforces the project's commitment to transparency and human oversight. By advancing an open and legally compliant model for high-risk AI, FAIR-PReSONS contributes to criminological debates on algorithmic fairness, judicial discretion and the governance of predictive technologies in penal decision-making.

The impact of AI on the assessment of evidence in criminal proceedings *Justyna Głębocka, University of Warsaw*

Audiovisual recordings and photographs have become one of the key sources of evidence in criminal proceedings. Whilst materials documenting procedural activities generally do not raise significant doubts (photographic or audiovisual recording of traces and evidence by law enforcement agencies), the growing importance of evidence obtained by private individuals (e.g. mobile phone recordings) may give rise to serious problems regarding the assessment of its reliability. The rapid development of artificial intelligence-based tools enables not only the modification of existing files, but also the generation of realistic yet fictitious visual and audiovisual material. It should be emphasised that the techniques used are becoming increasingly sophisticated and may be difficult to detect. Consequently, traditional assumptions regarding the assessment of this type of evidence may prove insufficient. The aim of this presentation is to identify and systematise the problems that the use of AI technology poses for the process of assessing audiovisual evidence in criminal proceedings. In particular, the analysis will address concerns regarding the need for expert evidence, the scope of the parties' evidential initiative, and the court's obligations arising from the principle of substantive truth. The paper seeks to organise the key areas of risk and identify directions for further reflection on adapting the model of evidentiary proceedings to the challenges associated with the development of AI technology.

The Exclusion of Evidence in Criminal Decision-Making. The Issue of Technical Surveillance in the Private Space of a Passenger Car *Andrei Zarafiu, Associate Professor habil., Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest*

The essential prerequisite for the fair and equitable resolution of criminal cases is the use of evidence obtained under conditions of strict legality and fairness. Abuses resulting from the illegal acquisition of evidence through procedures that violate privacy must be identified and sanctioned. This study takes as its starting point the European regulatory framework for the protection of privacy during criminal investigations, as well as the compliance of these standards with national regulations in Romania. The analysis will then focus on the specific scenario of technical surveillance inside a car located in a public area to determine to what extent photographing people inside the car from the outside should be considered an intrusion into private space. Consideration will also be given to issues regarding the use, in the criminal

decision-making process, of evidence obtained outside the criminal proceedings by extrajudicial bodies.

085. Private security and plural policing: new developments in national and international contexts

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

2:15 to 3:30 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.152

This panel examines the role, nature, practices, and accountability of private security from several perspectives. It focuses on both private security companies and private military companies, and offers new insights into a wide range of relevant topics: (1) occupational culture among young private security guards; (2) the role of private enterprises in the penal system; (3) the study of developments in private security from a normative perspective; and (4) accountability in relation to private military companies. Taken together, the panel highlights recent research on private security and plural policing in both national and international contexts.

Chair:

Pieter Leloup, Ghent University/Free University of Brussels

Participants:

Occupational culture among young private security guards: An empirical mixed methods study in Belgium *Natasha Dewulf, Ghent University; Pieter Leloup, Ghent University/Free University of Brussels*

Occupational culture, or work culture, plays a central role in shaping how frontline security actors interpret their tasks, respond to challenges and interact with both colleagues and the public they police. While occupational culture has been widely explored in public policing, its application to private policing remains limited. Given the increasing reliance on private security guards within contemporary security governance, their interaction with the public and democratic forms of policing, understanding their occupational culture is essential. This study examined the work values of young private security guards in Belgium (< 35 years old). A mixed-methods design was employed, including a national self-report survey of young private security workers (N = 577) and ten semi-structured in-depth interviews. Findings show that young workers' values are highly driven by (1) a certain degree of distrust towards (people in) their work environment and (2) a constant awareness of danger. Additional analyses show significant differences across gender, age group and region: women and workers aged 18–20 perceive a more pronounced machismo culture than their male and older counterparts, while guards in the Brussels Capital Region value action and pragmatism more strongly compared to other regions. Providing one of the first empirical examinations of occupational culture within a young generation of private security workers, this study offers a foundation for future comparative (cross-contextual) research. It supports ongoing debates on professionalisation and the broader role of private security in society.

The capital of private enterprises in the Belgian penal system *Amandine Vanscheeuwijck, Ghent University*

The involvement of private actors in the Belgian penitentiary system has expanded significantly, reflecting broader international trends. Their participation spans multiple domains, including security services, catering, detainee employment, prison construction, and healthcare provision. Recent developments in particular – such as the construction, financing and ownership of new prisons, as well as the private operation of transition homes and Forensic Psychiatric Centres (FPC) – illustrate a substantial administrative shift towards private-sector engagement based on specialised expertise. To understand how private parties have acquired such pivotal roles, this study employs Pierre Bourdieu's field theory ('théorie des champs'). Drawing on his concept of capital, it examines how economic (financial and budgetary), social (educational and experiential), legal (sensu stricto and contractual), cultural and symbolic capital, alongside accountability and perceived legitimacy, contribute to the acquisition, maintenance and expansion of positions of power within the penal field. This framework illuminates why private enterprises now occupy such influential roles in Belgian penal execution. The findings are based on seventeen interviews with nineteen respondents, complemented by an analysis of 163 reports of the Belgian Parliamentary Commission of Justice. Together, these data shed light on the factors enabling private enterprises to secure, sustain and potentially broaden their presence within the system, while also highlighting the central role of legislation and regulatory structures. The analysis shows that while social capital derived from education, skills, experience and learning processes is essential for obtaining prominent positions in the carceral field, substantial financial surpluses may provoke distrust and hinder perceived reliability. Nonetheless, non profit actors hold significant economic relevance, and the symbolic value of voluntary organisations remains crucial in safeguarding their place within penal governance. Ultimately, ensuring the proper treatment of detainees – both for their reintegration and for public safety – requires placing the right actors in the right positions. This contribution aims to support that endeavour.

Private Military Companies: Human Rights Challenges, Regulation and the United Nations *Alicia De Vuyst, Ghent University*

This presentation examines private military companies (PMCs) from two complementary perspectives. First, it considers how international legal frameworks and contracting practices shape accountability for PMC-related human rights violations. Second, it explores how PMCs are perceived by United Nations human rights bodies. The presentation combines doctrinal and policy-oriented legal analysis of relevant international rules and soft-law instruments with an empirical qualitative content analysis of 33 UN human rights body reports published between 2011 and 2024. These reports were systematically reviewed to identify recurring themes over time, including human rights violations, accountability, and regulatory responses. Across both parts of the analysis, PMCs emerge as high-risk actors because of their potential involvement in human rights and international humanitarian law

violations, as well as ongoing concerns regarding transparency and accountability. The legal analysis suggests that existing international rules address PMC activity only partially, largely because of continuing definitional and status-classification difficulties. Soft-law instruments can provide guidance and help set standards, but they remain heavily dependent on voluntary compliance and effective state enforcement. The UN reports offer a critical yet nuanced perspective. They stress the importance of civilian protection and draw attention to the risk that PMCs may undermine neutrality and independence, particularly in humanitarian contexts. At the same time, they point to growing demands for clearer regulation, stronger accountability mechanisms, effective complaint procedures, and greater state responsibility and oversight. While the use of PMCs is presented as a measure of last resort, the reports also acknowledge the UN's own reliance on private providers. In practice, UN oversight appears to remain largely procurement-driven and administrative, while also being limited by state jurisdiction and restricted transparency in subcontracting chains.

Revisiting the State Monopoly on Violence: A Norm-Enhanced Multiple Streams Approach to the Privatisation of Security in Europe *Antonia Milzkott, Ghent University*

This research contributes to the study of private security by explicitly linking the international norm of the state monopoly on violence to policy-making processes. Adopting a constructivist perspective, it conceptualizes norms as a distinct and dynamic dimension shaping Kingdon's traditional Multiple Streams Framework (MSF). Rather than treating norms as static constraints, this contribution shows how they influence the agenda-setting and policy-making processes, while also being continuously reshaped through policy decisions and practice. Applied to European security governance, this approach demonstrates how the privatisation of security emerges from the interaction between crises, available policy solutions, and political pressures, mediated by contested interpretations of such norms as the state monopoly on violence. By bridging insights from international relations on norm dynamics with criminological approaches to plural policing, this research offers both an interdisciplinary framework and a novel analytical lens for understanding private security as a site of ongoing normative negotiation rather than a straightforward process of market expansion.

086. From allegations to evidence: Monitoring police conduct towards migrants in Croatia

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)
Roundtable
2:15 to 3:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.158

This roundtable examines how alleged police violence and other fundamental-rights concerns in migration control can be studied more rigorously, moving beyond both unverified accusation and institutional self-exoneration. Using the Croatian Independent Monitoring Mechanism (IMM) as a point of departure, the discussion will address how police conduct towards migrants can be monitored through independent, evidence-based and methodologically transparent oversight. The Croatian IMM is a civil-society-led mechanism mandated to monitor police actions in border surveillance, irregular migration and international protection, with particular emphasis on non-refoulement, the prohibition of collective expulsion, and the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment. Its work combines unannounced field visits, document and data review, case-file analysis and migrant interviews. The roundtable will present selected findings from Croatia's 2025 monitoring cycle, during which the IMM conducted 53 missions, 202 monitoring operations, 48 green-border checks and 52 migrant interviews. The findings point neither to a simple narrative of systemic abuse nor to a conclusion that all safeguards function effectively. Rather, they reveal a more complex picture: in most monitored interview-based cases no irregularity in police conduct was established, yet monitoring also detected specific problems, including indications of delayed access to the procedure for expressing an intention to seek international protection at certain border crossings. By bringing together perspectives from criminology, sociology, law and human-rights monitoring, this roundtable will explore and hopefully spark a discussion on how independent monitoring mechanisms can generate credible evidence, detect patterns that may escape official records, and contribute to a more nuanced European debate on policing, migration governance and accountability.

Chair:
Hans-Jörg Albrecht, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law; Balkan Criminology

Discussants:
Anna-Maria Getoš Kalac, University of Zagreb Faculty of Law
Petra Šprem, University in Zagreb, Faculty of Law
Pero Mihaljević, The Office of the National Security Council

087. POLWG Panel 17: Exploring the Culture of Policing: Solidarity, Silence, and Change

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)
Paper Session
2:15 to 3:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.162

Chair:
Richard John, University of Portsmouth

Participants:

Diverging Attitudes? Gender Differences among Swiss Police Aspirants *Maria Kamenowski, Zhaw*

Understanding the work-related attitudes of police officers has become increasingly important, as such attitudes offer insights into commitment to the organisation, intentions to remain in the profession, and the long term stability of the police workforce. In the context of ongoing initiatives aimed at enhancing the representation of women within the police force, it is important to examine the question of whether and how these attitudes evolve in a distinct manner for both men and women. This paper presents the findings from a longitudinal study that followed a cohort of police aspirants in Switzerland across four quantitative survey

waves throughout their two years of training. The quantitative data was complemented by qualitative interviews. The analysis focuses on the development of work-related attitudes, such as for example, organisational commitment. The paper also explores the extent to which gender-specific experiences, including the perception of a male-dominated police culture and attitudes towards women in policing, may be potential influencing factors that shape these orientations. By systematically comparing the perspectives of women and men, this paper makes an empirical contribution to our understanding of gender-specific dynamics within the Swiss police force. The findings provide a basis for an evidence-based discussion on diversity and organisational culture in a policing context.

"He Is One of Us": Ethnographic Reflections on French and British Policing and Implications for Comparative Police Culture. *Damien Cassan, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Portsmouth (UK)*

This paper reflects on a long-term comparative ethnographic study conducted within the French and British police, exploring police socialisation, learning of the job, and organisational culture. The research involved extended fieldwork, including residential stays in police training schools, and many ride-alongs and pedestrian patrols within four British forces and three departmental directorates of the French Police nationale. The paper focuses on the experience and role of the researcher within both policing contexts, a subtle grey area between an "insider" and an "outsider" position. Access to fieldwork with the French police is notoriously difficult, but once access is granted, the researcher becomes "one of us", crossing this clear frontier between insiders and outsiders in the French policing context. While this enabled the trust and proximity necessary for fruitful ethnographic work, it also generated significant role ambiguity: the researcher was frequently treated, and presented to the public, as a member of the police, blurring the boundaries between observer and participant and raising ethical concerns regarding consent, positionality, and accountability, especially in the context of very difficult police–community relationships in France. In contrast, fieldwork in England was characterised by more formalised access procedures, clearer role demarcation, and greater emphasis on public consent, reflecting different institutional norms and accountability frameworks. More broadly, the paper argues that ethnography remains uniquely suited to uncovering the implicit norms, power relations, and dynamics of police socialisation, and that beyond providing rich, in-depth data on police learning and police socialisation, the ethnographic research method itself —the experience and role of the ethnographer— offers very revealing and thought-provoking insights into differing police models, police–community relationships, and institutional cultures on both sides of the Channel.

Pracademics Under Pressure: The Persistence of Two-World Thinking in the Swedish Police *Magnus Persson, Department of Social Studies, Linnaeus University; Cecilia Jonsson, Department of Criminology and Police Work, Linnaeus University*

Pracademics are increasingly highlighted as a solution with the potential to ease the organisational, and cultural friction that exists between the academic system and the Police Authority. Experience from both organisations is assumed to have such bridging effects that the best of both worlds may exert decisive influence over inter-organisational work. At the same time, several studies testify that this bridging work is ultimately characterised by what has been described as "two world thinking," that is, two organisational cultures operating in parallel and producing precisely the kind of friction that pracademics are said to overcome. This study critically discusses the concept of the pracademic, drawing both on the experiences of Swedish police officers with PhDs and on how the debate on the academisation of police education in Sweden has been conducted by key stakeholders. The results demonstrate a pervasive two world thinking problem at the organisational level, which affects individual pracademics' recognition and room for manoeuvre in their efforts to bridge the inter-organisational discrepancy between the Police and the academic system.

Speaking Up or Staying Silent: Exploring Ethical Disclosure in workplace culture in the Police Service *Richard John, University of Portsmouth*

Recent inquiries into policing have highlighted persistent cultural and organisational barriers to reporting misconduct, including fear of retaliation, reduced trust in leadership, and strong in-group loyalty norms. However, there remains limited empirical research examining how these factors shape the decision-making processes of police officers and staff when confronted with unethical behaviour. This study explores the psychological, cultural, and organisational dynamics underpinning ethical disclosure and silence within a UK police force. Drawing on data collected through an anonymous mixed-methods online survey, the research examines how factors such as organisational culture, leadership, institutional trust, and group dynamics influence decisions to speak up or remain silent. The study also considers the perceived risks associated with disclosure, including career implications, peer judgement, and organisational response. The survey captures both quantitative and qualitative data from serving police staff across a range of roles and departments. Quantitative data is analysed using descriptive and inferential statistical techniques, while qualitative responses are examined using reflexive thematic analysis to identify recurring patterns in experiences and perceptions of disclosure. By focusing on the interplay between individual psychology and organisational context, this research aims to contribute to ongoing discussions on police culture, accountability, and professional integrity. The findings will offer insights to inform leadership practices, reporting systems, and organisational strategies designed to foster environments in which ethical concerns can be raised safely and effectively.

088. Understanding Trauma in Context of Violence

Prevention: Children, Young People and Practitioners.
Topic 4: Victimology/Policy and Prevention of Victimization (Victimology WG)
Roundtable
2:15 to 3:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.168

This roundtable brings together researchers from the Centre for Violence, Victimisation and Vulnerability (CV3) at the University of Hull in the UK to discuss how their research engages with the concept of trauma in the prevention of violence. The team will start by briefly sketching their research into trauma/trauma informed approaches in education including vicarious trauma in staff, surveys designed to understand trauma in young people/trauma, child exploitation and trauma, and domestic abuse before asking others in the room to share their thoughts. Drawing on a range of empirical research projects the team will share their insights into the following topics: 1. What is the relationship between trauma and violence prevention? 2. How can researchers conduct trauma-informed research with children and young people who are at risk of violence? 3. Are there any strategies that can protect children, young people and practitioners from re-traumatisation? 4. When can past trauma disrupt the identification and support for children, young people and practitioners who routinely face violence in their homes, communities and workplaces? These questions will be used to stimulate discussion during the roundtable. The aim is by collectively exploring the opportunities, obstacles, contradictions and limitations of thinking about violence prevention through a trauma lens that the roundtable will generate new ideas and potential collaborations for publication and / or bids that will explore how researchers from different countries approach the intersection of trauma and violence prevention.

Chair:
Victoria Burton, University of Hull

Discussants:
Simon Green, University of Hull
Nicola O'Leary, University of Hull
Charlotte Victoria Russell, The University of Hull
Bethany Darby, University of Hull

089. Preventing Secondary Victimization Through the Méndez Principles for Vulnerable Victims- Comparative approach
Topic 4: Victimology/Policy and Prevention of Victimization (Victimology WG)
Roundtable
2:15 to 3:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.172

This topic explores the critical intersection of criminal justice, human rights, and trauma-informed care in few European countries. It focuses on how implementing the Méndez Principles can effectively prevent the re-traumatization of vulnerable victims (such as children, survivors of sexual assault or human trafficking victims, etc.) during their interaction with the justice system (primarily law enforcement, the judiciary), public protection system and health services. For vulnerable victims, harsh interrogation tactics, victim-blaming questions, and the pressure to repeatedly recount traumatic events can be as damaging as the original crime. By applying the Méndez Principles, authorities can actively prevent secondary victimization through several key practices: rapport building, empathy, trauma-informed questioning, active risk assessment, preservation of dignity.

Chair:
Aura Preda, Spiru Haret University Bucharest

Discussants:
Anzelika Baneviciene, Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania)
Fenice Valentina Valenti, University of Catanzaro

090. Measuring and Responding to Victimization: Costs, Impacts and Emerging Harms
Topic 4: Victimology/Consequences of Victimization (Victimology WG)
Paper Session
2:15 to 3:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.510

Chair:
Martyna Gembal, University of Warsaw

Participants:

About Victimization Surveys in Romania: Merits and Limits
USH - SJSA Preda Aura, Institute of Legal Research - Romanian Academy

The victimization surveys are crucial criminological tools used to measure the true extent of crime; they help to reduce the "dark figure of crime". The presentation aims are: identifying how many and what types of crimes occur without ever being brought to the attention of law enforcement, measuring citizens' actual fear of crime and their general perception of safety within their neighborhoods and cities and understanding the specific reasons why victims choose not to report certain crimes. To achieve these goals, we will analyze the results of a victimization survey applied in Romania this year. Also, the methodological instrument will be introduced along with its advantages and limits and, as conclusion, we will draw the impact and importance of the victimization surveys both at a legislative and administrative levels.

Food Fraud - A violation of everyone's right to adequate food
Pamela Kerschke-Risch, University of Hamburg

Food crime is a global and pervasive problem that harms consumers in many ways. The aim of my presentation is firstly to illustrate the impact food fraud can have. Secondly, demands for an adequate visualization of the victims are substantiated. Using various examples of fraud, the financial, health and ethical consequences for those affected are presented and discussed against the background of victimological issues. Of particular relevance here is the right to adequate food (Art. 11, UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1999), which explicitly formulates the demand for food that also takes into account non-nutrient-based requirements in ethical or ideological terms. It also discusses why there is hardly any public awareness of the problem of food fraud and why the damage can hardly be quantified in monetary terms. It calls for those affected by serious food fraud to be given help in the form of victims' assistance and for their status as victims to be recognized. In the context of food fraud, it is not only important whether those affected see themselves as victims, but also how

they are perceived by the public. Everyone has a right to receive food that corresponds to their personal convictions. It must be guaranteed by the state or authorities that food complies with the declarations. All people must have the right to receive the food that meets their wishes and needs. In this context, not only health related, but also different religious, moral and ethical convictions must be taken into account. And the victims of food crime must be recognized as 'real' victims.

The effects of experienced violence on political engagement among German politicians *Philipp Müller, Criminological Research Institute of Lower Saxony; Anne-Kathrin Kreft, Criminological Research Institute of Lower Saxony; Arne Dreißgacker, Criminological Research Institute of Lower Saxony*

This paper examines whether experiences of aggression and violence against politicians in Germany have mobilizing or demobilizing effects on their political engagement. While an emerging body of research documents the prevalence and forms of such incidents, less is known about how victims themselves respond in terms of continued participation, adaptation, or even withdrawal from their political roles. The study is primarily based on qualitative data generated within the project "Aggression and Violence against Politicians in Germany" at the Criminological Research Institute of Lower Saxony (KFN). The analysis draws on 21 semi-structured interviews with politicians at the federal, state, and local levels, focusing on their subjective meaning-making and coping processes. Quantitative data from quantitative online survey of German politicians at all political levels conducted in 2024 (n = 1,479) are used to contextualize the phenomenon and illustrate its broader scope, rather than to provide the main analytical basis. The findings reveal heterogeneous effects: while some victims report demobilizing consequences such as withdrawal from public visibility, reduced engagement or considerations of leaving office, others describe forms of resilience and even increased motivation to remain politically active. Rather than a uniform effect, exposure to violence appears to trigger different trajectories that reshape political engagement in complex ways, with some politicians exhibiting both manifestations of demobilization and increased mobilization. Qualitative results highlight the importance of contextual factors, including perceived institutional and social support as well as personal coping strategies. By foregrounding the perspectives of affected politicians, the paper contributes to a more nuanced understanding of the consequences of political violence in democratic contexts. It shows that exposure to aggression does not produce uniform outcomes but leads to differentiated patterns of adaptation, with potential implications for political representation and democratic resilience.

The price paid for mobility. How might victimisation by road traffic accident offence impact one's life? *Martyna Gembal, University of Warsaw*

The problem of traffic safety remains one of the important legal and social issues encountered by rapidly growing and changing societies. While industrialisation and urbanisation led to the supersession of former modes of transportation through the promotion of increasingly novel ones, threats posed by participation in a broadly understood mobility were not eliminated. Moreover, some would argue that the probability and severity of possible harm became even greater, especially in developing countries. These threats manifest as involvement in various traffic incidents, which are considered crimes and misdemeanours, albeit differently punished and defined in assorted states. Efforts are continuously undertaken to create an adequate catalogues of acts against communication safety as well as appropriate legal responses to them. However, beyond the many current difficulties, one thing is incontestable: involvement in some of these traffic incidents has great potential to entail severe consequences in terms of physical and psychological well-being as well as socio-economic position. These repercussions are also visible within the society as a whole and may pose particularly high risk to specific groups of victims, such as vulnerable road users (VRUs). I will present this by referring to the results of my own research conducted on 308 randomly sampled court cases involving road traffic accidents, complementing this with knowledge obtained through the findings of other researchers. As systemic and even non-governmental help is often insufficient, especially in cases yielding the most severe consequences, further changes should also consider this area; not only defining new crimes or changing the range of applicable penalties. The first step to achieving this is certainly gaining information possessing the power to set the right direction and goals for future actions.

091. Children, young people, criminalisation and criminal liability

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Juvenile Justice and Children's Rights (Juvenile Justice WG)

Paper Session

2:15 to 3:30 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.511

Chair:

Claire Fitzpatrick, Lancaster University

Participants:

Considerations on Juvenile Delinquency in Romania and the Implications of Criminal Liability for Minors *Lamya-Diana Hărătău, "Nicolae Titulescu" University - Faculty of Law, Criminal Law Department*

Juvenile delinquency in Romania is a pressing issue for society, as the causes of criminal behavior are not fully understood, preventing citizens from taking steps to prevent such conduct. Furthermore, the social reality in Romania has sparked public debate regarding the need to lower the age of criminal responsibility for minors to under 14 years of age. This study aims to thoroughly analyze what exactly drives a young person to commit crimes and what the state's response should be to prevent, on the one hand, primary criminal behavior, and on the other hand, recidivism among minors.

Developmental considerations in sentencing: A qualitative

analysis of the application of the juvenile criminal law on young adults *Lisanne Timmerman, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; Janique Kroese, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; Anne-Marie Slotboom, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; André van der Laan, WODC (Research and Data Centre), the Netherlands / Leiden Law School, University of Leiden, the Netherlands*

Young adults are consistently overrepresented in crime statistics. Within the field of criminology, there is broad consensus that age and crime are strongly related: offending increases during adolescence, peaks around the age of 18, and then gradually declines. Neurological and psychological research indicates that key cognitive functions continue to develop into the mid-twenties, and these functions are linked to criminal behavior and persistence in offending. Given these developmental patterns, the Adolescent Criminal Law (ASR) was introduced in the Netherlands in 2014. This law allows young adults aged 18 to 23 to be sentenced under juvenile criminal law when "the personality of the suspect" or "the circumstances of the offense" provide ground for doing so. Although these criteria are broad, the policy theory underlying the ASR assumes that the developmental stage of the young should be the primary consideration in determining whether the ASR should be applied. The idea is that a young adult offender with immature neurological or psychosocial development will benefit from the pedagogical approach of the juvenile justice system. This developmental focus is intended to promote resocialization, which is expected to lower the risk of recidivism. This study examines the considerations of experts and judges in applying the ASR. A total of 298 verdicts from 2020 to 2025 were analyzed qualitatively. In half of these cases, juvenile criminal law was applied and in the other half the adult criminal law was applied. The study explores how experts and judges interpret the concept of "immature development", and what type of support they think these young adults need. In this presentation, the results of the analysis will be discussed.

The Line Between Diversion and Conviction in Juvenile Assault Cases *Elisa Silvennoinen, University of Eastern Finland; Tarja Koskela, University of Eastern Finland; Mikko Aaltonen, Faculty of Law, University of Eastern Finland*

Assaults involving juvenile suspects constitute a significant category of criminal cases, yet many do not result in prosecution or conviction. This article examines how decisions to restrict pre-trial investigations, waive charges, or convict are justified in assault cases involving suspects aged 15–17 and victims under 18 in the Finnish criminal process. Rather than seeking to measure the frequency of different outcomes, the study focuses on the justificatory reasoning through which authorities construct the line between diversionary responses and conviction. The analysis is based on a qualitative content analysis of prosecutorial and judicial decisions concerning juvenile assault cases. The data consist of a sample of decisions to restrict pre-trial investigations, decisions to waive charges, and court judgments. The study examines the considerations invoked by authorities and how these relate to the legal framework governing criminal responsibility, prosecutorial discretion, and sentencing. The findings show that diversionary decisions and convictions are justified through a contextual assessment that combines legal and normative considerations. Decisions to restrict investigations or waive charges frequently refer to perceived sufficiency of non-penal responses such as mediation, the minor nature of the offence, the circumstances of the parties and the youth of the suspect. Convictions are justified on legal grounds, specifically by establishing that the statutory elements of the offence are fulfilled. The factors mentioned above are relevant primarily to the determination of the appropriate sentence. The results suggest that the boundary between diversion and conviction is constructed through discretionary legal reasoning rather than determined solely by formal legal criteria. By analysing how authorities justify both diversionary and punitive outcomes, the article contributes to a deeper understanding of how criminal responsibility is operationalised in practice in cases of juvenile violence and highlights the central role of discretionary reasoning in the application of criminal law to young offenders.

Unregistered Childrens homes and child exploitation *Paul John Nelson, Anglia Ruskin University; sarah Colley, Policing Institute for the Eastern Region*

This paper examines the prevalence of unregistered children's homes in England and Wales and their relationship to child criminal and sexual exploitation. Despite accommodating some of the most vulnerable children, these settings remain poorly understood, under-regulated and difficult to quantify. Using a mixed-methods design, the study combined Freedom of Information requests to local authorities with semi-structured interviews with practitioners from policing, local authorities and non-governmental organisations. The findings identified key themes concerning the difficulty of establishing the true prevalence of unregistered homes and the number of children placed within them, the concentration and intensification of pre-existing vulnerabilities within weakly regulated settings, patterns of exploitation shaped by peer dynamics, social media and place-based risks, and practice challenges arising from fragmented accountability, poor information-sharing and inconsistent safeguarding responses. The paper argues that unregistered children's homes create structural conditions in which exploitation risk is heightened and concludes that urgent systemic reform is required across regulation, commissioning and child-centred safeguarding practice.

Dismantling the Care-Criminalisation Pipeline: Where could the evidence-base lead us? *Claire Fitzpatrick, Lancaster University*

This talk charts what is currently known about the link between care-experience (e.g. time spent in foster or residential care) and youth justice involvement, drawing on insights from England and Wales, as well as other jurisdictions (Fitzpatrick & Staines,

forthcoming 2027). It argues that a genuine commitment to learning from research, and to evidence-based policy and practice, could enable the destruction of the care-criminalisation pipeline that has stubbornly persisted over time and place. There is nothing inevitable about this link. Yet recent efforts to address it in England and Wales, including implementing protocols aimed at preventing unnecessary criminalisation in care and improving support for those with care-experience in custody, reveal a number of tensions and dilemmas in creating sustainable change. Ultimately, it is argued that a radical future vision should involve the promotion of a child-first society that goes beyond the youth justice system, a raising of the minimum age of criminal responsibility and a commitment to addressing injustice at the intersections of care and justice.

092. EUROC Panel 3. Financial Crimes

Topic 2: Types of Offending/White collar Crime, Organizational Crime, Corporate Crime, Financial Crime (EUROC)

Paper Session

2:15 to 3:30 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.516

Chair:

Trevor Calafato, University of Malta

Participants:

Algorithmic Criminology: Investment Fraud as a Form of White-Collar Crime in Poland *Szymon Michał Buczyński, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland*

In the contemporary financial sector, there is a marked rise in identity-theft-based fraud, a complex criminal strategy where perpetrators misappropriate the reputation of established institutions to orchestrate unauthorized capital movements. This research investigates the "illusionary economy" that sustains these activities, redirecting academic attention from hardware weaknesses to the deliberate construction of social and institutional credibility. Utilizing a white-collar crime framework, the analysis explores how criminal networks exploit the inherent trust within global fiscal systems and leverage the "veneer of legality." A triangulated qualitative research design was utilized, combining the examination of deceptive investment marketing and official police documentation with exclusive primary insights gathered from interviews with defrauded individuals, money mules, and a convicted perpetrator. The results demonstrate that the criminal modus operandi has transitioned into an automated enterprise, where psychological manipulation is intensified by generative AI, deepfakes, and synthetic voice technology. The study identifies a two-tier victimization model: the primary investment scam is often compounded by a "recovery room" scheme, where fraudsters pose as regulatory bodies to exploit victims a second time. The high level of specialization and cross-border cooperation inherent in these crimes creates a growing "enforcement deficit" for traditional policing. Consequently, the paper argues for a multi-disciplinary response—merging legal theory, digital forensics, and behavioral science, while emphasizing the vital role of bottom-up social initiatives in fostering digital literacy and public resilience. This research was supported by the National Science Centre (Poland) through the Preludium-21 program (grant no. 2022/45/N/HS5/04118).

Folk Economics and Retail Investor Vulnerability to Fraud in Cryptocurrency Markets *Benedikt Lehmann, ELTE Social Science Research Centre, Institute for Legal Studies, Budapest, Hungary*

Cryptocurrencies emerged with the promise of trustless financial systems, offering a decentralised alternative to traditional institutions amidst anti-institutional sentiment. However, this paper argues that rather than eliminating trust, decentralised markets have merely shifted toward folk economics; a system of informal, peer-to-peer financial advice. Drawing on online ethnographic research and qualitative analysis of online community discussions, this study demonstrates that retail investors often rely on tribal cues and social signals. The paper illustrates how expert-led due diligence is replaced by 'animal spirits'; market behaviours driven by emotion, social proof, and collective optimism. Within these spaces, trust is delegated to influential community figures and sustained through peer validation. This social infrastructure transforms financial participation into a moralised performance of identity, where risky behaviours such as 'HODLing' (Holding On For Dear Life) and 'buying the dip' are reframed as virtues of ideological commitment. By embedding deceptive schemes within the community's shared rhetoric of autonomy and resistance to state control, these normative preferences can be exploited. As a result, the retreat to folk knowledge increases vulnerability to victimisation. Moreover, by rationalising financial losses as momentary sacrifices for a decentralised future, community narratives provide cover for exploitative actors. Ultimately, the paper argues that the imaginary of trustless and decentralised financial markets in which participants are commanded to DYOR (Do Your Own Research) is a psycho-social manifestation that sustains cryptocurrencies' inherent negative tendency to zero-sum loss whether through downside risk, bubbles and crashes or outright fraud.

Understanding Economic Crime amongst UK Businesses: A Mixed Methods Examination *Katherine Weaver, UK Home Office; Iona Woodbridge, UK Home Office; Jayesh Navin Shah, Ipsos; Caroline Paskell, IPSOS*

Introduction: Using a robust mixed methods approach, this study delivers groundbreaking insights into UK businesses' experiences of fraud, corruption and money laundering. It examines the scale, response, impact and costs of these experiences, and businesses' risk perceptions and preparedness in relation to these crime types. The study's approach offers a replicable model for those examining economic crime across business populations and broader methodological relevance for those designing business surveys. Methods: There were 2 major strands to the research: Quantitative survey: a nationally representative telephone and online survey with 3,477 UK businesses with one or more employees.

Qualitative interviews: 38 in-depth interviews with quantitative survey participants, focusing primarily on those that had encountered bribery or money laundering incidents in the survey questions. Results: 29% of UK businesses with employees experienced economic crime in the last year. Fraud was most prevalent (27%), whilst bribery (3%) and money laundering (2%) were similar in their relative rarity. This paper will reveal the latter two crimes' hidden nature, with most bribes offered verbally and most incidents of both crimes going unreported. The paper reshapes our understanding of risk, with corruption and money laundering simply not conceivable risks for many businesses. It also reveals a gap in preparedness, with more businesses implementing AML measures than anti corruption ones. Finally, findings reveal sectoral and organisational factors perceived to drive risk. Discussion: This study represents an important leap forward in understanding businesses' experiences, awareness of, and approaches to these areas of economic crime. This paper will reveal challenges related to low awareness and understanding of the rarer crime types, potential blind spots in terms of risks and impacts, and policy challenges in getting businesses to report incidents externally. By revealing sectoral differences for the first time, it also offers invaluable direction for researchers seeking to explore these issues further.

Financial Crime in Malta: A Quantitative Analysis of Trends and Patterns Based on Police Records *Trevor Calafato, University of Malta*

Financial crime is a continuous concern for states and organisations, combining large economic costs with serious challenges to governance and societal confidence. Empirical evidence in Malta is weak, despite increased scrutiny from international evaluators in recent years. Current research concentrates on typologies, dangers, and responses. A systematic, data-driven study of financial crime patterns has become essential for bridging the gap between theoretical discoveries, legislative pressures, and practical enforcement outcomes. This paper addresses this need by looking at investigations (2022-2024) and prosecutions (2014-2024) conducted by the Malta Police Force's Financial Crime Investigations Department (FCID). The study uses a quantitative methodology, including descriptive statistics, chi-square testing, and regression modelling, to examine trends in predicate offences, money laundering typologies, criminal demographics, and the justice "funnel" from inquiry to prosecution. This dissertation examines the trends, patterns, and enforcement dynamics of financial crime in Malta over the previous decade. The findings highlight three key outcomes. First, cyber-enabled frauds like cryptocurrency scams and internet fraud dominate investigative caseloads, albeit with lower-value losses. Second, high-impact financial crimes such as money laundering, tax evasion, and embezzlement result in disproportionately substantial losses, demonstrating a stratified distribution of harm. Third, prosecutions show a strong dependence on self-laundering typologies, as well as significant demographic differences by gender, nationality, and person type. The data also finds a funnel effect, which describes attrition between investigations and prosecutions. The study indicates that financial crime in Malta is both systematically and unequally dispersed, necessitating tailored enforcement tactics. Its viewpoints emphasise the necessity of incorporating data-driven techniques into policy, encouraging international cooperation on transnational crime, and building institutional capacity to bridge the gap between suspicion, investigation, and adjudication.

093. Researcher Wellbeing and Emotionally Challenging Studies (Panel 1)

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Feminist Criminology (Gender, Crime and Justice WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

2:15 to 3:30 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.517

Many European Society of Criminology members undertake studies on emotionally challenging topics (such as gender-based violence, policing in war zones, young people's experiences of crime). Whilst such research can be interesting, inspiring, give academics a sense of purpose, and be vital to change policy and practice for the better; there is growing recognition that undertaking this type of research can pose many difficulties for us as researchers, including distress, secondary, vicarious and primary trauma. There are still few spaces where we can talk about these issues openly. There are, however, examples of best practice that can help us not only cope with the difficult work we are doing but potentially thrive. After a successful launch of a panel session on this topic at the European Society of Criminology Conference in Bucharest in 2024, and continuation of the panel and a highly successful wellbeing workshop in Athens in 2025. We are expanding the profile of researcher wellbeing at the ESC by hosting two panels and a round table session to facilitate the presentation of empirical papers and further discussion of potential ways to mitigate the impacts of our work and positively improve our wellbeing. This is the first panel that focuses on empirical research findings and recommendations for best practice on this topic. We have also compiled a separate round table exploring the differing approaches currently underway at a handful of universities that are attempting to provide positive leadership in this field.

Chair:

Tina Nicola Skinner, University of Bath

Participants:

"As researchers, we are 'keepers of stories' but sometimes that role is painful". The wellbeing of researchers of sensitive and emotionally challenging topics. *Theresa Redmond, The Policing Institute for the Eastern Region at Anglia Ruskin University; Abbie Lake, Anglia Ruskin University*

The impacts of researching sensitive and emotionally challenging (SEC) topics on researchers' wellbeing (RWB) has largely been overlooked within academia. However, there is now a growing acknowledgement of harms that some researchers may experience, such as secondary trauma (Williamson et al., 2020), burnout (Silverio et al., 2022; Williamson et al., 2020) and compassion fatigue (Campbell, 2002). Research staff

and students play a critical role in contributing to a university's academic merit and the advancement of knowledge. In light of this, a small-scale survey was conducted in a university setting to gain insight into how conducting SEC research can impact RWB; researchers' experiences of accessing and receiving support; and their support needs and preferences. Forty-five respondents, comprised of both staff and under/post-graduate students, self-selected to complete the survey, which produced quantitative and qualitative data. The findings revealed negative and positive impacts associated with SEC research, identified the fieldwork and analysis phases as particularly challenging, and highlighted the need to better prepare students specifically for conducting SEC research. The findings also highlighted barriers to seeking support, such as a lack of specialist support and concerns about being negatively judged by others. This research was a first step in exploring RWB in one UK University. The findings illustrate the need for further work to create an open and supportive culture, which recognises RWB as an emotional and psychological health and safety concern. The findings will help institutions develop preventative policies and responses which can proactively mitigate potential harms and support these researchers in this important work.

Unobtrusively up-close: What does researcher well-being do for research? *Sidsel Harder, University of Copenhagen; Christopher Kehlet Ebbrecht, Department of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences, Aarhus University; Julie Munch Hjort, Save the Children, Denmark*

Qualitative researchers such as Skinner and Williamson have called for academic institutions to recognize the emotional toll that sensitive research fields have on those who study them. The need for attention to researcher well-being often emerges after the research is done: when researchers are unable to write, concentrate, or even function outside of their work. The next step is to examine the ways in which attention to researcher-wellbeing impacts not only the researchers but also the quality of their research. In this paper, we draw experiences from a study of closed-source police case files on online sexual abuse of women and children. In our project researcher well-being was prioritized throughout. We situate researcher well-being within the processes of first accessing, then collecting, and reflecting on the data. As previous conversations about researcher well-being have been rooted in qualitative, relational projects, our contribution develops that insight to include quantitative research using unobtrusive methods in sensitive fields. We find that systematic care for researchers' well-being at every stage of the research process benefits both the product and the process of knowledge production in sensitive fields. When supported, researchers' emotional responses can facilitate more in-depth, ethical engagement with data and strengthen interpretive analysis in sensitive fields. We end the paper by providing a set of arguments for researchers, who must still convince funding institutions to incorporate researcher well-being in schedules and budgets for sensitive projects.

Risk for Secondary Traumatic Stress when Researching Gender-Based Violence: Nature, Scale, Impacts, Modifiable Risk Factors and Preventative Strategies *Nadia Wager, University of Teesside; Khai Wager, University of Oxford*

There is a growing understanding of the potential impacts of researching gender-based violence (GBV) and the need to protect researchers' well-being. This study aimed to assess the impact of studying this subject matter, the ability of researchers to predict any negative effects, the influence of additional roles that further vicariously expose researchers to GBV (e.g. teaching, working/volunteering as a practitioner), researchers' use of self-care strategies and their reported protective efficacy, and their awareness of institutional policies and resources to maintain their well-being. This study involved an anonymous online mixed-methods survey which attracted 81 respondents from GBV research centres in countries where English is routinely spoken. The quantitative component utilized two validated scales to assess the potential negative impacts: World Assumptions Scale (Kaler, 2009) and Secondary Trauma Scale (STS, Bride et al., 2004). The open-ended questions permitted the respondents to describe their subjective experiences of the impacts and their attempts at coping. The respondents held a wide range of research positions from post-graduate researchers through to principal investigators and centre directors. Overall, 52% of the respondents reported levels of secondary traumatic stress indicative of warranting a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder. This proportion was significantly higher for those who were simultaneously teaching the subject matter or working/volunteering in the field (80% and 75-80%, respectively). Some, but not all, respondents were accurate in predicting the likelihood of being negatively affected, although often underestimating the degree of impact. The paper concludes that secondary trauma in GBV researchers is predictable and thus likely preventable.

Emotionally challenging research: possible impacts, proactive interventions, and 'the Bath model' *Tina Nicola Skinner, University of Bath; Kristine Brance, University of Limerick; Sarah Halligan, University of Bath; Heather Girling, University of Bath; Emily Tsang, University of Bath*

The Researcher Wellbeing Project, funded by the UKRI Research England Research Culture Fund, (i) undertook a study on researcher wellbeing and emotionally challenging topics (Skinner et al., 2023, 2025); (ii) involved the development of guidance and tools to help researchers, supervisors, teams and groups plan for and mitigate the possible impacts of undertaking such studies; and (iii) developed a strategic vision of change for a sector wide response to this issue. In this paper, Tina will provide a brief overview of our research findings and tools, and this strategic approach, then outline what is happening at the University of Bath to start to address this issue.

094. Regulating Environmental Harm: Climate Justice, Risk, and Environmental Crime

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Environmental/Green

Criminology
Paper Session
2:15 to 3:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.610
Chair:
Angus Nurse, Anglia Ruskin University
Participants:

Illegal trade and the Montreal Protocol to Protect the Ozone Layer *Tanya Wyatt, UNODC*

The Montreal Protocol is championed as one of, if not the, most successful Multilateral Environmental Agreement as production and trade of substances that deplete the ozone layer have decreased and the ozone layer of Earth has begun to repair itself. However, as planet temperatures continue to increase and standards of living continue to rise, there is ongoing pressure to use these substances in air conditioning and refrigeration among other industries. Yet under the Montreal Protocol, these substances are being phased out, which is leading to an expanding underground market as well as fraudulent or counterfeit trade. This presentation shares the methodology of a collaborative study undertaken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with other UN agencies and international non-governmental agencies investigating the illegal trade in substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol. Some early findings and recommendations will also be presented.

From Harm to Regulation: Rethinking Environmental Criminal Law Through a Socio-Legal Analysis of Denmark *Andrew Mazibrada, University of Copenhagen; Alessandro Moretti, University of Copenhagen; Louise Victoria Johansen, University of Copenhagen; Thomas Elholm, University of Copenhagen*

This paper examines the capacity of the criminal law to address contemporary environmental harms in Denmark through a criminological lens. Drawing on green criminology, zemiology, and green penology as theoretical frameworks, it interrogates how Danish environmental criminal law constructs, prioritises, and enforces ecological offences. The paper focuses on Section 196 of the Danish Criminal Code – the principal provision for serious environmental offending – and related penal instruments, analysing how legal definitions, criminalisation, and enforcement intersect with administrative regulatory frameworks. Our findings reveal a pattern of regulatory substitution: criminal liability is triggered by breaches of administrative rules rather than actual ecological harm. Applying our frameworks, green criminology shows that serious harms are reframed as compliance failures, displacing responsibility and marginalising non-human and ecosystem victims. Zemiology demonstrates that lawful, regulated conduct can produce routine, structural harm; legality normalises rather than legitimises environmental damage. Lastly, green penology highlights the penal consequences of administrative channelling: weak sanctions, cost-like fines, and selective enforcement dilute expressive condemnation and deterrence. The Danish Criminal Code further reflects a penal hierarchy, prioritising pollution and waste offences while marginalising biodiversity and cumulative, long-term harms. Across all three perspectives, Danish environmental criminal law emerges as a form of risk management for the state, punishing regulatory breaches rather than preventing or addressing harm itself. This raises critical questions about the moral authority, proportionality, and effectiveness of criminal law in ecological governance. By combining doctrinal analysis with criminological theory, the paper contributes to debates on reforming environmental criminal law in Denmark and Europe, highlighting the need to align legal enforcement with the scale, severity of ecological harm.

Climate Change and Climate Justice: A Green Criminological View on Climate Justice Redress *Angus Nurse, Anglia Ruskin University*

Contemporary access to justice relies heavily on activism to achieve a just remedy for environmental harms. Climate litigation has emerged as a mechanism through which climate justice can be achieved, drawing on notions of social, racial and environmental justice, legal recognition of the problems of climate change and the impact of pollution, utilising courts as access to judicial remedy and resolution. This paper explores contemporary perspectives on climate justice as a human rights issue. In some states, constitutional protections for human rights and environmental rights incorporate environmental rights in domestic law. When combined with judicial activism in rights protection this facilitates redress, but where conservative courts weigh environmental rights negatively against the interests of business and neoliberal markets, rights-based climate claims face a stiff hurdle. This paper's analysis of contemporary approaches to achieving climate justice considers recent policy approaches and activism using case examples of how courts have upheld human and constitutional rights as the foundation of a climate justice legal case. Elsewhere, the European Commission has acted against several states for non-compliance with European Air pollution standards. According to a United Nations report (2021) the number of climate change litigation cases increased in recent years to stand at 1,550 in 38 countries (39 including the courts of the European Union). Arguably climate change litigation is now an established route to address climate change issues, yet the paper also examines the inadequacies of legal systems for dealing with some climate change causing actions, particularly those of private companies who may be considered immune to human rights claims in certain circumstances. Accordingly, this paper argues that environmental activism allied to judicial activism and the willingness of courts to hold Governments to account for climate justice failures are important hallmarks in achieving some form of redress for contemporary climate change problems.

095. Governance of Prevention: Actors, Networks and Institutional Responses
Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Crime prevention
Paper Session
2:15 to 3:30 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.616

Chair:

Michał Powszedniak, Jagiellonian University in Kraków

Participants:

Crime prevention networks *Wojciech Filipkowski, University of Bialystok; Katarzyna Staciwa, State Commission for preventing sexual abuse of minors under the age of 15*

State authorities remain responsible for citizen safety, yet traditional approaches to crime prevention and detection often prove inadequate against complex network structures underlying organised crime, terrorism, and cybercrime. Effectively addressing such threats necessitates multifaceted, network-based strategies involving diverse actors—public institutions, private sector entities, NGOs, and individuals—with varying legal roles and competences. These crime prevention networks operate through both compulsory and voluntary relationships, featuring extensive information exchange and collaboration across local to global levels, and increasingly rely on technological infrastructures. Public-private partnerships introduce challenges, including security privatisation and the emergence of self-organised citizen groups. This chapter provides a theoretical framework for understanding the participants and interrelationships within crime prevention networks, grounded in existing literature and legal regulations. Practical illustrations are drawn from legal, organisational, and technological solutions used in anti-money laundering, counter-terrorist financing, and combating child sexual abuse and exploitation, including the distribution of Child Sexual Abuse Material.

Mapping the Prevention Landscape: Bringing Order in a Complex Domain *Dieter Burssens, NICC*

The field of prevention is characterized by its chaotic nature, with numerous actors, located at local, regional or higher levels of government, employing a wide variety of strategies aimed at different goals and target groups. This complexity often raises many recurring questions: Are schools and youth movements also forms of prevention? Should neighborhood social projects cooperate with the police? Is camera surveillance desirable in low-crime areas? To develop a sound prevention policy, it is essential to bring order and create a clear overview of the prevention landscape. To better streamline this chaotic field, we need clear terminology and tools that clarify where certain actors or strategies are most appropriate. The project presented here aims to achieve conceptual clarity in the field of prevention, based on an analysis of literature, numerous debates in a reflection group and visits to various prevention programs.

The involvement of private and the society actors in crime prevention: opportunities and challenges *Karl Kronkvist, Malmö Univeristy; Anna-Karin Ivert, Malmö University*

Historically, societies have relied on the police to be the main responsible in crime prevention. In recent years, however, attention has increasingly shifted toward the potential contribution of other actors. This includes private sector stakeholders and civil society organisations, which have gained recognition from policymakers, practitioners, and researchers as important partners in crime prevention. Although several examples of crime preventive initiatives involving the private sector and civil society exist, we still lack systematic knowledge about how they can best contribute and what responsibilities they can, should, and are willing to assume. The current study presents findings from a research project aimed at expanding knowledge about the role of the private sector and civil society in crime prevention. The analysis draws on a national survey targeting municipal crime prevention coordinators and community police officers, as well as a case study of collaborative crime preventive initiatives that bring together actors from the public, private and civil society sectors. The results indicate that private sector actors, particularly property owners, are quite often involved in crime prevention initiatives, whereas civil society actors participate less often. For both sectors, involvement tends to be informal rather than formal. The findings will be discussed in relation to the objectives and types of crime preventive efforts in which the private sector and civil society actors may have the greatest potential to contribute to efficient, effective, and knowledge-based crime prevention.

The Ineffective Presence of International Inspectors General *Frank Chen, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY*

In the pursuit of absolute integrity, our government watchdogs are tasked with deterring and detecting fraud, waste, abuse, and corruption. Currently, there are 75 federal and 176 state and local Offices of Inspector General in the United States. Despite the passage of the Inspector General Act of 1978, the inspector general profession is not exclusively American. Through a comprehensive search, the author identified 870 inspectors general in 191 countries outside the United States. The author maps out the total number of inspectors general per country and statistically tests it against the country's level of corruption. Conceptually, a country's total number of inspectors general would decrease its level of corruption. However, statistical testing revealed no relationship between the two variables. This finding calls into question the title of "government watchdog," which now leans more towards "government lapdog." The author recommends three actions that international inspectors general should implement to promote government accountability and trust worldwide.

Symbolic implementation and overcompliance in child protection standards at universities. Institutional crime prevention in higher education *Michał Powszedniak, Jagiellonian University in Kraków*

Recent legal reforms in Poland have extended mandatory child protection standards, among others, to higher education institutions, traditionally operating in adult-oriented environments. This presentation examines how universities implement these standards as a form of institutional crime prevention and risk management. Drawing on situational crime prevention and the concept of the culture of control, the study frames these standards as both opportunity-reducing mechanisms and institutional responses to perceived

risks, highlighting the tension between formal regulation and practical effectiveness. The study applies qualitative content analysis to a sample of university policies regulating the protection of minors. Initial findings indicate that universities frequently adopt standardized, formalized policies resembling school-based safeguarding frameworks, despite the incidental nature of contact with minors in academic settings. These policies often extend obligations to broad categories of staff and students irrespective of actual exposure to risk, suggesting patterns of overcompliance. At the same time, many procedures remain declarative, lacking clear operational guidance, defined responsibilities, or actionable steps for implementation. From a criminological perspective, the results suggest that the implementation of child protection standards in universities may function as a form of symbolic compliance, reflecting institutional responses to regulatory pressure rather than effective preventive practice. The findings contribute to broader debates on the limits of formal regulatory approaches in crime prevention and on the translation of preventive frameworks across institutional contexts with differing social functions.

096. Cuffs or Care ? Framing "Disturbed Mental States" in Frontline Emergency Interventions

Topic 3: Crime Correlates/Mental Health
Roundtable
2:15 to 3:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.617

Frontline police officers and health professionals increasingly operate in a shared, discretionary "grey zone" when responding to individuals described as having a "disturbed mental state." Whether these individuals have actually committed an offense, are merely perceived as a potential threat, or are simply breaching social behavioral norms, they typically trigger one of three immediate responses : early "criminalization" mobilizing law enforcement, "pathologization" involving health responders, or a set of alternative/diversion pathways emerging from the contingent, pragmatic, and often improvised use of professional discretion. Because the subsequent trajectory of these individuals—carrying significant personal, legal, and socio-medical consequences—depends entirely on how frontline responders frame the initial "case," this roundtable critically examines this upstream and under-researched intersection. Focusing on the contexts of Francophone Switzerland and Quebec, the panel mobilizes qualitative data from two recent and ongoing ethnographic research projects. The first examines health interventions among unhoused populations, while the second analyzes field operations of law enforcement. Crucially, these empirical findings will be brought into dialogue with a first-person lived-experience account to provide a comprehensive, grounded understanding of these frontline encounters. The discussions will highlight the blurring of boundaries between the nature of interventions and the identities of those involved in emergency response. We will examine the hypothesis that there is a simultaneous emergence of a "police clinic" for disturbed mental states and, conversely, of "policing" within healthcare practices. Ultimately, this roundtable aims to identify new analytical pathways to better understand how this discretionary grey zone is structured. The discussion will foreground how frontline actors navigate this complex space as they attempt to craft practices that are normative, adequate to socio-medical and ethical stakes, and legally compliant, while improvising in real time across institutional boundaries.

Chair:
Krzysztof Michał Skuza, PhD, psychosociologist, Associate Professor of Mental Health, HESAV School of Health Sciences, University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Western Switzerland HES-SO, Lausanne, Switzerland

Discussants:
Émilie Hudson, RN, MSc, PhD candidate, Faculty of Nursing, Université de Montréal, Montréal, QC, Canada
Pierre Pariseau-Legault, PhD, LL.M, Professor, Department of Nursing Sciences, Université du Québec en Outaouais, Gatineau, QC, Canada
Michaël Meyer, PhD, sociologist, Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz (FHNW), Hochschule für Soziale Arbeit, Muttenz, Switzerland

097. WG-PLACE 1 - Research on crime, place, and time: spatial-temporal variation across environments

Topic 3: Crime Correlates/Neighborhoods and Crime (WG on Space and Crime)
Paper Session
2:15 to 3:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.012

Chair:
Christophe Vandeviver, Ghent University

Participants:

How Crime Volume Shapes Observed Patterns of Crime Diversity *Claire Runacres, Ghent University; Haosheng Huang, Ghent University; Martin A Andresen, Simon Fraser University; Christophe Vandeviver, Ghent University*

Crime diversity is a central concept in environmental criminology, as it captures how many crime types occur within places and what this reveals about the environments in which crimes happen. A key measure is crime richness: the number of crime types in an area. Prior work has shown that crime richness scales predictably with area size and can be closely approximated by a passive sampling model, suggesting that larger areas sustain more diverse crime types because they host more varied criminogenic settings. However, observed increases in crime richness with area size may also arise mechanically as more crimes are sampled, rather than reflecting genuine environmental heterogeneity. This paper investigates whether the relationship between area size and crime richness persists once differences in crime volume and thus sample size are explicitly taken into account. Building on a passive sampling model that predicts crime richness as a function of crime volume, we examine how crime richness scales as spatial and temporal windows increase, and whether area size retains an independent effect beyond sample size. Using 15 years of publicly available police-recorded crime data from Greater London, UK, covering 25 crime types (total crime volume of 11.6 million) across Lower Super Output Areas (median area of 0.2 km2), we compare empirical patterns of crime richness to

expectations from passive sampling. We show that increases in crime richness with area size and with observation period closely track increases in crime volume. Once normalised for crime volume, area size has no independent effect on crime richness. These findings suggest that associations between larger areas and greater crime diversity may reflect sampling effects rather than actual differences in underlying criminogenic settings. More broadly, the study highlights the need to account for sample size when interpreting spatial patterns of crime and evaluating environmental explanations of crime diversity.

Examining Crime in Coastal versus Non-Coastal Areas in England: A Spatial Error Regression Analysis of Ecological Predictors *Kitty Lymperopoulou, Plymouth University; Alex Gibson, University of Plymouth; Sheela Agarwal, University of Plymouth; Graham Moon, University of Southampton; Sheena Asthana, University of Plymouth; Yinghui Wei, University of Exeter; Hao Xu, University of Plymouth*

This study examines whether crime rates and their ecological predictors, differ between coastal and non-coastal areas in England. Using spatial error regression models of violent crime and burglary, we assess whether social disorganisation and routine activity factors operate differently in neighbourhoods across coastal contexts, including seaside resorts, coastal cities and other coastal areas. The results show that coastal areas experience higher violent crime than non-coastal areas, even after controlling for established community structural factors and opportunity structures. Seasonal analyses indicate that violent crime in coastal areas is elevated during summer months, consistent with population fluctuations and tourism-related routine activity patterns. The findings suggest that while the underlying drivers of crime are broadly consistent across coastal and non-coastal areas, coastal areas may experience higher violent crime rates as a result of structural and geographic vulnerabilities, as well as routine activities associated with seasonal population dynamics not fully captured by traditional ecological measures. These results highlight the need for targeted, place-sensitive crime prevention and policy interventions, particularly in tourism-oriented or disadvantaged coastal communities.

Temporal patterns of crime in Sweden *Stefanie Luthman, Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention*

A study by the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention sheds renewed light on when physical assault, sexual offences, robbery and residential burglary commonly occur during the year, the week and the day. Analyses are based on data from the Swedish Crime Survey (SCS) for the years 2019–2023, referring to exposure to crime during the previous calendar year, and on data from reported crimes for the years 2018–2022. Results show clear seasonal variations of crime as well as crime peaking during certain holidays, weekdays and time of the day. Temporal patterns of crime differ also depending on the victim's gender and place of crime. Most of the results are in line with previous research on temporal variations of crime. Some findings that are specific to Swedish circumstances will be highlighted. The results of this study can be used for more effective crime prevention, for example through increased police presence at high-risk days and times of the day when crime is more likely to occur.

Wildlife Poaching in Gambella National Park of Ethiopia: Species at Risk, Poaching Motivations, and Spatiotemporal Patterns. *Ahmed Mohammed Abachebsa, Ghent University; Kuralarasan Kumar, Univesity of Ghent; Tariku Mekonnen Gutema, Jimma University; Kefelegn Getahun, Jimma University; Christophe Vandeviver, Ghent University*

Poaching remains a persistent environmental crime challenge in Africa, yet empirical criminological studies that analyze species-specific risk and poachers' motivation are scarce. This study proposes an exploratory assessment of wildlife poaching dynamics in Gambella National Park, Ethiopia, using a dataset of 81 confirmed poaching incidents recorded between 2007 and 2024. Each incident includes species involved, stated motive, precise location, and date, allowing a preliminary but focused examination of three core questions: (1) which species are most at risk of poaching, (2) what motives drive poaching for different species, and (3) how poaching varies across space and time. Given the modest sample size, the analysis applies descriptive statistics, qualitative categorization of motivations, and basic spatial visualization rather than inferential modelling. Temporal trends are assessed using monthly and annual distributions, while spatial patterns are examined through point-based mapping and hotspot inspection to identify recurrent locations of poaching activity. The study integrates criminological perspectives on opportunity, motivation, and environmental context to interpret emerging patterns. As this is ongoing work, the presentation will focus on preliminary observations, methodological approach, and expected contributions toward strengthening wildlife crime prevention and risk-based patrol strategies in protected areas.

098. Moral Decision Making and Crime: Situational Mechanisms and Interventions

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Biological, Biosocial and Psychological Perspectives
Pre-arranged Panel
2:15 to 3:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.014

Centred on the situational mechanisms of moral decision-making, this panel explores how personal morality, social contexts, and cognitive processes interact to shape criminal involvement. Grounded in Situational Action Theory's (SAT) perception-choice process, this panel examines offender decision-making across diverse offence types. The four papers investigate the interplay of norms and moral emotions in cross-national bribery, apply SAT to intimate partner violence to inform prevention strategies, and utilise vignette data to model moral correspondence in theft. Methodologically, the panel introduces an innovative Virtual Reality Tracing Approach to capture real-time decision-making, advancing our understanding of why individuals choose to offend.

Chair:

Kyle Treiber, University of Cambridge

Participants:

Techniques of Neutralization as a Loophole in the Relationship between Morality and Crime *Alexander Betz, KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt; Stefanie Eifler, KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt*

It has been several decades since Sykes and Matza (1957) introduced their Techniques of Neutralization into criminology. Ever since, researchers discussed the need to implement them into the framework of morality theories (Brauer and Tittle, 2017). A recent study by Schmitt et al. (2025) made a first step in integrating Techniques of Neutralization into the perception-choice process proposed by Situational Action Theory (SAT, Wikström et al., 2024). While the paper showed initial support for the claim that Techniques of Neutralization play an important role in explaining moral rule breaking, it did not provide a detailed explanation of the mechanisms involved. Against this background, this paper aims to explicate the role of Techniques of Neutralization in the perception-choice process. Empirical analyses are based on data collected by means of a mail survey (n = 2,383) of a disproportionally stratified random sample of residents from an East German city. The survey employs a factorial design including vignettes on theft by finding that allow to model the perception-choice process as a whole and to analyse the influence of Techniques of Neutralization in terms of SAT's central explanatory principles. The results are discussed with regard to the principle of moral correspondence (personal morality, moral rules of the setting) and the conditional relevance of controls (deterrence, self-control)

Situational Action Theory and Intimate Partner Violence: Insights for Prevention and Intervention *Sarah Carlo, University of Cambridge*

Situational Action Theory (SAT) conceptualises crime as moral rule-breaking that arises from a motivation–perception process in which personal morality serves as the key causal mechanism for behaviour. Historically, research on intimate partner violence (IPV) has focused on risk-factor approaches or gendered frameworks and has seen a hesitancy to adopt general theories of crime. This paper examines the benefits of using SAT as a framework for understanding IPV and explores its implications for prevention and intervention. SAT provides an effective and practical framework for explaining IPV by conceptualising partner violence as a situational moral action. From this perspective, IPV occurs when individuals perceive violence as an acceptable response within a given context, shaped by the interaction between personal moral rules, moral emotions, and relevant situational factors. This approach helps explain why individuals respond differently to similar relationship conflicts and provides a way to integrate insights from the broad body of IPV research within a single, causal model. This paper draws on findings from a small but growing body of literature, including a mixed-methods test of the perception-choice process, that applies SAT to an IPV context and outlines insights for SAT-informed intervention and prevention efforts. The findings presented demonstrate the value of SAT for understanding IPV and for informing practical responses to partner violence.

Choosing Corruption: Norms, Incentives and Emotions as Decision-Making Factors in Bribery across Six Countries *Andrzej Uhl, University of Cambridge; Christoph Herrmann, University of Cambridge; Sebastian Sattler, University of Bielefeld; Alexander Fürstenberg, Heidelberg University; Paweł Ostaszewski, Institute of Justice, Poland and University of Warsaw; Kyle Treiber, University of Cambridge; Ilona Wysmułek, (Polish Academy of Sciences*

Social and personal norms are central to understanding corruption, but their relations with other decision-making factors remains underexplored. To shed new light on their main and interactive effects, we examine how personal norms, social norms (injunctive and descriptive), moral emotions, and incentives jointly shape bribery intentions. Respondents from six Central European countries (N=9,157) read a traffic police bribery scenario embedded in a large cross-national survey. While respondents across countries almost equally condemned bribery, those in high-corruption countries believed that others accepted bribery, indicating widespread pluralistic ignorance. Personal norms and descriptive norms were the strongest inhibitors of bribery intention, with anticipated shame exerting an additional independent effect. Perceived risk played a modest role and primarily prevented bribery among individuals with weak personal norms. Injunctive norms had a counterintuitive positive association with bribery intentions once other factors are controlled. The findings underscore the centrality of norms, and misperceptions of them, in corruption decision-making.

A Proof-of-Concept of the Virtual Reality Process Tracing Approach *Christoph Herrmann, University of Cambridge; Neema Trivedi-Bateman, Loughborough University; Beth Hardie, University of Cambridge; Gabriela D Roman, University of Cambridge*

The Virtual Reality Process Tracing Approach (VRPTA) is a novel methodological framework for studying how person- and setting-level characteristics influence not only which decisions people make, but also how they make them. It brings together the process-tracing methodology used in the cognitive sciences with experimentally controlled VR scenarios. The result is a versatile framework that captures real-time decision-making by participants immersed in experimentally manipulated VR environments, alongside process-tracing techniques that help researchers open the black box of offender decision-making. This talk applies the approach to situational action theory's (SAT) perception–choice process (PCP) and presents findings from a proof-of-concept study.

099. Offenders of online fraud

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Cybercrime (Cybercrime WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
2:15 to 3:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.110

Online fraud represents one of the most prevalent and economically damaging forms of crime worldwide, yet empirical knowledge about the offenders who perpetrate it and the victims who experience it remains underdeveloped. This panel brings together four empirical studies that collectively advance our understanding of financial cybercrime from multiple perspectives — examining both the individuals and networks behind this form of cybercrime, and what happens those caught in its wake. The first paper applies network analysis to dynamic risk factors for cybercrime offending, offering new theoretical and clinical insights into which factors are most central in driving offending behavior. The second investigates the networks engaged in financial cybercrime by mapping the specialization and versatility of cybercriminal networks, and their intertwinement with traditional crime. The third turns to gender, examining the roles and positioning of female suspects in Dutch cybercrime investigations — a group that is underrepresented yet more varied in its involvement than is often assumed. The fourth shifts focus to consequences, exploring how individuals held civilly liable for online fraud experience and respond to this relatively novel legal instrument in the Netherlands.

Chair:

Joeri Loggen, The Hague University of Applied Sciences

Participants:

Interrelatedness and centrality in risk factors for cybercrime offending: a network analysis approach *Luuk Bekkers, The Hague University of Applied Sciences; Joeri Loggen, The Hague University of Applied Sciences; Rutger Leukfeldt, NSCR*

Risk factors for offending generally do not operate in isolation from each other but engage in reciprocal and feedback relationships, together constituting a dynamic system that determines offending outcomes. Network analysis has therefore emerged as a relatively new statistical approach to model partial correlations and centrality of risk, which has the potential to inform treatment in ways that more conventional approaches are unable to. The current study represents the first application of network analysis to cybercrime offending. The aim is to determine the network structure of key dynamic risk factors for offending in order to understand how these factors are interrelated and associated with cybercrime behaviors. By doing so, more insight can be obtained about the influences that are most "central" in the network and thus most important to address in intervention.

Jack of all crimes and master of one: Specialization, versatility, and intertwinement within financial cybercriminal networks *Joeri Loggen, The Hague University of Applied Sciences; Rutger Leukfeldt, NSCR*

This study examines the specialization, versatility, and intertwinement of cybercrime and traditional crime among offenders involved in financial cybercrime. Drawing on interviews with 25 experts, and analysis of five police investigations into online fraud, we identified 15 cybercriminal networks, which could be classified into four types across two overarching categories with regards to (cyber)criminal activities. First, networks could be engaged solely in financial cybercrime, and were categorized as either cybercrime specialists (n = 2) focusing exclusively on a single type of financial cybercrime, or cybercrime generalists (n = 1), committing various financial cybercrimes with differing degrees of offender-victim interaction. Second, networks could commit both financial cybercrime and traditional crime during the network's lifespan, and were classified as hybrid specialists (n = 8), active in one type of financial cybercrime alongside addition to traditional crimes, or hybrid generalists (n = 2), engaging both financial cybercrimes and traditional offences. Although we identified degrees of specialization across a continuum, hybrid networks, especially hybrid specialist ones, were identified the most. We further identified three forms of direct intertwinement between financial cybercrime and traditional crimes: money laundering, reinvestment of illicit proceeds in traditional offences, and cybercrime-related violence. Across all three forms, financial cybercrime was found to intersect with subversive crime—criminal activities that damage (trust in) societal structures. These findings highlight the increasingly blurred boundaries between cybercrime and traditional organized crime, with implications for both theory and practice.

A man's world? Exploring women's roles in cybercrime investigations *Jildau Borwell, Open University / The Hague University of Applied Sciences*

Cybercrime is perceived as a predominantly male domain in both research and practice. While previous studies confirm that women are underrepresented among cyber offenders, there are indications that their involvement is increasing. Also, there are documented examples of women operating in central positions within cybercriminal networks. However, empirical knowledge about the specific roles and positioning of women within cybercrime remains limited. This contribution presents a qualitative analysis of female suspects involved in Dutch cybercrime investigations. The analysis focuses on women's roles within cybercriminal cases, including their positions, skills, and relational ties. The study is framed within a broader gender and organized crime perspective and interpreted through a pathways approach on cybercrime involvement. The study draws on closed police investigations into cybercrime conducted between 2016 and 2025. Of the identified suspects, 11% were women. Female suspects appeared in 9.3% of the investigations. Twenty-seven relevant cases were selected for in-depth analysis using an analytical framework derived from organized crime literature. The analysis focuses on role type (leading, executing, facilitating), position within the crime script (preparation, execution, aftermath), types of skills involved (technical, financial, social engineering), and network relations (such as partner of family ties). The findings indicate that women are uncommon in cybercrime investigations, but the types of roles they occupy are varied. While most women appear in roles embedded in existing social ties and in facilitating positions, some occupy more autonomous and active roles. The results show parallels with findings from organized crime research, while also pointing to dynamics specific to online criminal networks. The study contributes to a more nuanced understanding of

gender and the distribution of roles in cybercrime.

When victims hold fraudsters accountable: The consequences of civil liability for alleged fraudsters and money mules *Merel van Leuken, The Hague University of Applied Sciences; Susanne van 't Hoff-de Goede, The Hague University of Applied Sciences; Rutger Leukfeldt, NSCR*

In addition to reporting to the police, victims of online fraud may pursue civil action to recover their losses from alleged fraudsters. In the Netherlands, the possibilities for doing so have been expanded since 2021, lowering practical and financial barriers for victims. However, there is limited empirical insight into how civil liability is perceived by alleged fraudsters and what consequences it has for them. Based on interviews with (representatives of) individuals who have been held civilly liable for the repayment of funds derived from online fraud (N = 6) and with professionals involved in handling online fraud cases or otherwise professionally engaged with this target group (N = 16), this study examines the experiences of and consequences for alleged fraudsters. Preliminary results show that the impact varies depending on the individual's role in the offense, distinguishing between the fraudster and an intermediary (money mule). It also highlights that financial consequences of civil liability are frequently accompanied by additional consequences, such as criminal prosecution and exclusion from the financial payment system. The findings provide implications for developing a more integrated approach to address online fraud.

100. Empirically Advancing Cybercrime Theory: Offender Types, Pathways, and Contexts

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Cybercrime (Cybercrime WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
2:15 to 3:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.116

As cybercrime continues to evolve, criminological research must adapt to better understand the individuals, environments, and organizational contexts shaping digital offending. This thematic panel brings together four papers that advance theory and empirical evidence on cyber offending, victimization, and cybersecurity risk using novel data sources and quantitative methods. Two papers draw on data from verified website-defacing hackers recruited through Zone-H to examine heterogeneity in offender characteristics and behaviors. The first evaluates the extent to which previously theorized hacker typologies hold empirically by applying latent class analysis to survey data collected from active malicious hackers. Findings assess the correspondence between self-identified hacker types and data-driven classifications, providing evidence about variation in motivations, skills, and tactics. The second paper examines pathways to online and offline minor-directed sexual offending among the same population of verified hackers. Results identify distinct constellations of adverse childhood experiences and mental health characteristics associated with online grooming, contact offending, and dual online–offline offending, contributing to debates about specialization versus versatility in cyber-enabled crime. The third paper examines the victim–offender overlap in cybercrime using privacy-preserving stealer-log breach data from more than 21,000 compromised systems. Behavioral indicators suggest that a subset of victims demonstrates engagement with cybercrime ecosystems, providing empirical support for victim–offender overlap mechanisms in digital contexts and illustrating how behavioral trace data can be used to test criminological theory. The final paper shifts to the organizational level, integrating Culture 500 workplace culture metrics with credential theft data derived from stealer malware to assess how internal cultural dynamics shape exposure to cyber risk. Findings provide insight into how organizational culture may function as either a vulnerability or protective factor. Together, these papers highlight the importance of multi-level approaches to understanding cybercrime across individuals, behaviors, and institutions.

Chair:

Katelyn Smith, University of South Florida

Participants:

Do Hacker Types Hold Up? An Empirical Evaluation of Theorized Typologies *Katelyn Smith, University of South Florida; Taylor Fisher, Michigan State University; Christian Jordan Howell, University of South Florida; Zacharias Pieri, University of South Florida*

Cyber criminologists have been interested in hackers for many years, with early hacking behaviors developing in the 1960s and 70s where most hacking was reserved for computer programmers trying to find shortcuts. Over time, researchers have attempted to understand the various types of hackers that have developed over time, establishing some concrete evidence for hacking behaviors related to hacktivism and ransomware. However, the attempt to develop a typology for hackers has largely been theoretical, with some research using case studies and traditional populations to assess the extent to which hackers engage in attacks based on their motivations, skill sets, and general approaches. The current study uses the typology proposed by Chng and colleagues (2022) as a basis for data collection and a sample of active, malicious hackers recruited from Zone-H, a commonly used defacement archive. Using a combination of descriptive statistics and latent class analysis, we assess the applicability of the Chng typology and develop a data-driven hacker typology. Findings compare the self-reported types of hackers to the data-driven outcomes. By understanding the different types of hackers, their motivations, and the skills/tactics they are using makes research on hackers more actionable for law enforcement.

From Code to Contact: Distinct Pathways to Online and Offline Sexual Offending Among Verified Hackers *Eden Kamar, Georgia state university; Christian Jordan Howell, University of South Florida; Zacharias Pieri, University of South Florida; Katelyn Smith, University of South Florida*

Hackers are often portrayed as facilitators of online sexual exploitation, yet little is known about direct perpetration. Using survey data from 238 verified Zone-H website-defacing hackers, we examined whether adverse childhood experiences and mental health/neurodevelopmental diagnoses predict minor-directed sexual offending in the past 12 months (online

grooming, contact abuse, or both). Stepwise logistic and multinomial regressions revealed distinct pathways: online groomers were linked to childhood verbal victimization and autism; contact offenders to witnessing domestic violence and substance abuse; and dual online–offline offenders to a convergence of family incarceration, verbal victimization, autism, and substance abuse. Results indicate that hackers' sexual offending is patterned rather than random, informing theory on specialization versus versatility and strengthening risk assessment and prevention in practice.

Shared Digital Spaces, Divergent Behaviors: Evidence of the Victim–Offender Overlap in Cybercrime from Malware-Derived Data *Caitlyn Muniz, University of Texas at El Paso*

The victim–offender overlap perspective posits that individuals involved in crime are disproportionately likely to experience victimization because both occur within shared criminogenic environments. While widely documented in traditional crime contexts, this mechanism has rarely been examined in cybercrime settings using behavioral data. This study uses privacy-preserving stealer-log–derived breach data to examine heterogeneity within a population of cybercrime victims. Analyzing 21,585 compromised systems, we identify a subset of victims who exhibit behavioral indicators of engagement with cybercrime ecosystems, including hacking forums, underground software distribution platforms, and dark web infrastructures. These systems display markedly different behavioral profiles compared to other victims, including higher browsing intensity and greater engagement with technical infrastructures such as VPNs and cryptocurrency platforms. The findings provide behavioral evidence consistent with victim–offender overlap mechanisms in digital environments and demonstrate how emerging forms of behavioral trace data can be used to test criminological theory in cybercrime contexts.

Malware-Driven Credential Theft and Organizational Culture: How Culture Shapes Exposure in Large Firms *Christian Jordan Howell, University of South Florida; Kaylee Eckelman, University of South Florida; Frank Brown, Ventel LLC; Giti Javidi, University of South Florida; Motahareh Pourbehzadi, University of North Carolina Greensboro*

This study examines how organizational culture shapes cybersecurity posture by integrating firm-level culture metrics with observed credential theft outcomes. We combine Culture 500 data, which captures employee perceptions of workplace norms and values, with open-source credential theft records derived from information stealer malware and extracted from Telegram-based fraud channels, matched to organizations. To contextualize risk exposure, we incorporate firm size using employee count data from the Fortune 1000. This merged dataset enables a comparative analysis of how specific cultural dimensions relate to the frequency and rate of cybersecurity incidents. We test which cultural attributes are most and least conducive to increased exposure across the organizational culture dimensions captured in the Culture 500 dataset. Using statistical modeling, we assess the extent to which culture predicts credential theft occurrence while accounting for organizational scale. Findings provide empirical insight into the role of internal social dynamics in shaping cyber risk, offering a novel approach to understanding how culture functions as either a vulnerability or a protective factor.

101. 'Understanding Crime Control and Punishment in Lithuania: A Punitive Society?' Edited by Aleksandras Dobryninas and Simonas Nikartas (Palgrave, 2025)

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Penology and Theories Punishment (Crime, Science and Politics WG)
Author meets critics
2:15 to 3:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.118

The book "Understanding Crime Control and Punishment in Lithuania: A Punitive Society?" delves into the concept of a punitive society, drawing on the insights of Foucault and Garland to examine the unique aspects of Lithuania's penal policy. It highlights how punishment in such societies transcends legal frameworks, permeating social structures through mechanisms of risk management, security, and repressive actions. As a democratic member of the EU, Lithuania serves as a compelling case study, particularly given its persistently high incarceration rates and the widespread use of community sanctions, which often act more as extensions of carceral control rather than as genuine rehabilitative alternatives. The authors identify key characteristics of a punitive society in Lithuania, such as a focus on imprisonment, increased social control through community sanctions, and a preference for discipline over rehabilitation. They point to penal populism, low institutional trust, and the lasting impact of authoritarianism. The book explores the historical and cultural factors behind these attitudes, including the legacy of the Soviet era and public support for harsh policies. The criminal justice system is shown to disproportionately target vulnerable individuals, addressing issues like the criminalisation of poverty and selective prosecution of minor offences. The media's portrayal of criminalised women is critically examined, alongside the institutional aspects of punitiveness in penal reforms. Despite reform efforts, a control-oriented logic persists, resulting in ineffective crime prevention and inadequate victim support. Ultimately, the book seeks to deepen understanding of punitiveness in Lithuania, offering insights relevant to other post-authoritarian contexts and encouraging reflection on punitive cultures within democratic societies.

Critics:

Catherine Appleton, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Department of Mental Health, Norway.
Ioan Durnescu, University of Bucherest
Loraine Gelsthorpe, University of Cambridge
Krzysztof Krajewski, Jagellonian University Krakow

Book Authors:

Aleksandras Dobryninas, Vilnius University
Simonas Nikartas, Vilnius University, Faculty of Philosophy

102. Variably Legal Markets: Rethinking Markets and Crime

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Organized Crime (Organized

Crime WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
2:15 to 3:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.130

This panel discusses a novel perspective for conceptualising legality in market exchanges, that of 'variably legal markets'. The panel draws on contributions to an edited collection on this perspective (Paoli, L. and Lord., N. (eds) Variably Legal Markets: Rethinking Markets and Crime, Routledge). The perspective complements and expands a longstanding research tradition on markets within criminology (and other social science disciplines), which has drawn attention to varied forms of crime, illegality, rule violations, and harm in contexts involving recurring exchanges of goods and services. Variably legal markets are defined as markets whose exchanges are neither completely legal nor illegal and where the legal status of goods or services traded (collectively referred to as products) and/or of the parties to the exchanges is conditional on several factors and/or multi-dimensional. This panel includes four papers and a discussant. Paper 1 present the conceptual perspective of variably legal markets (Letizia Paoli and Nicholas Lord). Papers 2, 3 and 4 each present concrete case studies of variably legal markets, specifically cigarettes (Francesco Calderoni), fossils and antiquities (Donna Yates), and wildlife and wildlife parts (Annette Hübschle). The discussant (Edward Kleemans) will scrutinise the perspective and papers.

Chair:

Nicholas Lord, The University of Manchester, UK

Participants:

Variably Legal Markets: Beyond the dichotomy between legal and criminal markets *Letizia Paoli, KU Leuven Faculty of Law and Criminology; Nicholas Lord, The University of Manchester, UK*

The market contexts and dynamics of recurring, illegal/criminal exchanges of goods and services have long been scrutinized within criminology and other disciplines. However, the associated literatures (bar some notable exceptions) are beset by several unresolved issues, specifically i. unsatisfactory conceptualization of key terms (i.e., 'market', 'crime', 'illegality'), ii. an imbalanced focus of inquiry (excessively on few criminal markets), and iii. the compartmentalization of research, marginalizing the dialogue between 'organized crime' and 'white-collar crime' literatures. To address these issues, this paper presents a novel conceptual perspective centred on what we term 'variably legal markets'. We argue that, placed in-between legal and criminal markets, variably legal markets have grown in recent decades in number, extent, and significance due to some broad policy and socio-economic developments.

Through the Smoke: Regulation, (Il)legality, and the Complexity of Cigarette Markets *Francesco Calderoni, Transcrime / Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Milan)*

The cigarette market presents a unique case for examining the effects of regulation and of the interaction of legal and illegal products on a variably legal market. This paper, primarily focused on Europe, examines the cigarette regulation and its complex balancing of health, tax, and law enforcement objectives. The paper also delves into the typologies, size, and actors of the illicit cigarette market, providing a detailed analysis of its interaction with the legal market. The study highlights the significant regional variations and the complexities involved in the illegal cigarette trade, influenced by economic, geographic, and policy factors. By offering insights into the micro-dynamics of illicit markets, this study emphasizes the complexity of the illegal cigarette market and the need for nuanced policy interventions that consider the interconnectedness of legal and illegal segments.

Variably Legal Markets for Fossils and Antiquities *Donna Yates, Maastricht University*

Fossils and antiquities circulate in markets where legal and illegal transactions coexist. Both are desired, collectible, and socially valorised. Both are governed by regulatory frameworks that vary across jurisdictions, shift over time, and are routinely undermined by the people who trade in them. These are "variably legal markets," and understanding them requires attention not only to the regulation but to the objects themselves. Fossils and antiquities provoke desire, confer status, and create attachments strong enough to override legal constraints. Otherwise law-abiding people commit crimes to acquire them. This paper explores how the desire-provoking qualities of these objects sustain markets where the line between legal and illegal collecting stays blurred, and where conventional regulatory approaches have not worked.

Variably Legal Markets for Wildlife and Wildlife Parts *Annette Hübschle, University of Cape Town*

Wildlife and wildlife parts circulate in markets where legal and illegal transactions coexist. Desired, collectible, and culturally valued, wildlife is traded through regulatory frameworks that vary across jurisdictions, shift over time, and are routinely undermined by those who profit from them. This presentation examines wildlife trade as a variably legal market, showing how legal ambiguity is reproduced not only across jurisdictions and over time, but also through social normativity, cultural valuation, and discursive practices that muddy the waters between morally right and wrong. Building on our work on irregular regulation, I argue that illegal and grey wildlife trade persists not simply because of weak enforcement, but because market actors draw on historically embedded practices, status distinctions, and narratives of legitimacy that normalise conduct which may be unlawful yet socially tolerated. Wildlife markets are thus arenas of contested illegality in which legality, legitimacy, and value are continually negotiated. Understanding them requires moving beyond a narrow legal/illegal binary to examine how poached, laundered, and dubiously sourced wildlife can circulate within outwardly legitimate trade.

103. Fear of Crime and Risk perception

Topic 6: Perceptions of Crime and Justice/Fear of Crime and Risk perception
Paper Session
2:15 to 3:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 -

Room 2.136

Chair:

Lisa Schmollmüller, Johannes Kepler University Linz

Participants:

A case study on policing anti-social behaviour in the North of England *Liam Ralph, Northumbria University; Paul Robinson, Northumbria University; Sarah Soppitt, Northumbria University; Samantha Walker, Northumbria University; Rebecca Oswald, Northumbria University*

This funded research by the Office of Durham Police Crime Commissioner (OPCC) examined public confidence in relation to the police and other agencies dealing with anti-social behaviour (ASB). Durham Constabulary residents are more likely to experience or be affected by ASB compared to most other areas of England and Wales. Various methods were conducted to better understand the impact of recent police initiatives aimed at improving public confidence. This included focus groups with young people (n=32), surveys with residents across the Force area (n=833) and social media analysis of police accounts and user responses on Facebook. Research findings point to several unique challenges that ultimately hinder the relationship between the police and young people as well as the complex impact of public expectations on overall confidence in the police. This tells us temporal aspects of ASB, and when police reassurance is needed as well as public appetite for various types of communication approaches, and the extent to which this is reflected in what they see. More broadly, the findings remind us that improving public confidence is inherently difficult, and especially today.

Anticipating and Experiencing Risk at the FIFA World Cup: A Two-Wave Study of Crime and Terrorism Perceptions among the U.S. Public *Erin Kearns, University of Nebraska Omaha/NCITE; Callie Vitro, University of Nebraska - Omaha and NCITE; Tin Nguyen, University of Nebraska - Omaha and NCITE*

Mega-events such as the FIFA World Cup provide a unique context to examine public perceptions of safety, risk, and behavior. Building on our prior work on public perceptions of safety at large public events, we will conduct a two-wave survey of U.S. adults administered immediately before and after the 2026 World Cup to assess changes in fear of crime and terrorism, event-specific perceptions, and anticipated and experienced responses. Measures include general fear of crime and terrorism, experiences with and perceptions of event security, and recent attendance at large-scale events including the World Cup. We also measure of news and social media consumption to assess information exposure as a potential driver of risk perceptions. By linking media use, prior event experience, and evolving perceptions of safety, this study advances understanding of how mega-events shape public attitudes toward security and participation. Findings will inform risk communication strategies and public safety planning for large-scale international events.

Beyond Safety Work to Evidence Collecting: Assessing and Understanding the Risk of Sexual Harassment on Public Transport in the UK. *Julia Frances Guy, Durham University*

Sexual harassment is a daily lived reality for many women across the world (Vera-Gray, 2018; Gill et al., 2016) and transit environments have been recognised as abundant settings for crimes in general, but specifically sexual violence (Ceccato et al., 2020; Gardner et al., 2017; Kearl, 2010). However, there is limited research taking place about sexual harassment on public transport in many parts of the world, including Europe, and specifically the UK (Lewis et al., 2021), despite the fact that public transport has been described as a breeding-ground for gender-based harassment (Bastomski and Smith, 2016). Victimisation on public transport is gendered, and many women create specific strategies to mitigate fear whilst travelling (Ceccato, 2017) and this 'safety work' is extensive (Vera-Gray, 2018; Kelly, 2017, 2012). The normalisation and expectation of sexual harassment means the responsibility for risk management falls disproportionately on women. This paper will explore experiences of sexual harassment on public transport in the North-East of England, UK. Using doctoral research survey data (n=386) and narratives from Education Empowerment Workshops (EEW) (McGlynn and Westmarland, 2019), this paper will present the extent of risk perception and safety work occurring in and around the transport network. This paper introduces a new concept called 'evidence work' which extends the idea of safety work and focuses on the practices of collecting evidence in anticipation of fatal violence (e.g. leaving DNA in taxis). This study not only contributes to the limited empirical research that addresses sexual harassment on public transport but identifies context-specific risks to reduce perpetration and improve safety.

Explaining High Perceived Safety in Lithuania: Crime Perception and Trust in the Police in a European Perspective *Egle Vileikiene, Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania*

Why do some societies come to feel safer despite evolving crime risks? This paper examines Lithuania as an empirical case for understanding the interplay between perceived safety, fear of crime, and trust in the police in contemporary Europe. Drawing on data from a 2025 nationally representative public safety survey, and situating these findings within a comparative EU framework, the analysis shows that Lithuanian residents report among the highest levels of perceived safety in the European Union. In 2025, 89% of respondents reported feeling safe in their neighbourhood, while 75% perceived a low risk of victimization - placing Lithuania among the leading EU countries in subjective safety. Over the past two decades, Lithuania has experienced a marked shift in public perceptions of crime and policing. While public concerns have moved away from traditional offences (e.g. property crime and traffic-related risks) towards emerging threats such as cybercrime and fraud, overall perceptions of safety have steadily improved. At the same time, trust in the police has increased substantially: Lithuania now ranks among the top EU countries and exhibits one of the most pronounced

upward trends in trust in the police since 2007. Police institutions are increasingly perceived as professional, responsive, and less prone to corruption, reflecting broader institutional and societal transformations. The Lithuanian case contributes to broader debates in criminology by highlighting the potential role of institutional change, public communication, and policing practices in shaping subjective security. It suggests that improvements in perceived safety may not simply reflect changes in objective crime levels, but are also linked to shifts in institutional trust, legitimacy, and the social construction of risk. By situating Lithuania within a comparative European framework, the paper offers insights into the conditions under which positive security perceptions emerge and persist, and outlines implications for both policy and theory across EU member states.

Fear of Crime – a Function of the Psychological Distance to Crime? An Analysis Inspired by Construal Level Theory *Lisa Schmollmüller, Johannes Kepler University Linz; Helmut Hirtenlehner, Johannes Kepler University Linz*

Construal level theory submits that the psychological distance to an object (event) affects the emotional response to this object (event). Events perceived as 'near' are assumed to elicit more intense responses. From this, it follows that crime-related distance perceptions shape people's level of fear of crime. Analyses of a student survey at an Austrian university provide supportive results. Several dimensions of the psychological distance to crime are predictive of the respondents' extent of worry about crime, with greater fear among those who construe criminal victimization as near.

104. PWG Panel 8: Rehabilitation, Risk Assessment and Behavioural Change

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Imprisonment, Prisons, Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment (Prisons WG)
Paper Session
2:15 to 3:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.156
Chair:
Gabriel Tanasescu, University of Craiova Faculty of Law
Participants:

A qualitative examination of risk assessment and offender profiling tools in South African correctional centres *Surprise Mfana Mthethwa, University of South Africa; Nigel Bradely Bougard, University of South Africa*

This study critically examined risk assessment and profiling practices of 45 adult male offenders. The qualitative research explored and described the profiling methods and risk assessment tools utilised in correctional centres from a critical perspective (critical criminology). A positivist approach underpinned the research paradigm, as the researchers recommended improving risk assessment and profiling methods of adult male offenders in South African correctional centres. Basic research, more specifically a collective case study design, formed the basis of the study. With the assistance of a semi-structured interview schedule, the researchers analysed the narratives according to thematic content analysis. Purposive sampling, particularly convenience sampling, aided data collection. The empirical findings indicated that when assessing the risks associated with adult male offenders, participants' profiles reveal a complex interplay of factors that contribute to criminal behaviour. These findings propose an integrated approach to profiling and risk assessment practices in correctional centres in South Africa, aimed at delivering more effective intervention strategies for the case management of adult male offenders. The study offers a comprehensive analysis of risk factors associated with adult male offenders, providing important insights for their risk assessment in South African correctional centres.

Artificial Intelligence in Prisons: Digital Rehabilitation, Education, Work, and Reducing Recidivism *Vasiliki N/A Theologi, PhD in Criminologiacal Studies, Democritus University of Thrace Law School (DUTh)*

This paper examines the emerging role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in correctional settings, focusing on its potential to enhance prisoner rehabilitation, education, work opportunities, and recidivism reduction. The study situates technological innovation within the broader framework of restorative justice, emphasizing human-centered correctional practices and the protection of fundamental rights. Drawing on the concept of "Correctional AI," the paper explores how AI tools are integrated into prison environments to support educational programs, vocational training, digital employment, and continuous mental health support. Special attention is given to the concept of "digital rehabilitation," understood as the use of technology to facilitate social reintegration and improve post-release prospects. The paper also critically assesses the ethical and human rights implications of AI deployment in prisons, including surveillance, autonomy, data protection, and algorithmic fairness. Furthermore, it investigates how technological systems interact with traditional correctional staff roles and institutional culture, highlighting both opportunities and challenges in implementing AI responsibly. Empirical evidence is drawn from qualitative research conducted in a Northern Greek correctional facility. Staff perceptions, levels of trust in AI systems, and observed changes in prison practices were examined through interviews and thematic analysis. Findings indicate that while AI can enhance rehabilitation and support staff, its effectiveness depends on transparency, ethical safeguards, and training for correctional personnel. The paper concludes by proposing policy recommendations for the ethical adoption of AI in prisons, emphasizing the need for clear legal frameworks, accountability mechanisms, and alignment with human rights. This study contributes to the growing field of Correctional AI, providing insights for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers interested in technology-enhanced rehabilitation and the transformation of prison environments.

The impact of the prison environment on self-control pre- and post-release: A longitudinal approach *Ilke Veeckman, Ghent University; Victoria Rambaud, The Moral & Social*

Brain Lab, Department of Experimental Psychology, Ghent University, B-9000 Ghent, Belgium; Louis Favril, Ghent University; Emilie Caspar, The Moral & Social Brain Lab, Department of Experimental Psychology, Ghent University; Tom Vander Beken, Professor and director of the Institute for International Research on Criminal Policy (IRCP), Ghent University

Incarceration is a highly restrictive environment that entails a loss of freedom and autonomy, and has negative short and long-term psychological, social and health effects on incarcerated individuals. However, prison environments vary considerably in terms of climate and regimes, and consequently, their impact. Prior research has found that a positive or stimulating prison climate can increase a person's readiness and motivation to engage in rehabilitation efforts and even result in more positive post-release outcomes. While self-control has been widely studied in criminology, research has mostly focus on its relationship with recidivism and crime. However, the influence of different prison environments on self-control remains largely unexplored. The current project investigates the impact of incarceration on self-control in an interdisciplinary criminological study. The effects of different prison environments are assessed in a longitudinal design, where incarcerated individuals were followed for up to one year. Data were collected at three time points: just prior to release (baseline, T1), four months immediately after release (T2), and eight months later (T3). Participants were asked to give their perspective on their current living circumstances, being quality of life when outside or the prison environment when detained, mental health and self-control. At each timepoint, self-control was measured using a combination of self-reported data from the questionnaires and a behavioural test. Mixed-effects models were used to examine changes across T1, T2 and T3. Results are currently being analysed; however, preliminary findings suggest an initial decline in self-control from T1 to T2, followed by a partial recovery at T3. Variations in prison climate and living conditions appear to be associated with these trajectories. Exploratory analyses further indicate that a more supportive prison climate prior to release, along with greater social connectedness and engagement in varied leisure activities post-release, may be linked to less pronounced declines in self-control.

The Internalization of Moral Norms and Behavioral Transformation in the Penitentiary Environment *Gabriel Tanasescu, University of Craiova Faculty of Law*

The paper analyzes the theory of situational action, which claims that crime is a moral action. In detention, it is necessary to internalize moral norms, to transform external rules into personal values, which motivate behavioral change. Without internalization, morality becomes a superficial acceptance of the criminal law, vulnerable in the absence of supervision. Truly moral individuals act ethically even when they are not observed, because they have integrated moral norms into their identity and their way of perceiving-choosing social action. Understanding how this internalization occurs (and how it can fail) is important for society. Interviews from the Craiova Detention Center present the sufficient reasons and imperative reasons for changing behavior during detention. The internalization of moral norms is conditioned by the motivation of the prisoner, rewards and other social factors. The prison environment, with many constraints, can negatively influence the reintegration process. Sometimes, the rules of detention are perceived as a moral, social constraint against personal development. Resistance and the process of aggression (opposition) appear. Communication between officers is essential, as well as the methods and means of support. The internalization of moral norms is based on the psychological process by which the individual perceives the moral norm as justified. It is a process of self-legislation. Respect and perception of unconditional good encourage internalization. Change occurs if in detention the individual morality moves away from egocentrism and emotional self-sabotage (akrasia). Ethical labor begins with discipline and self-control, through the desire for training and participation in educational activities, work within the penitentiary. The paper also presents aspects related to the participants' fear of not being able to cope in society. The participants declare that they need permanent prosocial stimulation. The discussions highlight concerns about jobs, fear of failure and competition, and abstinence from drug use.

105. PWG Panel 2: Women's Imprisonment: Space, Deprivation and Agency

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Imprisonment, Prisons, Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment (Prisons WG)
Paper Session
2:15 to 3:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.158
Chair:
Bevis Edward McNeil, Leeds Beckett University, UK
Participants:

Beyond the pains of imprisonment: Gendered deprivations in women's prisons *Katarzyna Celinska, John Jay College of Criminal Justice*

Gresham M. Sykes introduced the concept of the "pains of imprisonment" in his classic book The Society of Captives (1958; 2007). Sykes argued that imprisonment is not only a loss of freedom but also involves several severe and systematic deprivations that shape prisoners' experiences. He identified five key deprivations: deprivation of liberty, deprivation of goods and services, deprivation of heterosexual relationships, deprivation of autonomy, and deprivation of security. Although these deprivations appear to be universal, Sykes conducted his research exclusively with male prisoners in a New Jersey maximum security prison. In this presentation, I propose an alternative set of deprivations experienced by women in prison. These deprivations are based on qualitative semi-structured interviews conducted with women incarcerated in a New Jersey women's prison and on insights from feminist criminological literature. The gendered deprivations are also shaped by the histories of trauma many women experienced before incarceration and by

complex relationships with others. Deprivations related to control over their bodies, motherhood, and domestic roles highlight dimensions of women's lives that are often central to their identities. I argue that these deprivations deepen the paternalistic and systemic forms of control and abuse that many women encountered before entering prison.

'Prison has made me blossom; into a different person, into a better person': Exploring criminalised women's narratives of agency and resistance through Photovoice in prison *Lynn Clarke-Hearty, University College Dublin*

Prison is a punitive and disempowering site in which opportunities for agency and control are constrained by prison conditions and regime. However, within accounts that emphasise such experiences including feeling "like a caged animal", a resounding claim that "prison saves" emerges from some women in prison in Ireland. Leading chaotic lives on the outside, criminalised women survive hardship and peril but report adapting to prison and thriving on the inside. This paper draws on research using the Photovoice method, which involves photography, critical discussion and photo exhibition, with women in prison and in the community in Ireland. Exploring agency and resistance through criminalised women's photography and narratives, prison is illuminated as a liminal space for reinventive and destructive processes. Women, who are overwhelmed by chaos, acute deprivation and degradation prior to imprisonment, produce narratives of reinvention, like "blossoming" in prison. This paper is not a defence of imprisonment. Rather, it offers a nuanced analysis of an inverted notion of imprisonment as reinvention. This is the first project of its kind, nationally and internationally, in which cameras are being used by women prisoners to centralise their voices and lived experiences. This innovative research engages co-produced knowledge with justice-involved women to deepen our understanding of the interplay between agency and systems of power. Moreover, this prison-based research contributes new qualitative evidence to reentry and desistance scholarship.

Spatial Conditions of Women in Detention in Austria *Mirjam Johanna Habisreutinger, University of Applied Sciences Campus Vienna*

This paper presents findings from an interdisciplinary research project examining the spatial needs of incarcerated women in Austria. It outlines the project's methodology and draws on qualitative data to highlight gender-specific disparities in everyday prison life and institutional infrastructure. Women constitute a minority within the prison population in Europe, as well as in Austria, which contributes to their marginalization within correctional systems largely designed to meet the needs of young male inmates. At the same time, women's lived experiences of imprisonment often differ significantly from those of men and are frequently shaped by persistent gender roles and expectations. This presentation explores the extent to which architectural, spatial, and organizational conditions either enable or constrain women's capacity to act within this prison environment. It considers not only the formal provision of programs and spatial resources but also their actual accessibility in the everyday reality of incarceration. Particular attention is given to current debates on the integration of women into spaces traditionally designated for men, as well as to shared activities between different prison populations. The findings provide an empirical basis for developing socially and structurally sustainable detention conditions that better account for women's spatial needs and their role in supporting rehabilitation.

The Challenges of the Provision of Equivalence of Care for Female Offenders Incarcerated in Nordic Prisons *Bevis Edward McNeil, Leeds Beckett University, UK*

The advantages and benefits for prisoners of the socially progressive approach to incarceration, embodied by the Nordic Model of imprisonment, and exemplified by Norway's flagship prison in Halden, have been well documented (Hyatt et al 2020; Abdel-Salam and Kilmer 2023; McNeil et al 2024). However, this paper will focus on the significant discrepancy in the quality of care and services provided for female and male offenders incarcerated in Nordic prisons, with female offenders' prisons faring considerably worse (Damsa 2023). In Norway, for example, this non-equivalence has been interpreted as minority discrimination by the Gender Equality and Distribution Ombudsman (Høidal and Hanssen 2023). With female offenders in prisons making up approximately 5% of the prisoner population in Norway, the standards of their prison environments and services fall well below their male prisoner counterparts, sometimes mirroring the more basic and sparse conditions found in prisons in England and Wales and the US. Furthermore, there are a plethora of deficiencies in the Nordic women's prison environments, which include: underfunded, infrequent, and inferior education, work skills-based and drug rehabilitation programmes; inadequate physical and mental health services; and older, less well equipped and more dilapidated prisons (Hellebust et al 2021; Kristoffersen 2019; Karlsen 2018). These factors contribute to higher occurrences of physical and mental health problems in female inmates, with self-harm and suicide attempts being especially high. It has been further argued that women's rights and gender equality are not upheld in Nordic prison environments (Damsa 2023). This is especially the case with non-citizen women's experiences in Nordic prisons (Bosworth 2023). This paper will therefore expose the manifold shortcomings of female Nordic prisons, and provide recommendations for how a genuine move towards equivalence of care can be generated between female and male Nordic prisons, detailing the many challenges encountered in order to achieve this.

106. Theorising the Open Prison

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Imprisonment, Prisons, Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment (Prisons WG) Roundtable

2:15 to 3:30 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.164

Over the last decade, we have witnessed an increased research interest in so called 'open prisons' (Lappi-Seppälä 2025).

However, despite a significantly better knowledge base than only a decade ago, there is still a lot we do not know about open prisons and their effects. Firstly, and conceptually, the very notion of 'open prison' is vague, and there do not seem to be an agreement on definition. Conceptual ambiguity is not only a technical problem, related to definition, but a substantial one, because it affects how we carry out and interpret comparative research. Secondly, the sociological exploration of everyday life in prison is much less developed for open compared to closed prisons. Key issues in prisons research – relationships between prisoners and between prisoners and staff, power, order, subculture and security – are much less studied in open prisons. This is hardly surprising, given that most prisons in most countries are high security prisons. However, at a time when researchers, politicians and practitioners are showing more interest in the potential benefits of less secure penal institutions, we should know more about their internal worlds. Thirdly, and lastly, while some studies indicate that open prisons produce better outcomes, this line of research is still in its infancy. The few studies that have looked at post-release outcomes have focused on recidivism, yet this is clearly not the only relevant outcome to consider. Relatedly, much qualitative work on open prisons have explored the degree to which these types of prisons produce distinct types of pain (i.e. Shammas 2014), yet the broader question of how pain in prison relate to post-release harm are much less discussed. In this roundtable, we bring together scholars from across Europe to interrogate and discuss how we can make sense of 'open prisons' – conceptually, experientially and evaluatively.

Chairs:

Kate Gooch, University of Bath
Kristian Mjåland, University College of Norwegian Correctional Service

Discussants:

Anna Schliehe, Universität Trier
Michael Lindemann, University of Bielefeld, Faculty of Law
Daria Przybylska, University of Cambridge
Alejandro Rubio Arnal, SEPE
Ben Crewe, University of Cambridge

107. EDLC Panel 2. Social Relationships and Criminal Trajectories

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Development and Life Course Perspectives (Development and Life Course Criminology WG)

Paper Session

2:15 to 3:30 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.170

Chair:

Babette van Hazebroek, Leiden University

Participants:

Exploring Familial and Social Risk Factors in Foreign Detention: A Comparative Analysis of Dutch Nationals Imprisoned Abroad and Domestically *Kiki von Piekartz, NSCR; Steve van de Weijer, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement; Sjoukje van Deuren, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; Veroni Eichelsheim, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement*

Criminological research has long examined the familial and social factors influencing criminal behaviour and, consequently, imprisonment. However, most studies focus on domestic offenders, and less attention has been given to individuals detained abroad, particularly those involved in transnational crimes. This study examines Dutch nationals imprisoned outside the Netherlands, focusing on the familial and social risk factors contributing to their foreign detention. For this purpose, the case files of approximately 600 Dutch nationals who were in contact with the International Office of the Dutch Probation Service were analysed. By analysing these case files, we aim to identify patterns and subgroups within the foreign detainee population, with special attention to life-course factors such as marriage and parenthood, which may influence criminal trajectories differently compared with domestic offenders. Using life-course criminology as a theoretical framework, we explore the impact of social bonds and turning points on foreign imprisonment, considering the influence of organised crime, gender, and the unique challenges faced by prisoners abroad. This research contributes to understanding the diverse factors leading to foreign detention and offers insights into targeted prevention strategies and support for detainees and their families.

Queenpins, kingpins, and coupledom: A register-based investigation of the influence of partners' life-course transitions on criminal behavior among serious drug crime offenders *Freja Ilsing Magnussen, Centre for Alcohol and Drug Research, Aarhus University; Arjan Blokland, NSCR*

In the last decades, research has increasingly documented that women constitute a non-negligible share of individuals involved in large-scale drug crime, here termed serious drug crime (SDC). In doing so, this scholarship has also brought attention to the importance of understanding women's pathways into the drug trade, with a recurring finding being that women's involvement often occurs through intimate relationships with drug-crime-involved men. At the same time, research in life-course criminology has generally found that strong social bonds—such as marriage and cohabitation—tend to reduce criminal offending. These two strands of research therefore point to potential tensions in current understandings of the relationship between crime and intimate relationships: while intimate relationships are often understood as protective factors against crime, they may also function as pathways into serious drug offending. Addressing this tension, the present study shifts the analytical focus from individual offending to offending within couples by examining how one partner's life-course transitions (e.g., crime, employment) are associated with the other's offending trajectory. To do so, we use longitudinal Danish population register data linking approximately 966 women and 9,081 men convicted of SDC to their approximately 19,596 officially registered opposite-sex spouses and cohabiting partners. The effects of partnership dynamics on offending are estimated using panel-data models that account for within-couple interdependence, time-varying life circumstances, and time-invariant individual characteristics. Through this approach, our study contributes to research on gender

and drug markets and advances life-course criminology in two important ways: by examining crime among SDC offenders as a relational process that unfolds within intimate partnerships, and by exploring whether such partnerships may simultaneously function as turning points away from crime and mechanisms facilitating involvement in SDC.

The role of socio-economic factors in the life course of Dutch Prisoners Abroad *Juliette Jonkers, NSCR/VU; Steve van de Weijer, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement; Elanie Rodermond, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; Anja Dirkzwager, NSCR*

In Europe, almost 30% of inmates in local prisons are foreign nationals. Being detained abroad can generate additional pains of detention for the prisoner and their family, while also posing challenges for the host country and for the homeland when citizens return after serving a prison sentence abroad. Yet, little is known about how the life course of this population compares to the life course of people detained in their own country. Criminological research into life-courses consistently shows that socio-economical characteristics, such as education, employment, income, debts and housing, are associated with individuals' criminal behaviour and imprisonment. Although extensive research exists on the socio-economic backgrounds of general prison populations, little is known about the life-course of people detained abroad. This gap is problematic given the growing number of individuals imprisoned abroad and the possibility that established criminological knowledge may not generalize to a highly mobile, cross-border offending population. Each year, almost 2000 Dutch citizens serve sentences in prisons all over the world. Existing research into this population is limited but indicates a high prevalence of drug-related offences and financial debts, suggesting that socio-economic factors may play an important role in both offending abroad and in the life course of Dutch prisoners abroad. This study provides new insights into the life course of Dutch nationals abroad and examines the role of socio-economic factors shaping their life course. We analyzed 830 case files of Dutch nationals detained abroad who were in contact with the International Office of the Dutch Probation Service. These data are combined with register data of Statistic Netherlands enabling comparison with Dutch offenders imprisoned domestically. This study contributes to a better understanding of the life course of Dutch nationals offending across borders, the socio-economic vulnerabilities and implications for reintegration policies.

Age, period, and cohort dynamics in conviction trends *Babette van Hazebroek, Leiden University; Paul Nieuwbeerta, Leiden University*

Over the past decades, recorded crime in Western societies has declined substantially. This development can be understood in terms of three underlying dynamics: age, period, and cohort effects. Age effects refer to changes in criminal involvement across the life course; period effects reflect changes in societal and institutional conditions that affect all age groups similarly; and cohort effects indicate persistent differences between birth cohorts resulting from shared social and historical experiences. In this study, we examine the relative contribution of age, period, and cohort effects to trends in criminal convictions in the Netherlands. We use register data from Statistics Netherlands on criminal convictions for the period 2001–2024, and apply the Age–Period–Cohort Interaction (APC-I) model, in which cohort effects are conceptualized as age-specific responses to social change. The results provide new insights into the mechanisms underlying changes in crime trends and have implications for both policy development and life-course criminological research.

108. Criminalization and New Legal Categories in Changing Social Contexts

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Criminal Policy, Criminalization, Policy of Criminal Sanctions (Criminal Law Making Policy WG)

Paper Session

2:15 to 3:30 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.015

Chair:

Dragoș Pârgaru, Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest

Participants:

Evaluation of the German Prostitutes Protection Act: Empirical Findings on Registration and Sexual Self-Determination *Robert Küster, Criminological Research Institute of Lower Saxony (KFN)*

The German Prostitutes Protection Act (ProstSchG), implemented in 2017, aims to strengthen the protection, health, and self-determination of individuals engaged in prostitution. An extensive evaluation conducted by the Criminological Research Institute of Lower Saxony on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Education, Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth of Germany provides one of the most comprehensive empirical assessments of the law to date. A central component of this evaluation is a large-scale survey of approximately 2,350 of persons engaged in prostitution across Germany. The survey data offers insights into the perspectives of sex workers regarding key regulatory instruments, including mandatory registration and counselling procedures. The evaluation explicitly centres on the experiences of those targeted by the law, using standardized questionnaires as part of a broader mixed-methods design. Overall, the evaluation results suggest a differentiated picture: while the registration process contributes to increasing knowledge about rights and obligations among sex workers who participate and improved access to support, its potential to enhance the protection of sexual self-determination is not yet fully realised. Challenges related to the acceptance and practicability of the registration procedure reduce its overall effectiveness. Moreover, the capacity of the information and counselling interview in identifying individuals potentially affected by human trafficking or exploitation is hindered by existing practical and structural challenges.

The Making of Femicide in Brazil: Police Narratives,

Gendered Meanings, and Institutional Inequalities *Ludmila Ribeiro, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais; Amanda Lagreca, UFMG*

Nearly 50,000 women and girls were killed worldwide in 2024 because of their gender (UNODC, 2025), in what is broadly defined as femicide. Although this global framing has increased visibility, it also conceals conceptual and methodological differences, as countries define and operationalize femicide differently within their criminal justice systems (CJS). These variations shape victims' rights and influence how lethal violence is processed. Focusing on Brazil, this study examines how the initial classification of lethal violence against women is produced within police institutions and how these early categorizations shape case trajectories. Drawing on 95 in-depth interviews with police chiefs, homicide investigators, and forensic experts across all 27 states (2025–2026), combined with qualitative coding, the study shows that classification is not merely technical but interpretative. Findings reveal a process of institutional filtering: cases involving intimate partners and domestic contexts are more likely to be classified as femicide, while killings in public or criminalized contexts are often treated as homicides. These patterns reflect a restricted construction of gender and the influence of the "ideal victim," shaping which women are recognized as victims of gender-based violence within the CJS.

The new Swiss Criminal Offence of Identity Misuse: big throw or boomerang? *Cathrine Julia Konopatsch, FernUni Schweiz*

In Switzerland, the most recent comprehensive revision of data protection law introduced the criminal offence of identity misuse, now codified in Article 179decies of the Swiss Criminal Code (SCC). This provision, which entered into force on 1 September 2023, represents a novelty in Swiss law and significantly expands the protection of personality rights under criminal law. Pursuant to Article 179decies SCC, any person who uses another individual's identity without consent with the intention of harming the identity holder or obtaining an unlawful advantage for themselves or a third party is, upon complaint, liable to a custodial sentence of up to one year or a monetary penalty. According to the legislative materials, the introduction of Article 179decies SCC is primarily justified by the increasing prevalence and severity of identity misuse in the context of ongoing digitalization. The provision was not enacted to fulfil international Convention obligations, such as the Budapest Cybercrime Convention. Most European states currently do not provide for specific criminal offences addressing identity misuse. However, several countries – Germany among them – have recently seen growing debate on the introduction of identity related offences, particularly in connection with deepfakes. This paper provides a critical assessment of the offence of identity misuse in Switzerland, its practical relevance, and its relationship to other criminal provisions, with particular emphasis on the analysis of court decisions and convictions concerning Article 179decies SCC. Although most decisions have not been published, access to the relevant case files was granted upon request. Article 179decies SCC and the corresponding practical experience in Switzerland may offer valuable insights for discussions on the introduction of identity related offences in other jurisdictions.

AI delinquere non potest? *Dragoș Pârgaru, Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest*

The rapid development of artificial intelligence has reopened, in a new technological register, one of the oldest questions of criminal law and criminology: who can meaningfully become the subject of blame, control, and sanction? Traditionally, the answer seemed clear. Machines, however sophisticated, were treated as mere instruments, while responsibility remained with the human actors who designed, deployed, or misused them. Yet recent developments challenge the comfort of that framework. AI systems are no longer confined to passive execution; they increasingly generate outputs that are adaptive, opaque, socially consequential, and sometimes difficult to attribute neatly to a single human decision-maker. The author will examine whether the classical intuition captured by the adjusted formula AI delinquere non potest can still be maintained without qualification. We do not argue that contemporary AI is morally equivalent to human agents, nor that existing systems possess consciousness or genuine culpability in the philosophical sense. Rather, the author explores a criminological problem: the emergence of harmful conduct involving AI in patterns that destabilize traditional models of attribution, deviance, and social control. The analysis will move across three levels: real-world examples of AI implicated in fraud, manipulation, and harmful interpersonal dynamics; the limits of current criminal-law attribution models focused exclusively on human actors; and the comparative relevance of corporate criminal liability as a precedent for non-human legal responsibility.

109. Restorative Justice in Europe in the context of the International Encyclopaedia of Restorative Justice

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Restorative Justice (Restorative Justice WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

2:15 to 3:30 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.025

Since the 1980s modern criminal law and criminal procedural law has experienced major reform developments with regards the use of restorative elements, which have been incorporated into law and practice. One of the most prominent elements of restorative justice (RJ) in Europe concerns mediation/or victim-offender reconciliation which have been implemented as an extra-judicial, but also as a sentencing option within criminal law and procedure. New developments go even further by using restorative measures during the execution of community based sanctions, but also of prison sentences. Other regions have witnessed a strong growth of other RJ models such as conferences and circles in dealing with a variety of crimes and injustices. Ivo Aertsen and Jennifer Llewellyn as main editors of a global encyclopaedia of RJ have organised a worldwide project on RJ in its historical developments, the present practice in criminal law and procedure and the future perspectives to

overcome the traditional retributive approach of criminal law through restorative policies to solve crime related conflicts between victims and offenders, taking into account the role of the community as well. The present panel presents for the first time the final results of the two European volumes of the International Encyclopaedia

Chair:

Frieder Duenkel, University of Greifswald

Participants:

Key findings of the European volumes of the International Encyclopaedia of Restorative Justice *Gintautas Sakalauskas, Vilnius University; Frieder Duenkel, University of Greifswald*

The historical overview shows that the development of RJ in Europe proceeded in waves. Offender oriented and victim oriented reform movements were of major importance. EU accession processes as well as Council of Europe recommendations such as the one on Restorative Justice in Criminal Matters (CM/Rec (2018)8) can be seen as strong drivers in the last 25 years. However, the landscape remains very inhomogeneous. The European wide survey shows that 'restorative justice' currently mainly refers to victim-offender mediation and more recently also to conferencing approaches. Forms of restorative interventions in prisons have been significantly expanded in recent years, which we see as a positive. Although VOM is now widespread, and in several countries, it is used more broadly, its application remains restrictive, mostly limited to less serious offenses or first-time offenders. Even in those countries where restorative justice is comparatively well established, RJ services often are not available nationwide. Contemporary societies are facing significant obstacles. Right-wing populism is on the rise in many European countries, challenging restorative values such as listening to different perspectives and fostering a culture of respectful conflict resolution. As democratic values come under threat, restorative justice approaches are also put on the defensive. Nevertheless, there is room for cautious optimism, supported by the underlying country reports. Strong movements in civil societies are emerging, creating restorative neighbourhoods, schools, and cities, particularly in parts of Belgium, the Netherlands, Finland, Norway, Italy and the UK. These initiatives provide grounds for hope and optimism, particularly if countries succeed in incorporating the idea of restorative justice into daily life.

Restorative Justice – the European landscape – Restorative measures in youth and adult criminal law and organisational aspects *Andrea Parosanu, Victroria University of Wellington*

The European volumes of the Encyclopedia has 48 national reports covering all jurisdictions of the Council of Europe and even Belarus and Russia, which are not CoE-member states. In the early 1980s, first Restorative Justice measures were mediation schemes, predominantly used in juvenile justice as extra-judicial diversionary measures, later also conferencing and other extended forms of RJ followed, more recently also in the post-sentencing stage (during the execution of probation and prison sentences). In most counties the scope was widened covering also the general criminal law for adults. As most advanced jurisdictions can be identified Austria, Belgium, Finland, The Netherlands, Northern Ireland, and Norway. With a 15 years' time lag also the former Eastern bloc countries followed, but im many cases with serious implementation problems, as former retributive ideas are still influencing the practice. In the meantime, good evaluative research (e.g in NL, UK, Belgium) reveal positive outcomes as regards satisfaction of victims and the reintegrative potential for offenders. However, in most jurisdictions the numbers of restorative justice cases remain low, demanding for policy strategies to expand the application of RJ. The paper will discuss new reform developments in selected jurisdictions.

Restorative Justice in the post-sentencing stage *Frieder Duenkel, University of Greifswald*

One of the rather new developments is the implementation of restorative justice measures in the post-sentencing stage. The CoE Recommentaion (2018)8 emphasises the importance to introduce restorative elements in the post-sentencing stage, in particular in prison settings. On the one hand this means providing victim-offender encounters (not necessarily with the individual victim, but with victim's representatives, which can be seen as part of victim awareness programmes) or efforts to mediation or compensation in favour of victims by the offender. A second pillar is the conflict resolution within prisons in cases of e.g. violence between prisoners and/or between staff members and prisoners. The present comparative analysis of restorative justice approaches in the prison system revealed that 28 of the 48 countries (= 58.3 per cent) in 2025 had legal requirements or corresponding projects which may be characterised as 'restorative' in the framework of resocialisation measures, victim-offender encounters, restorative services or dispute resolution within the prison system. The paper will present some examples of these RJ-approaches

Restorative Justice in Poland – a critical review on legal developments and barriers to a restorative and victim-oriented crime policy *Wojciech Zalewski, University of Gdansk, Law Faculty, Poland*

This presentation examines the marginal role of restorative justice in Poland and argues that penal populism, focused on harsher punishment and retribution, undermines mediation and reconciliation. It highlights institutional and cultural barriers to restorative practices and calls for a more humane, victim-oriented, and socially constructive model of criminal justice consistent with European standards.

110. Virtual Reality as a Window into Crime: Personality, Situations, and Psychological Processes

Topic 8: Methodologies in Criminology/Advances in Experimental Methods (Qantitative Methods WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

2:15 to 3:30 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.110

Virtual reality (VR) offers unprecedented opportunities to study

crime-related decision-making in ecologically valid yet experimentally controlled environments. This panel brings together five complementary studies that leverage VR-based experimental approaches to examine crime-related decision-making from multiple perspectives: bystanders (Talk 1 and 2), victims (Talks 3 and 4, focusing on fear of crime), and offenders (Talk 5). The first and second papers examine bystander intervention using an immersive 360° VR scenario from different angles: Talk 1 presents on whether beliefs about actors' pre-existing social relationships influence intervention intention. Talk 2 introduces a trait–state model of reactive guardianship, demonstrating how personality traits influence intervention pathways via situationally activated cognitive and affective states. The third and fourth papers take a victim-oriented perspective, combining VR and real-life urban environments to investigate how perceived disorder and personality traits shape fear of crime (Talk 3), and leverage a mixed-methods approach to study behavioural adaptations due to fear of crime (Talk 4). The fifth paper adopts an offender perspective, using VR combined with eye-tracking to uncover implicit perceptual mechanisms underlying target evaluation and revealing systematic divergences between visual attention and explicit judgment. Together, these studies illustrate how diverse methodological approaches—including quantitative analyses, mixed-methods designs, and physiological measures—can be integrated within VR-based paradigms to uncover the psychological mechanisms linking traits, situational cues, and behavior. By bridging perspectives across bystanders, victims, and offenders, the panel demonstrates the value of VR as a powerful tool for advancing a unified, psychologically grounded understanding of Psychological-Perceptual Mechanisms of crime-related decision-making.

Chairs:

Jean-Louis van Gelder, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law

Ranran Li, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security, and Law

Participants:

Approximating real life: Bystander intervention in a violent incident using 360° video scenarios *Jean-Louis van Gelder, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law; Carlijn van Baak, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR), University of Amsterdam; Marie Rosenkrantz Lindegaard, NSCR and University of Amsterdam*

Despite of several decades of research, the exact triggers for bystander intervention in violent incidents remain elusive. We test the hypothesis that the decision of bystanders to intervene in a violent incident depends on their belief about whether the actors involved know each other. We predict that when bystanders assume that the actors in a violent incident have a pre-existing social relationship, they are less likely to intervene compared to when they are believed to be strangers. In this preregistered study, we test this hypothesis in an immersive 360° video experiment. Participants witness a situation of sexual harassment in a barroom setting and are asked to indicate the likelihood that they would intervene in the situation. We compare a condition in which the involved parties are suggested not to know each other prior to the incident, with a condition in which the parties are presented as strangers from each other. We also explore additional motivations to intervene or to abstain from intervention (e.g., fear/perceived danger, anger, acceptability of violence, demographics, etc.). This study mimics a real-life event as closely as possible by using a professionally developed immersive 360° video recording and by using the barroom where the scenario was recorded as a testing location. In doing so, we create a 'bar-in-a-bar' setting and allow participants, patrons of the bar, to experience the scenario from the exact same location in which it was originally recorded thus maximizing ecological validity.

A Trait–State Model of Reactive Guardianship: Psychological Pathways to Bystander Intervention *Ranran Li, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security, and Law; Timothy C. Barnum, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law; Shaina Herman, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law; Loreen Tisdall, University of Basel; Reinout E. de Vries, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; Jean-Louis van Gelder, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law*

How do bystanders decide whether—and how—to intervene when witnessing crime in progress? We propose and test a trait-state model of reactive guardianship in which stable personality traits influence bystander intervention decisions through situationally activated affective and cognitive states. Drawing on the HEXACO model, we conceptualize traits—particularly Honesty-Humility and Emotionality—as predispositions that shape momentary moral appraisals and risk perceptions, which in turn predict intervention pathways. Using an immersive 360° video virtual reality scenario, 247 male participants experienced a bystander situation from a first-person perspective and reported their intended responses. We examined two forms of intervention: violent intervention and non-violent intervention (e.g., seeking help). Structural equation modeling indicated that violent intervention was shaped primarily by inhibitory mechanisms: moral appraisals—perceived unacceptability of violence and anticipated guilt/shame—emerged as central pathways linking Honesty–Humility to reduced violent intervention. Perceived risk, linked to Emotionality, reduced violent intervention but redirected responses toward indirect intervention. Together, these states explained 26.2% of the variance in violent intervention. The research extends trait–state models beyond offending to guardianship, offers a process-oriented account of bystander decision-making in which behavior is shaped by situationally activated psychological states. It further demonstrates that guardianship is multidimensional, unfolding through distinct intervention pathways.

A place-person interaction of HEXACO personality traits and perceived disorder in the emergence of fear of crime *Max Knabe, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security, and Law; Ann-Kathrin Arui, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security, and Law; Shadi Derakhshan, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law; Jean-Louis van Gelder, Max Planck*

Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law

Introduction: In this work, we assess the interplay of perceived disorder and HEXACO personality traits in the emergence of fear of crime. For this, we conducted two studies in both real life and a novel virtual reality environment. Methods/Design: We first conducted an observational study embedded in an experimental design. Data was collected in a real-life alleyway at night as well as a virtual copy of that environment. Secondly, we conducted a 2x2 randomized control trial, where we manipulated the presence of disorder as well as the quality of the virtual environment. We used ordinary-least square regression models to assess the interaction of perceived disorder and HEXACO emotionality as well as benchmark it against other individual-level variables. Results: Our preliminary results indicate that the established association of perceived disorder and fear of crime replicates, but that the effect is reduced when HEXACO emotionality is considered. We show that further individual differences like gender and prior victimization improve the fit of that model. Discussion: Our findings combine established mechanisms underlying fear of crime experiences, which have, so far, only been analyzed separately. Our studies also push the boundaries of virtual reality in fear of crime research.

Making Sense of Fear: An Exploratory Mixed-Methods Study of Fear of Crime and Behaviour in Urban Environments *Ann-Kathrin Arui, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security, and Law; Max Knabe, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security, and Law; Shadi Derakhshan, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law; Jean-Louis van Gelder, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law*

Fear of crime shapes how individuals evaluate and navigate urban spaces, yet the nature of and rationale behind these behavioural adaptations remain underexplored in realistic scenarios. This study is the first of a set of studies investigating fear of crime in both real and virtual urban environments. While part of an ongoing larger data collection, the present work focuses on a mixed-methods approach to the behavioural dimension of fear of crime, i.e. how individuals experience and make sense of their fear and how they might adjust their behaviour because of it. Participants experienced and evaluated an urban environment in which a number of signals of disorder have been placed. Their trait fear of crime, situational fear of crime, and behavioural intentions were assessed along with demographic variables. Participants also completed a retrospective think-out-loud protocol, recalling their thoughts and experiences in the disordered environment, and were then specifically asked about behavioural adaptions due to fear of crime. Analyses focus on identifying themes in the qualitative data with an explicit focus on the behavioural fear of crime, triangulating them with the quantitative self-report data, and exploring where the methods and results diverge or complement each other. Preliminary results reveal a wide range of spontaneous observations in the real and virtual environment, of which many are in line with criminological theories such as prospect-refuge and CPTED. The reported behavioural adaptations due to fear of crime vary strongly between individuals, with gender as a clear predictor. Interestingly, the range of behaviours reported verbally differs from the standard set of behavioural items used to measure behavioural fear of crime, indicating a potential mismatch of research practices and lived experiences. The aim of this study is to explore and formalise a mixed-methods approach for fear of crime research as well as hypothesis-generation for an experimental follow-study.

Perception vs. Experience: What VR and Eye-Tracking Reveal About Offender Decision-Making *Shadi Derakhshan, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law; Patrick McClanahan, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law; Max Knabe, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security, and Law; Jean-Louis van Gelder, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law; Daniel S. Nagin, Carnegie Mellon University*

Traditional post-hoc surveys capture final offender decisions but obscure the real-time underlying mechanics of threat assessment due to rationalization. Grounded in Dual Process Theory, this study integrates immersive VR and eye-tracking to test whether bottom-up attentional capture dictates explicit behavioral intent, or if top-down cognitive schemas override early visual processing. Incarcerated individuals with varying burglary proficiency navigated a VR environment containing spatial risk and reward cues. Continuous eye-tracking data was extracted to analyze sustained visual attention (Dwell Time and Gaze Transition Entropy) alongside early-stage oculomotor orienting responses (First Fixation Duration). These implicit visual metrics were analyzed against explicit post-hoc survey responses using fully adjusted Mixed-Effects Models. Results revealed a precise dissociation between visual processing and cognitive appraisal. Sustained visual attention and scanpath systematicity failed to predict the perceived valuation of rewards or risks, demonstrating that prolonged visual capture does not equate to cognitive appraisal. However, the early-stage oculomotor orienting response successfully captured the immediate, bottom-up impact of environmental cues. For novice offenders, extended initial fixations on an environmental feature predicted a significant withdrawal of intent to burglarize, indicative of bottom-up cognitive hesitation. Experienced offenders, conversely, were immune to this oculomotor hesitation; their trait-level experience neutralized the initial visual shock. These findings validate Virtual Reality as a critical mechanism for deconstructing decision-making architecture, demonstrating that while the environment forces immediate visual capture across all proficiency levels, top-down cognitive schemas ultimately determine whether an offender is deterred by initial visual shock or proceeds with the semantic appraisal of the target.

111. The Ethics of Discomfort: Navigating Moral Ambiguities in Criminological Research

Topic 8: Methodologies in Criminology/Advances in Qualitative Methods (Qualitative Methods WG)

Roundtable
2:15 to 3:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.120

This roundtable opens a space for critical reflections on ethical discomforts in our research, lowering the threshold for sharing research experiences that are not necessarily neat or ordered. Formal ethical guidelines for research and procedural ethics are relatively straightforward to adhere to, at least when seen in isolation. But what do the murkier waters of actual, practical research ethics look like, and which difficult, sometimes unmanageable, dilemmas do we encounter as researchers in fields involving people in vulnerable life situations? Seemingly unsolvable dilemmas, and ethical discomforts that we ourselves cause in our research, are rarely highlighted – at least honestly – in research publications. Some scholars do write about them, but in such accounts the researcher often presents as someone who faced hurdles in a sensible and exemplary manner, appearing steady, prepared, and well-considered. Others tell about such experiences as funny anecdotes, by the coffee machine or over late-night conference beers. One laughs and moves on, while the underlying discomfort is left unexamined. Nevertheless, ethical discomforts may have significant implications for both the direction and outcomes of research, for research participants, and not least for the individual researcher, whether they manifest as stress, uncertainty, or ignorance. We ask: How do ethical discomforts matter to researchers' responsibility for participants, for ourselves, and for the stories we solicit, collect, interpret, and retell? Our roundtable encourages active engagement with a research ethics balancing honestly between procedural ethics, complex realities, and individuals in vulnerable situations upon whose stories we craft and build academic careers. It is based on short, prepared interventions from each presenter, discussing their personal experiences with ethical discomforts in their research, followed by a plenary conversation about the relevance and shortcomings of procedural ethics, the promises and necessary limits of preparation and regulation, and the importance of discomforts for knowledge production.

Chairs:

Anette Bringedal Houge, Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law, University of Oslo, Norway

Anja Emilie Kruse, Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law, University of Oslo, Norway

Discussants:

K. Andra Avram, University of Bayreuth

Thomas Duke Labik Amanquandor, Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law, University of Oslo, Norway

112. Gendered and Spatial Patterns of Lethal and Serious Violence

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Homicide and Violent Crime (Homicide Research WG and European Violence Monitor WG)
Paper Session
2:15 to 3:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.128

Chair:

Magdalena Grzyb, Jagiellonian University

Participants:

Bodily Harm Offences in Urban and Rural Settings: A Comparative Analysis Based on Court Files *Patrycja Kozłowska, University of Gdańsk*

Bodily harm offences constitute a significant category of crimes against a person's life and health, reflecting diverse forms of interpersonal violence across different social contexts. The aim of this presentation is to provide a comparative analysis of such offences in urban and rural settings. Particular attention is given to variables such as the place and time of the crimes, the demographic and social characteristics of perpetrators and victims, the relationships between the parties involved, and the circumstances in which bodily harm offences typically occur. The analysis seeks to identify potential differences and similarities between crimes committed in these distinct social environments. In particular, it aims to determine whether incidents in urban areas are more likely to be random and involve strangers engaged in street altercations, whereas in rural areas violence more often occurs between individuals who know each other and may have had prior conflicts. The presentation highlights the findings of a study conducted at several regional courts in the Gdańsk district in Poland, focusing on bodily harm offences. The study is based on an in-depth analysis of court files and forms part of a broader doctoral research project. This method allows for the reconstruction of the circumstances of the crimes and enables a reliable characterization of both offenders and victims. The findings may contribute to a deeper understanding of the key determinants of physical violence and may also serve as a basis for developing targeted prevention strategies tailored to the specific characteristics of urban and rural environments.

Femicide in Germany - Results of a representative case-file analysis *Florian Rebmann, University of Tübingen, Institute for Criminology; Jörg Kinzig, University of Tuebingen, Institute of Criminology*

In Germany, a woman is killed by a partner or ex-partner roughly every three days. However, little is known about the causes and consequences of these and other kinds of femicide. The so-called "FemiziDE-study" is the first representative empirical case-file analysis in Germany to examine this phenomenon. The presentation will cover findings on various types of femicide, including those occurring outside of intimate relationships. It will also present profund insights into the prevention and punishment of intimate partner femicide.

Is every female homicide a femicide? Reflections on first ever Polish study on female homicide victimisation *Magdalena Grzyb, Jagiellonian University*

Femicide is an extreme form of violence against women that is rooted in unequal power structures. As interest in femicide grows, the question of what criteria should be adopted when defining the term is discussed. The question is whether the term refers to every killing of a woman (the criterion of the victim's sex) or to motivations linked to her sex/gender. Or perhaps every killing of a woman is linked to her gender? In my presentation, I will elaborate on this question by analysing the findings of the first Polish study on the killing of women. I adopted the broad criterion of the sex of the victim and examined a total of 246 cases tried

between the years 2008 and 2019 and. I will discuss, in turn, intimate partner femicide, killings by other family members and killings by unrelated individuals. I will examine their specific characteristics, the Polish (regional) context and the most common patterns. My main focus will be to determine in how many cases the perpetrators were motivated by gender-based motives and whether other 'gender-based' victimological indicators can be taken into account.

113. A victim-centred approach to hate and extremism: Cross-sectoral and European outcomes of the VicTory project

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Terrorism and Terrorism Financing, Radicalization, Extremism (Radicalization, Extremism, Terrorism WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

2:15 to 3:30 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.132

Around the world, intolerance and hate are intensifying, profoundly affecting European communities and heightening their relationship with extremist milieus. Surveyed frontliners (N=98) now identify hate as the third leading trigger for support or judicial services. Despite the necessary focus on crime and justice, victims are often neglected and given secondary roles within criminal procedures. Justice, however, goes beyond criminal proceedings. It involves participation, empowerment, accountability, and agency. These principles form the core of restorative-led solutions, shifting the focus from punishment to reparation, responsibility, and reconciliation. This lies at the core of the VicTory project, "Restorative and victim-centred approach to mitigate hate and (violent)extremism", a European initiative financed by the European Commission. The project combines research with practice to capacitate professionals in recognising hate and extremism and deploying victim-centred approaches to it. To achieve this, the project employed a participatory methodology, surveying both quantitative and qualitative key practitioners from judicial and civic sectors to understand their needs, challenges, and existing practices. Building upon this solid foundation, the project maintained its participatory focus to understand how to promote cross-sectoral cooperation in support of cases of hate and extremism, devising its own ethics-guided manual and introducing the concept of the coordination case manager. Moreover, and once more, building on practitioners' own voices and needs, the VicTory project devised its capacitation approach, combining online training with in-person training, reaching more than 300 European practitioners, and assessing knowledge retention and impact. Lastly, considering its underlying focus on activating restorative principles, and once more building upon surveyed professionals' (N=55) voices, needs and experiences, the project developed its very own restorative-led programme, which was piloted with the trained professionals mentioned above. This panel aggregates this information, mobilising scientific research as the cornerstone to inform sustainable practices to build a victim-centred approach to hate and extremism.

Chairs:

Pedro Liberado, IPS_Innovative Prison Systems

Vânia Sampaio, IPS_Innovative Prison Systems

Participants:

Challenges, needs and good practices on supporting victims of hate and extremism *Daniel Pérez García, FUNDEA - Euro-Arab Foundation for Higher Studies; Lucía Alonso Pérez, FUNDEA - Euro-Arab Foundation for Higher Studies; Rascha Albaba Costa, FUNDEA - Euro-Arab Foundation for Higher Studies; Juan Carlos Benítez, FUNDEA - Euro-Arab Foundation for Higher Studies; Samuel Moreira, CIJ (Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice) - School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto, Portugal | CEJEIA (Center for Legal, Economic, International and Environmental Studies) - Lusíada University, Portugal; Pedro Sousa, Interdisciplinary Research Center on Justice (CIJ/FDUP); School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto; Inês Sousa Guedes, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice, School of Criminology, Faculty of Law of the University of Porto; Camila Iglesias, Centre for Advanced Studies in Law Francisco Suárez - Faculty of Law of Lusófona University; Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies of the Institute of Social and Political Sciences - University of Lisbon; Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Just; Margarida Madruga Damas, IPS_Innovative Prison Systems; Tânia Azevedo, ILGA Portugal*

The evolving face of hate and extremism directly impacts the well-being of European cohesion, leaving important and often long-lasting marks on those (in)directly impacted by it. This was at the core of VicTory's first steps, bringing practitioners' voices forward to uncover the biggest challenges and needs faced, as well as potential ways forward. According to a European-wide survey (N=98), hate-reported incidents are mostly driven by ethnicity (64%) and sexual orientation (62%), leaving victims in especially vulnerable situations in cases of intersectionality. When asked about victims' priorities, the focus turned to accessing safe spaces, both physical and emotional, as well as the need to access tailored support services. Importantly, there were two vectors for this to be unlocked, namely securing easy and clear information, and trusting official authorities and institutions. This showcases how victims' perception of justice extends beyond sentencing. Rather, it is mostly about participation, respect and agency. In this quest for grounded justice, professionals become paramount. However, several challenges surfaced, including when trying to navigate in the face of legal uncertainty, liaising and coordinating among services, and guaranteeing alignment. This is especially pressing, since even though 85% of professionals (N=98) are aware of the national legislation and European recommendations, only 3% of them find them highly effective, with several gaps. In here, the focus on punishment was highlighted, leaving room for victim neglect and secondary victimisation. Although signalling major challenges, solutions also appeared, with an extensive mapping of good practices and ways forward. Consequently, this presentation will delve into a multi-method needs assessment, which combined a survey, 5 focus group sessions across Europe and desk research, signalling out major needs, challenges and potential solutions to improve judicial and civic responses to hate and extremism.

The need for cross-sectoral cooperation: The VicTory

proposal *Inês Sousa Guedes, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice, School of Criminology, Faculty of Law of the University of Porto; Maria Canudo, Faculdade de Direito da Universidade do Porto; Samuel Moreira, CIJ (Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice) - School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto, Portugal | CEJEIA (Center for Legal, Economic, International and Environmental Studies) - Lusíada University, Portugal; Pedro Sousa, Interdisciplinary Research Center on Justice (CIJ/FDUP); School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto; Camila Iglesias, Centre for Advanced Studies in Law Francisco Suárez - Faculty of Law of Lusófona University; Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies of the Institute of Social and Political Sciences - University of Lisbon; Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Just; Margarida A. Santos, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice; School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto*

Cooperation is presented by the European Union, in the EU Victim Strategy, as one of the core pillars for effective victim support work, enabling their rights to be respected and their role activated. However, the practical transferability of such claims is not straightforward, with practitioners expanding on the poor coordination between services and institutions, often misaligned, and the difficulty of centralising information and sharing it. This was confirmed by the VicTory survey (N=98), which emphasised cross-sectoral cooperation as one of the major priorities, but also one of the most pressing challenges. Building upon these surveyed insights and the voices of professionals from across Europe, with national events gathering over 100 practitioners over a 6 month time-frame, the VicTory project went a step further and developed a practical cooperation framework. Following a participatory development process, in which experts and practitioners co-developed and co-validated the final outcome, a practical handbook emerged. Striving to reconcile major legal principles with practices, the framework structured the key processes for effective and coordinated efforts across different agencies along thematic lines. When doing so, it proposed renewed recommendations for case management, identification and first contact, individual needs assessment, tailored support services, restorative practices and monitoring and evaluation. This presentation will start by looking into both quantitative and qualitative data, explaining needs and challenges, which will be addressed by a practical and evidence-based display of the developed framework. Moreover, sustainability efforts will be discussed.

Needs-driven capacitation efforts on victim-centred approaches to hate and extremism *Margarida Madruga Damas, IPS_Innovative Prison Systems*

In the face of evolving hate dynamics, characterised by online developments and de-centralised actions, Europe grows vulnerable to their mobilisation by extremist voices. This strains professionals, from the judicial and civic sectors to support its victims whilst working towards prosecution and prevention. Such has been recognised by varied legal frameworks, which developed to support victims, activating professionals as instrumental. However, and as showcases by the VicTory survey (N=98), even though good legislation exist, 58% of professionals don't consider themselves as sufficiently trained to implement them, or to acknowledge what practices can be used to deal with such cases. This gap gains a dual complexity, since within the criminal justice sector, professionals are focused on delivering justice, seeing the victim "as a means and not as the end itself" (quote from a Portuguese professional), whilst civic organisations frequently rely on volunteers, who might not be properly equipped to deal with the myriad of challenges encountered within hate and extremism. This drove VicTory's training approach, combining two modular online courses, with three in-person training sessions, capacitating practitioners from Italy, Finland, Hungary, Portugal and Spain. With a broad, yet tailored focus, the online courses focus on understanding what is hate, how it is mobilised within current extremist manifestations and how it is framed legally. From there, it moves to more practical accounts on participation models for victims, good practices and justice solutions. Despite still on-going, this course is being piloted by close to 300 practitioners, who provide essential clues for advancing training on hate and extremism. The presentation will focus on the responsiveness of trainees, analysing pre-post test data and deriving conclusions from a qualitative impact assessment, using thematic analysis. The assessed data will help to shape a roadmap for future of capacity building efforts on hate and extremism.

Restorative solutions to hate and extremism: Evidence from practitioners and theory *Pedro Sousa, Interdisciplinary Research Center on Justice (CIJ/FDUP); School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto; Margarida A. Santos, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice; School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto; Maria Canudo, Faculdade de Direito da Universidade do Porto; Samuel Moreira, CIJ (Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice) - School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto, Portugal | CEJEIA (Center for Legal, Economic, International and Environmental Studies) - Lusíada University, Portugal; Luisa Ravagnani, University of Brescia; Roberto Moreno, Ararteko, Ombusdman of the Basque Country; Miriam Attias, Map Finland; Camila Iglesias, Centre for Advanced Studies in Law Francisco Suárez - Faculty of Law of Lusófona University; Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies of the Institute of Social and Political Sciences - University of Lisbon; Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Just*

Throughout different stages of data-collection moments, practitioners from the justice and civic sectors highlighted one common good practice as instrumental for hate and extremism cases, namely restorative-led solutions. This is echoed at the central level, with growing recognition on how restorative-led solutions help victims from the European Commission, especially since it helps to prioritise their needs, healing and participation. Despite this recognition, to better guide future efforts and understand the potential transferability of this approach to hate and extremism

cases, the VicTory project conducted a needs assessment survey (N=55). Showcasing a consensus on the need to start using restorative approaches (75%) to complement traditional judicial responses, practitioners highlighted how this account for a strictly victim-centred lens. However, data presented alarming gaps, with over 50% of the respondents lacking the training or tools to deploy such approaches for cases of hate and extremism. By digging deeper into the data, the competency gap becomes exacerbated by poor formal protocols, which create an institutional way of ad-hocism that can increase risks of traumatisation for victims. Consequently, solutions are needed, to fill in this gap, from an evidence-based perspective. This is to be achieved by the VicTory project restorative programme, which will build upon this data and partners' extensive experience in using mediation and conferences for terrorism. The end-result will be a fully piloted programme, with a clear roadmap for implementation and transferability. The presentation will start by setting the scene with the assessed needs of practitioners, connecting with key insights for social cohesion, building the ground to present's the project's programme as well as its piloting results, focusing both on quantitative and qualitative data.

A victim-centred approach to hate and extremism: A roadmap for future efforts *Luisa Ravagnani, University of Brescia; Margarida Madruga Damas, IPS_Innovative Prison Systems*

Mobilising the insights collected during the VicTory project, one clear lesson stands out: Hate and extremism cannot simply be resolved through criminal sentencing, it requires dialogue, victim participation and community outreach. Either achieved via restorative-solutions, cooperative frameworks, easily accessibly information repositories or trauma-sensitive approaches, a victim-centred approach is the common element to follow. Consequently, this presentation will explore a dual take to victim-centred approaches. From the one hand, how can these be useful for victim support, both from a civic or judicial perspective, and what needs it resolves. From the other, emphasising how a victim centred approach can also be mobilised from prevention. Accordingly, prevention takes centre stage, following both a public health and ecological perspective, discussing how various different layers need to be activated. This means creating responsive mechanism in which communities, justice professionals, victim support organisations and civil society can work together to eradicate hate and extremism. After a 24-months implementation period, this session reflects on how VicTory findings can create a road-map for sustainable and transferable efforts, echoing within national policy and European efforts, especially within the P/CVE scope.

114. Critical concepts in Rural Criminology

Topic 3: Crime Correlates/Rural Criminology (Rural Criminology WG)
Paper Session
2:15 to 3:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.142

Chair:
Mark Odion, Harper Adams University

Participants:

A Critical Reconsideration of Rural Criminology: Towards a Fifth Era *Matt Bowden, TU Dublin; Alistair Harkness, University of New England-Australia*

This paper aims to reset the agenda for the criminological sub-field of Rural Criminology: there is a strong need to re-establish a framework that is fit for purpose for the next decade and it advocates an agenda for a new fifth era of theoretical and empirical scholarship around crime in rural places. It starts with a rethinking of what is meant by 'rural' in a criminological context and then offers a review of Donnermeyer and DeKeseredy's (2014) groundbreaking book that set out the parameters of rural criminology. In so doing, it interrogates where rural criminology is now theoretically, considering the geo-political and geo-historic conditions which have occurred in recent years. The paper examines how these reshapes prevailing paradigms and looks towards the for a new era of rural criminological scholarship. The paper advocates for a refreshed relationalist-realist rural criminology.

Leveraging the crime of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT) in Edo State through Catholic Social Teaching (CST) *Mark Odion, Harper Adams University*

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT) remain significant challenges in Edo State, Nigeria, where socioeconomic vulnerabilities and systemic inequalities have exacerbated the proliferation of these crimes. This paper explores the potential of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) as a framework for addressing and mitigating the crime of MSHT in the region. CST, rooted in the principles of human dignity, solidarity, subsidiarity, option for the poor, and the common good, offers a moral and ethical approach to social justice. By examining the doctrinal imperatives of CST and their application in combating exploitation, this study argues that faith-based interventions, in collaboration with community cooperative groups, governmental and non-governmental agencies, can play a pivotal role in prevention, victim rehabilitation, and systemic reform. The research highlights the contributions of the Catholic Church in Edo State, including awareness campaigns, advocacy, and social support initiatives. It further contends that a CST-driven approach, if effectively integrated into policy and community engagement, can provide a sustainable and ethical response to the menace of MSHT. Keywords: modern slavery, human trafficking, socioeconomic, catholic social teaching, human dignity

Frontiers of Farmer Crime Prevention Decision-Making *Kreseda Smith, Harper Adams University*

The recognition of the impact of crime on the farming community across the UK is growing. Farms are increasingly being targeted by serious organised criminals looking to steal high value vehicles and equipment, as well as livestock, agrochemicals, and smaller tools. Wherever there is a market, these offenders will pivot their activities to fill a gap in supply. Farms are an ideal target for a motivated

offender due to the open nature of these businesses, low levels of guardianship, and the presence of items in demand, often with low levels of security. Despite the best efforts of farmers to protect their property and assets, there are problems with identifying the most effective crime prevention measure for farms where every property is different. Too often crime prevention advice provided is limited to target hardening, and rarely employs second or third generation CPTED techniques exploring environment and behaviour. This presentation brings initial data from a project exploring the behavioural drivers and barriers of farmers and contractors that can influence the adoption, or non-adoption, of crime prevention to protect their agricultural assets. There is a particular interest in exploring whether there are any behavioural differences between traditional and technology-enabled crime prevention measures. Results will explore the thought processes that dominate these decisions, and considers how these are affecting the use of the most effective measures on farms. It further considers how policy and practice could be strengthened to better support farmers with this process to enable them to make appropriate and effective decisions on how to best protect their farms, and how to overcome potential behavioural barriers the prevent the best use of measures available to them.

115. Knowledge, Preventive Governance and Administrative Control

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Criminal Justice Policy (Crime, Science and Politics WG)

Paper Session

2:15 to 3:30 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.146

Chair:

Zoe Rodgers, Birmingham City University

Participants:

Preliminary investigations before the Polish Financial Supervision Authority and the privilege against self-incrimination under Article 6 ECHR *Anna Grochowska-Wasilewska, University of Warsaw*

In recent years, there has been a noticeable increase in the activity of the Polish Financial Supervision Authority (the PFSA) in detecting and combating financial crimes. This development reflects growing expectations placed on supervisory authorities to prevent abuses and ensure the integrity and stability of the financial system. Although the PFSA does not qualify as a criminal law enforcement authority, it exercises a range of powers that may lead to the initiation of criminal proceedings or significantly influence their course. One of the instruments available to the PFSA for detecting offences on the financial market is the power to institute a preliminary investigation (postępowanie wyjaśniające). Such an investigation is intended to determine whether there are grounds to lodge a notification of specific criminal offences with the prosecuting authorities or to initiate administrative proceedings within the PFSA's supervisory competence. In practice, this mechanism is increasingly used as a tool for identifying conduct that may give rise to criminal liability. The aim of the presentation is to assess whether the guarantees of a fair trial under Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights, including the privilege against self-incrimination, apply to preliminary investigations preceding potential criminal proceedings. Once the PFSA files a notification of a suspected criminal offence, the prosecuting authorities decide whether to initiate criminal proceedings on the basis of, inter alia, the case file compiled in the course of the preliminary investigation, which is attached to the notification. These files contain key evidentiary material that may be used in subsequent criminal proceedings, including interview records. Consequently, both the course and the outcome of the preliminary investigation may have a significant impact on the position of the accused in criminal proceedings, which calls for an analysis from the perspective of the privilege against self-incrimination.

Reducing Crime and Disorder in Italy: Mapping Mayors' Administrative Orders *Marco Calaresu, University of Sassari; Mirko Nazzari, Università degli Studi di Sassari*

Over the past fifteen years, many European countries have expanded their crime prevention strategies to incorporate objectives traditionally associated with other policy domains, such as reducing fear of crime and enhancing quality of life. Within this evolving policy landscape, a variety of instruments have emerged, including antisocial behavior orders, hybrid civil laws, individual orders, and mayors' administrative orders (MAOs). In Italy, MAOs empower local governments to address a wide range of issues, from prostitution and drug dealing to alcohol abuse and public decency offenses. To date, empirical analyses have been fragmented, typically limited to isolated municipal cases. To address this gap, we compiled a unique, nation-level dataset encompassing over 3,000 MAOs issued across Italian municipalities between 2018 and 2024. Using this dataset, we systematically examine their diffusion, geographical variation, thematic focus, temporal trends, and associated contextual factors at the provincial level. In doing so, we provide the first comprehensive empirical account of MAO usage in Italy, offering insights into their role as a policy instrument and illuminating broader patterns of local crime prevention implementation.

Securitising research: Lessons from criminological research for 'research security' *Nina Peršak, 1. Institute for Criminal-Law Ethics and Criminology, Ljubljana; 2. University of Ljubljana*

In May 2024, Council of the EU adopted its Recommendations on enhancing research security, defining 'research security' as anticipating and managing risks of three kind: (a) risks or threats related to the undesirable transfer of critical knowledge and technology that may affect the security of the EU; b) malign influence on research where research can be instrumentalised by or from third countries in order to inter alia create disinformation or incite self-censorship among students and researchers infringing academic freedom and research integrity in the Union; and c)

ethical or integrity violations, where knowledge and technologies are used to suppress, infringe on or undermine Union values and fundamental rights. Consequently, universities and researchers, among others, have an obligation to assess and mitigate these threats, particularly in the framework of international cooperation with third countries. As a topic of heightened significance (also very much linked to concerns about the European competitiveness), it is also envisaged to be included in the forthcoming ERA Act. While being generally regarded as part of the concept of responsible research, which should include responsible internationalisation, critical voices warn of exaggeration, of possible stifling of international collaboration and open science, as well as of over-securitising the field of research. The paper inspects some useful lessons drawn from criminological research that can help relevant stakeholders in the HEI or research setting address research security challenges, avoid potential pitfalls of securitising research and aid in the balancing of competing interests.

Spiralling out of Control: Examining the Introduction and Usage of Civil Preventive Orders and Notices in England and Wales *Zoe Rodgers, Birmingham City University*

Civil Preventive Orders and Notices (CPONs) are two-step legal tools introduced nationally and internationally to address problematic behaviour that traditional criminal law fails to address. This problematic behaviour includes conduct that is difficult to resolve or prosecute, including Anti-Social Behaviour and Stalking. However, since the mid-1990s, governments have combined the language and philosophy of the previous orders and notices in an attempt to address the continuing issues with this legal framework. To address these ongoing issues, several changes have been made to who these powers seek to protect, their duration, who can apply these powers and the punishment upon breach. Leading to legal expansionism and the creation of a complex policy landscape that often contradicts or proves incompatible with significant implications for victims, recipients and practitioners. For example, CPONs follow a two-step legal structure, applied to a recipient according to lower civil evidential standards. Nevertheless, if the order, notice or any of the requirements are breached, a recipient commits a criminal offence, leading to a fine, imprisonment, or both. However, the punishment now varies over the range of CPONs, which exemplifies just one of the key implications. To explore how this policy spiral impacts frontline practice, the following research draws on ethnographic fieldwork with a single police force in England and Wales, including over 100 hours of ride-along ethnographic observations, sixteen semi-structured interviews and various secondary data from police policies and data. The findings highlight how these powers are spiralling out of control with legal implications that supersede the original Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO). Several recommendations stem from this research, which aims to gain greater consistency within current national and international policy underpinned by justice and human rights ideals.

The role of the top journals of criminology and criminal law in the definition of research excellence *Patricia Faraldo-Cabana, Universidade da Coruña*

Who defines excellence? By what criteria? Global divisions in political, economic and cultural power impact the production of knowledge. At an international level, the social and legal sciences developed in Anglophone countries such as the USA, the UK, Australia and Canada have succeeded in presenting themselves as universal, timeless and place-neutral, and have been widely accepted as such. Consequently, 'excellence' in social and legal research is associated with the experiences and perspectives of these countries. Theories, methods and concepts developed in these geographical contexts, which are largely based on their empirical specifics, are considered 'excellent' and are published in the best journals of the field. However, the majority of these works do not take into account references in languages other than English, and completely ignore divergent patterns of scientific research explored in other parts of the world. The fact that most 'excellent' journals are written in English, with Anglo-American editors, authors and content, despite boasting about their international character, creates a power imbalance because it privileges knowledge produced within them. This epistemological process bolsters the hegemony of Anglo-American theories while ignoring or excluding ideas and theories rooted in the history and experience of 'peripheral' countries. It is time to democratize the production of knowledge by adding new and diverse perspectives to the so-called international journals, making them more inclusive of the world in which we live.

116. Extended impact: Beyond International Criminal Justice (sponsored by The European Criminology Group on Atrocity Crimes and Transitional Justice)

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity, War Crimes (Atrocity Crimes and Transitional Justice WG)

Paper Session

2:15 to 3:30 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.150

Chair:

Mirza Buljubašić, Faculty of Criminal Justice, Criminology, and Security Studies, University of Sarajevo

Participants:

Beyond the Courtroom: Local Attitudes and Impacts of the ICTY in the Former Yugoslavia – Scoping Review *Mirza Buljubašić, Faculty of Criminal Justice, Criminology, and Security Studies, University of Sarajevo; Barbora Holá, The Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR) & Centre for International Criminal Justice, VU University Amsterdam*

This paper synthesizes empirical research on societal impacts of and public attitudes toward the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia across the post Yugoslav region. Drawing on a scoping review of 112 empirical studies published between 1993 and 2024, it maps how scholars have examined the Tribunal's reception within affected communities and its societal effects, including legal reform,

reconciliation, and memory politics. The findings suggest that the ICTY's societal legacy has been uneven and contested. While the Tribunal documented crimes and contributed to legal and institutional reforms, it struggled to secure societal legitimacy or foster reconciliation across the region. Public attitudes were strongly shaped by ethnic identity, political narratives, and media framing, limiting the Tribunal's expressive influence. By consolidating a fragmented body of empirical research, the paper provides an overview of how the ICTY's reception and societal impacts have been studied and highlights patterns and limitations in the literature.

Increasing Support for Reconciliation in Canada *Andreea Zota, Université de Montréal; Marco M. Aviña, Harvard University; Jo-Anne Wemmers, Université de Montréal*

Profound inequalities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous individuals persist in settler colonial societies worldwide. Reconciliation processes require collective acknowledgment of past harm and reparations to redress it. However, this process may be challenged by widespread misapprehensions about, and animus toward, Indigenous populations. But what happens when citizens are confronted with information about the ongoing consequences of settler colonialism? Leveraging the case of Canada, we argue raising awareness about structural inequalities should reduce misinformation and prejudice, helping make progress toward reconciliation. We field a national survey of 3,000 non-Indigenous Canadians to test two distinct informational interventions commonly used in the misinformation and prejudice reduction literatures: fact-checking and perspective-getting narratives. Both interventions are successful, but fact-checking more effectively motivates awareness and advocacy, whereas narratives reduce Indigenous resentment and boost support for policy change the most. We observe diminishing effects of combining interventions. We conduct focus groups to clarify these results. Our qualitative evidence suggests that statistics induce pessimism unless tied to concrete policy levers, while testimonials elicit empathy and performative support—helping explain the diminishing returns when combined. Together, these findings pave a way forward for reconciliation advocates by identifying promising strategies to rally mass public support.

"The Report of My Death Was An Exaggeration": Universal Jurisdiction Reloaded *Lachezar Yanev, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*

Few notions capture the law and politics of international criminal justice quite like the concept of universal jurisdiction ('UJ') over core international crimes. Political backlash against its use in the early 2000s prompted academics to ask whether the proverbial bell was tolling for UJ, or write 'post mortems' for it. This has changed dramatically over the past decade, in which a growing number of states have come to increasingly exercise universal jurisdiction to prosecute war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. This paper examines the resurgence of UJ by providing two new perspectives on the subject. First, it considers the newly declassified and digitalized archives of the UN War Crimes Commission to reveal that this inter-governmental organization unanimously adopted the universality principle over war crimes during the World War II-era trials. Second, it examines present-day state attitudes to UJ, by presenting empirical data from 125 UN Member States' submissions to the General Assembly. These records show that at least 71 states explicitly accept UJ over these three core internaional crimes, even states that do not have domestic legislation to this effect. Moreover, this data challenges some of the traditional narratives about the Western-centric support for UJ.

117. EUROC Roundtable 2. 'Legal' and illegal corruption: challenges for criminology

Topic 2: Types of Offending/White collar Crime, Organizational Crime, Corporate Crime, Financial Crime (EUROC)

Roundtable

3:45 to 5:00 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 0 - Room 0.410 - Multimedia Room

This roundtable brings together scholars to examine the blurred boundary between legally admissible practices that constitute abuse of power and corruption, as a stretched concept beyond the criminal code. Corruption, as an object of analysis, as often been studied within the field of political sciences, and yet this roundtable will discuss how corruption can be addressed within the broader conceptualisations of 'crimes of the powerful'. Participants will explore how laws, regulatory frameworks and political economies can normalize corrupt outcomes; the limits of existing definitions and measurement strategies; case studies from public procurement, lobbying, state capture and corporate influence; and implications for research, accountability and reform.

Chair:

Anna Sergi, University of Bologna

Discussants:

Michele Riccardi, Transcrime - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Anna Sergi, University of Bologna

Participants:

OECD Anti-Bribery Convention 1997, bribery in international business, and legitimacy *Nicholas Lord, The University of Manchester, UK*

Corruption in the context of OECD Anti-Bribery Convention 1997, bribery in international business, and legitimacy

Forms of Influence and Political Corruption: Players, Arenas, and Strategic Interactions *Fernanda Odilla, University of Bologna*

Corruption within the Horizon project RESPOND

Foreign bribery by multinational (Dutch) corporations *Wim Huisman, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*

Discussion on foreign bribery by multinational (Dutch) corporations, and how an offender-guardian overlap is created by current AMLand Sanctions legislations that also serve to detect bribery.

What is legal corruption (rather than unprosecuted corruption)? *Mike Levi, School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University*

Conceptual discussion on what legal corruption is as

opposed as unprosecuted corruption)

Who benefits from non trial resolutions in corruption cases? *Karin van Wingerde, Erasmus University Rotterdam*

Conceptual clarity around corruption can be discussed through case studies of non trial resolutions

118. EHC-WG Panel 4. Criminal Justice and Criminal Responsibility

Topic 7: Comparative and Historical Perspectives/Historical Comparisons of Crime (Historical Criminology WG)

Paper Session

3:45 to 5:00 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.120

Chair:

Johann Koehler, London School of Economics and Political Science

Participants:

Forensic science in court: A review of Australian royal commissions and inquiries *Jamie Walvisch, The University of Western Australia; Saskia Penn, RMIT University; Anna Davey, Forensic Foundations International*

Forensic science and medicine play a critical role in the justice system, yet the application has at times contributed to miscarriages of justice. As a result, several royal commissions and other public inquiries have been held across Australia examining issues arising from the use of forensic science in the courtroom. Some high-profile examples include inquiries into the wrongful convictions of Edward Splatt, Lindy Chamberlain, Farah Jama and Kathleen Folbigg, as well as broader inquiries into systemic issues, such as the Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA Testing in Queensland. The reports generated by these inquiries provide a rich source of data for understanding the scientific, legal, organisational and systemic issues relating to the use of forensic science during the investigative and curial processes, and for implementing reforms aimed at preventing their recurrence. This project has been funded by an Australian Academy of Forensic Sciences Research Fellowship to review a selection of 12 of these reports. This research has identified five core recurring themes in the findings and recommendations of the reports: unreliable science and methodology; exceeding expertise, bias and misconduct; problems with communication and interpretation; legal process failures; and organisational, governance and cultural problems. The paper will discuss the broader implications of these findings for forensic science and judicial practices. While various studies have previously underscored the need for rigorous scientific standards in forensic practices, this is the first systematic review of high-level inquiries across Australian jurisdictions. By analysing recurrent themes across these inquiries, this research offers a unique opportunity to spotlight and address persistent issues in forensic science application and its judicial use.

Unearthing Truths: Humanitarian Forensics and Post-Transitional Justice Beyond the State *Natalia Rebecca Maystorovich Chulio, The University of New South Wales*

When states withdraw from forensic accountability, who sustains the search for the disappeared? This paper examines NGO-led forensic exhumations in post-transitional justice contexts where criminal prosecution is absent, asking what conditions enable grassroots actors to sustain forensic recovery and whether such efforts genuinely enhance reconciliation for survivor communities. Drawing on comparative ethnographic fieldwork across two analogous historical cases: the Spanish Civil War and Francoist dictatorship (1936-1975) and the intercommunal violence and Turkish invasion in Cyprus (1963-1974). The paper investigates how contrasting organisational models shape survivor experiences and forensic outcomes. Spain exemplifies the privatisation of exhumations following state withdrawal, with NGOs developing alternative funding and grassroots partnerships to continue recovery of Civil War and dictatorship victims. Cyprus demonstrates bicommunal forensic collaboration under international oversight, where the Committee on Missing Persons operates across Greek Orthodox and Muslim communities with limited state engagement. Neither context has pursued criminal prosecutions for enforced disappearances, making both exemplars of humanitarian forensics in the historical criminological sense. Existing scholarship prioritises narrow truth-recovery oriented towards legal accountability, marginalising survivor-centred and community-led processes. Drawing on humanitarian forensics frameworks and symbolic interactionism, this paper operationalises three undertheorised outcomes (survivor-centred justice, symbolic reparation, and collective healing) to assess how historical crimes are addressed materially and socially across religious and organisational contexts. Findings challenge the assumption that forensic justice requires state infrastructure, foregrounding civil society actors as architects of dignified recovery. The paper contributes a replicable comparative framework applicable to contexts globally where formal transitional justice mechanisms addressing historical state violence remain absent or obstructed.

A genealogy of evidence-based criminal justice *Johann Koehler, London School of Economics and Political Science*

I develop, in two parts, a genealogy of 'evidence-based' criminal justice. First, I historically locate the styles of reasoning that underpin evidence-based policy as applied to criminal justice. To preview some inexhaustive examples, these include Enlightenment rationalism's promise that crime problems are susceptible to policy solution; Progressive interventionism's promotion of the state's centrality in solving those problems; and postwar technocracy's insistence that rigorous science charts how to solve them; etc. By arranging these discrete styles of policy reasoning together, I complicate the wisdom that evidence-based criminal justice arose to correct late-20th Century disenchantment about criminology's policy value. I instead treat evidence-based criminal justice as a loose assortment of overlapping-yet-distinct styles of policy reasoning whose origins extend well beyond criminology and from far earlier than the 20th century. I then review the normative stakes of these

assorted styles of policy reasoning, each of which implicates different claims about criminology's place on the policy stage. Contestation between those different claims confusingly points evidence-based criminal justice's expectations in mixed directions. Again, an inexhaustive preview of some examples includes lingering disagreement over fact-value distinctions; between disputed interpretations of expertise; in the shifting division of labor between scientist, politician, and citizen; and across different ontologies of 'policy' and 'policy-making'—not to mention the more thoroughly trodden ground of criminological dispute over such issues as scientific demarcation, standards of evidence, epistemic injustice, etc. I do not propose to settle that contestation; rather, I clarify which contestations the past bequeaths to evidence-based criminal justice today. A more complete view of that bequest sharpens criminology's sense that evidence-based criminal justice entails more than merely fitting the supply of criminological insights to policy-making demand. Instead, this genealogical review clarifies evidence-based criminal justice's role in constituting crime and justice as policy problems that criminologists imagine themselves uniquely well equipped to solve.

119. Working at the Sharp End: Trauma-Informed Interventions with People who Do Harm

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence (Gender, Crime and Justice WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

3:45 to 5:00 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.128

Across criminal justice, mental health, and custodial environments, practitioners must navigate violence, trauma, and vulnerability within systems that often lack the structures needed to support consistent, effective and meaningful interventions. Together, the four papers illustrate how efforts to promote safety and change are shaped—and frequently constrained—by institutional conditions, organisational cultures, and competing priorities. Collectively, the four papers in this panel – all supported by research projects hosted at the University of Manchester - elaborate on the importance of relational safety and the need for coherent and supportive organisational structures in institutional settings that provide a mixture of care and control. They underscore that achieving safety, accountability, and transformative change depends not only on individual interventions, but also on the broader conditions that shape how harm is recognised, responded to, and repaired. This first paper addresses the challenges of delivering Multi-Agency Stalking Intervention Programmes (MASIPs). The second paper examines OUT Spoken, a therapeutic service for male survivors of sexual assault in prison. The third paper interrogates constructions of vulnerability in inpatient psychiatric settings. The final paper discusses Creating Change, a reintegration programme for men convicted of sexual offences. The challenges of providing trauma-informed interventions that meet the needs of people harmed by violence while being responsive to the challenges and issues brought by offenders in the criminal justice system are concern across all four papers.

Chair:

David Gadd, University of Manchester

Participants:

Partnerships Under Pressure: The Reality of Multi Agency Working to Redress Stalking *Rebecca Cargill, University of Manchester*

This paper examines how the Multi-Agency Stalking Intervention Programme (MASIP) has developed in practice, moving beyond the initial 'proof of concept' model to explore what 'partnership' working actually looks like for the people tasked with delivering it. Drawing on interviews with Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworkers (ISACs), Investigation Support Officers (ISOs), and probation practitioners, the paper's findings highlight the realities of managing stalking within systems marked by ambiguity, fragmented information flows, and high caseloads. Practitioners charged with tackling stalking are required to make decisions with incomplete or inaccessible information, manage risk when there is uncertainty around the motivations of offenders and the status of their mental health, and protect victim/survivors who typically present with adverse prior experiences of the criminal justice response. Professionals working in MASIPs must navigate significant variation in how stalking is recognised and defined across criminal justice, social support and health agencies. These challenges are intensified by fragile information-sharing systems, characterised by delays, non-responsiveness, and restrictions that limit timely risk management. Structural barriers, including evidential thresholds, limited training, resource constraints, and procedural delays, further undermine practitioners' ability to intervene effectively, leaving victim/survivors navigating ongoing fear, hypervigilance, and a lack of closure. These findings raise important questions for areas seeking to adopt or adapt the MASIP framework, especially in the absence of transparent national standards; MASIP development requires robust information infrastructures, consistent inter-agency responsiveness, and shared conceptual clarity around stalking. Ultimately, this paper makes the recommendation that future MASIPs must be built on conditions that enable effective multi-agency work, centre victim-need through perpetrator intervention, and recognise the complexities of stalking.

Becoming OUT Spoken: The development of a trauma-informed therapy service for male prisoner-survivors of sexual assault *Jessica Glynn, University of Manchester; David Gadd, University of Manchester*

Delivering trauma informed therapy to male survivors of sexual assault in prison involves distinctive ethical, institutional, and clinical challenges. Men in custody disproportionately report extensive childhood adversity and prior victimization, including high levels of sexual abuse, which are often intensified by the traumatizing conditions of imprisonment. This paper examines how OUT Spoken—a trauma informed talking therapy service operating across fifteen prisons in the Northwest of England—has attempted to meet these challenges. Drawing on qualitative data from professionals involved in commissioning,

delivering, and supporting the service, this paper analyses the organisational and environmental barriers to therapeutic work and highlights the strategies practitioners use to establish safety, promote stabilization, and support engagement among a client group with complex service needs. The findings provide critical insights for commissioners, service providers, and practitioners seeking to develop ethical and effective therapeutic responses for male survivors of sexual abuse with histories of criminal justice involvement, illuminating both the potential and limitations of trauma informed practice within inherently trauma inducing institutions, such as prisons.

On Being Open in Closed Places: Vulnerability and Violence in Inpatient Psychiatric Settings *Isobel Johnston, University of Manchester; Cat Papastavrou Brooks, The University of Bristol; Erinn Gilson, Merrimack College*

High levels of violence and conflict occur in inpatient psychiatric settings, causing a range of psychological and physical harms to both patients and staff. Drawing on critiques of vulnerability from the philosophical literature, this paper contends that staff's understanding of their relationship with patients (including how they should respond to violence and conflict) rests on the dominant, reductive account of vulnerability. This account frames 'vulnerability' as an increased susceptibility to harm and so regards 'invulnerable' staff's responsibility to be protecting and managing vulnerable patients. We offer an alternative view of vulnerability as an openness and capability to be changed, which illuminates how the common account of vulnerability is used to justify staff's coercive power over patients and to control staff behaviour. Our main argument is that staff's adoption of this negative approach to vulnerability is associated with a range of factors that are connected to the violence and conflict endemic to these settings. Staff's need to situate themselves as invulnerable and therefore incapable of harm, we argue, leads to significant issues through: damaging staff ability to emotionally regulate; coercing patients into an asymmetrical openness leading to aggression to restore status; damaging therapeutic relationships by enforcing separation between staff and patients; increasing staff's reliance on unhelpful and rigid techniques (such as de-escalation); repressing staffs' ability to learn and grow through encounters with patients. Finally, we offer recommendations for how vulnerability and openness could be cultivated as a relational and radical practice in spaces that are traditionally closed and hostile to it.

Creating Change: A Trauma Informed Reintegration Programme for Men Convicted of Sexual Offences *Katie Lambert, University of Manchester*

Men Convicted of Sexual Offences (MCOSOs) have come to constitute an increasing proportion of the UK prison population. Currently one in five UK prisoners have a sexual offence conviction (Sturge, 2025). Men Convicted of Sexual Offences will come to also represent a growing proportion of those managed within the community, as those serving sentences become eligible for release. Successful reintegration of MCOSOs into the community in a meaningful way is vital to protecting the public through reducing the risk of recidivism. In addition to practical reintegration needs, MCOSOs often require emotional support to deal with prior trauma, which can be linked to their offending behaviour. The individual's resettlement needs and the impact of their traumatic experiences can affect their view of themselves, their identity and their ability to get their needs met through prosocial means. The paper details a novel intervention - Creating Change – that was developed to aid meaningful and successful reintegration by promoting life skills and providing support and access to trauma informed therapy. This presentation will outline the theoretical underpinnings of Creating Change, the aims of the programme and provide provisional insights into its effectiveness.

120. Generative Justice in Action: Past, Present and Possible Futures of Coproduced Criminal Justice

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Critical Criminology

Pre-arranged Panel

3:45 to 5:00 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.141

This panel explores how criminalised people, alongside volunteers and arts practitioners have historically and contemporarily coproduced generative forms of justice. The papers examine historical contributions, contemporary relational work under institutional constraints, the role of generative solidarity and participatory approaches to reimagining justice futures. Together, they show how justice can emerge through co-creation, offering theoretical, methodological and practical insights relevant to criminology, education and public policy.

Chair:

Fergus McNeill, University of Glasgow

Participants:

Co-Producing Justice: A Historical Perspective on Generative Practices in Penal Systems *Gill Buck, University of Chester*

For centuries, criminalised people have actively shaped and co-created systems of care, accountability and reform, providing the foundation for what we now call Generative Justice. While rich histories of prisoner activism exist, they have rarely been connected to contemporary forms of lived-experience-led justice. Drawing on archival and documentary research, we identified four enduring roles: custodial contributors, caregivers, defenders of rights and game changers. These roles reveal practices that recognise individual worth, communicate hope and agency, exchange and circulate resources, foster social connection and cultivate reciprocal concern. These collective and solidaristic contributions also demonstrate that meaningful justice cannot be produced solely through punitive or impersonal systems. Instead, it emerges through participatory, relational and material practices that repair harm and dignify and empower people who have been historically devalued. By connecting these historical roles to contemporary innovations, such as peer mentoring, prisoner councils and policy advocacy,

we show that generative justice is not only a theoretical lens but a practical, historically rooted and grounded framework for transformative social change. Mapping this history of generative justice challenges conventional criminology to recognise criminalised people as overlooked co-creators of justice rather than passive subjects. It also enriches debates on participatory justice and offers insights for policymakers and communities seeking to foster justice that is relational and generative.

Generative Solidarity in Criminal Justice *Paula Harriott, UNLOCK*

This paper puts lived experience at the centre of a Generative Justice framework, challenging conventional approaches to criminalisation, and opening new frontiers for how we could understand, enact and transform justice. I argue that what catalyses transformative change is not empathy alone but generative solidarity — a form of relational engagement deeply rooted in mutual recognition, shared purpose and collective action. In Generative Justice, solidaristic relations are not symbolic but practices that create belonging, trust and shared agency, enabling people to move forward beyond stigmatising systems. Drawing from dialogue and reflective practice within the 'Experience for Justice' collective and 'Imagining Possible Futures' study, this paper foregrounds how relationships characterised by reciprocal solidarity, rather than empathy or bounded professional roles, can contribute to meaningful change. Empathy without solidarity can be experienced as superficial or even condescending, in contrast, solidaristic engagement involves felt encounters and shared action, collapsing the divide between those who 'serve' and 'receive'. This echoes Generative Justice literature that links collaborative, community rooted relations with interdependence and mutual support. By situating solidarity within a Generative Justice frame, this paper contributes to criminology's frontier debates on relational justice and community driven innovation. It challenges criminological paradigms that reify professional boundaries and instead advances a vision of justice as co produced through solidaristic practice — a justice that supports more expansive futures for people impacted by criminalisation.

Generative Justice and Collective Imagining: Arts-Based Pathways to Reparative Futures *Emma Murray, Anglia Ruskin University*

This paper will explore innovative, qualitative approaches that seek to reimagine justice through participatory, arts-based practices. Drawing on pilot collaborations in England it demonstrates how Generative Justice and collective imagining offer methodological and practical advances for criminology. Generative justice is an emerging concept-praxis that integrates prefigurative community practices with the experiences of justice-impacted individuals to foster relationships grounded in solidarity rather than exclusion. Arts-based interventions within this framework serve to build networks, mobilise collective imagination and promote localised transformation. Key principles include reciprocity, generativity, active participation and co-created action, challenging conventional punitive paradigms. Collective imagining employs ethically grounded interactive tools (visual storytelling, embodied performance and collaborative futuring) to enable people to co-author shared visions. Pilot collaborations have resulted in the development of a university based 'Compassionate Curriculum', where justice-impacted students engage in creative, strengths-based learning while mentoring peers. This is an example of restorative infrastructuring (Crean and Murray, forthcoming): whereby systems are designed and tools created that directly respond to community needs and historical harm. By centering lived experience and facilitating shared power, these methods can produce actionable, hope-driven outcomes while expanding qualitative research horizons. For criminology, this approach highlights how participatory, future-focused, arts-based methods can transform research and practice, supporting justice-impacted communities to lead knowledge production, envision non-punitive futures and co-create interventions that are culturally diverse and generative. People with lived experience are positioned as core architects of restorative futures and creative methods themselves become tools for social transformation.

Generative Justice Under Constraint: Volunteer Practices and the Emergence of 'Free Spaces' in U.S. Prison Theatre *Karen Burnett Hamer, Criminology at the University of Texas at Dallas*

This presentation draws on qualitative interviews with prison theatre volunteers across the United States to examine how volunteers work within carceral environments to cultivate relationships of mutuality and solidarity. In doing so, it contributes to scholarship on the Penal Voluntary Sector and Generative Justice. It does this by positioning penal volunteers as social actors within prisons and by examining how patterns of interaction shape the conditions under which 'free spaces' become possible, sustained, or disrupted within prison settings. The analysis is guided by two interpretive tools. First, generative justice is understood as a situated relational practice: the production of relationships of mutuality and solidarity under constrained institutional conditions. Second, Derek Layder's (2006) social domains framework is used to examine how volunteers' orientations (Self), classroom practices (Situated Activity), and navigation of institutional constraints (Setting) work together to shape these conditions of possibility. Drawing on selected interview material, the presentation demonstrates how volunteers deploy differentiated relational practices within broader institutional and interactional dynamics—cultivating mutuality within the classroom while performing professionalism and institutional usefulness externally—and engage in boundary work that manages the visibility of these dynamics. Patterns of differential alignment across relational fields help explain how certain forms of heightened relational encounter become possible within the prison classroom, while the program itself remains legible and acceptable within institutional logics of order. These spaces resonate with what Victor

Turner and Edith Turner describe as communitas, an intensified form of sociality marked by mutual recognition, relative equality, and shared presence beyond formal roles. Rather than treating them as exceptional outcomes, the analysis conceptualizes 'free spaces' as emergent effects of situated relational work under constraint. They are not understood as an inherent feature of arts programming, nor as limited to arts contexts, but as arising from a contingent relational mechanism to which volunteers' strategic practices are central.

121. Fair Trial, Pre-Trial Detention and the Production of Judicial Certainty

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Courts and Sentencing and Penal Decision Making (Sentencing and Penal Decisionmaking WG)

Paper Session

3:45 to 5:00 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.147

Chair:

Paweł Waszkiewicz, University of Warsaw, Faculty of Law and Administration

Participants:

Equality of Arms as a Foundation of Fair Trial: From Trial by Combat to Judicial Balance *Cristian Bălan, Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest; Dorel Herinean, Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest*

The principle of equality of arms is not a merely formal guarantee, but a requirement of fairness intended to correct the structural asymmetry that inherently exists between the State and the individual. In criminal proceedings the prosecution begins with a clear institutional advantage, benefiting from an organized investigative apparatus, extensive technical resources and coercive powers derived from public authority. As a result, the suspect often finds himself in a position of vulnerability from the earliest stages of the investigation, a situation intensified by the increasing complexity of rules governing the collection and use of evidence. This imbalance explains the historical evolution of procedural fairness from earlier systems of confrontation to the regulated judicial contest of modern criminal justice. While older forms of justice often resembled direct confrontations in which the outcome depended largely on the strength or status of the parties, contemporary criminal procedure replaces that logic with rules designed to ensure a functional balance between opposing positions. Equality of arms therefore does not require an artificial identity of procedural tools but an equivalence of opportunities allowing the disadvantaged party to challenge the case effectively. A central dimension of this asymmetry lies in the informational sphere. Because the State controls the investigative process and the mechanisms used to gather evidence, the defense risks being marginalized unless compensatory safeguards exist. Effective access to the evidentiary material and the ability to challenge prosecutorial evidence therefore become essential mechanisms for restoring procedural equilibrium. Ultimately, the legitimacy of criminal justice depends on the capacity of the system to transform this structurally unequal confrontation into a genuine judicial contest governed by fair rules. Equality of arms must remain a practical and effective right, ensuring that the institutional weight of the State does not overwhelm the individual's real opportunity to defend himself.

The Marginalization of the Trial Stage in Criminal Proceedings and Its Implications on the Fundamental Principles of Criminal Proceedings - Publicity, Immediacy, and Orality *Ērika Gribonika, Faculty of Law, University of Latvia*

The landscape of criminal procedure has changed. Traditional court proceedings are becoming an exception, as simplified procedural forms increase and opportunities to terminate criminal proceedings before trial expand. These changes limit publicity, immediacy and orality, raising concerns about the future of the trial stage. Thus, a research question arises: how can restrictions on the principles of immediacy, publicity, and orality be compensated during the pre-trial stage to safeguard the right to a fair trial, and is the abandonment of these principles foreseeable? Three tasks were set: 1) determine the role of publicity, immediacy, and orality; 2) identify mechanisms addressing their restrictions; and 3) assess potential new roles for these principles. The study was conducted as an interdisciplinary doctrinal analysis, examining Latvian criminal procedure, European Court of Human Rights case law, and legal doctrine. It incorporated insights from cognitive and social psychology to assess the importance of direct oral interaction and publicity for the perceived procedural fairness. The main conclusions emphasize the need for increased publicity regarding final decisions and case materials as the openness of court proceedings wanes. In obtaining testimonies during pre-trial proceedings for use in substantiating the final decision, several guarantees should be in place: 1) involvement of a judge in interrogations; 2) use of video recordings; 3) defense participation, while limiting the principle of investigative secrecy. The court's communicative role, guided by publicity, orality, and immediacy, becomes increasingly important as the determination of the "truth" shifts to the pre-trial stage. Right to express oneself, feel heard, along with the quality of public officials' behavior, i.e., respect, politeness, observance of individual interests, are vital for public trust in the judicial system. Thus, court proceedings could be reduced to a short and concentrated phase, in which immediacy, publicity and orality ensure that all participants are heard under public supervision.

The Severity of the Penalty as a Ground for Pre-trial Detention in Poland: A Problem of Legal Automatism *Borys Laskowski, Akademia Wymiaru Sprawiedliwości*

This presentation analyzes a specific ground for pre-trial detention in the Polish Code of Criminal Procedure. Under Article 258 § 2, if a suspect is charged with a crime punishable by a maximum sentence of at least 8 years, the need for detention "may be justified" by the severity of the potential penalty. The author argues that in judicial practice, this "possibility" has often turned into a systemic routine.

Instead of treating the severity of the penalty as just one factor, it is frequently used as a self-sufficient and automatic reason for isolation. This trend is not necessarily a result of the law itself, but rather of long-standing interpretative habits and a "procedural inertia" that has developed over decades. This contribution examines how this specific interpretation affects the principle of ultima ratio and the individualization of preventive measures. The analysis suggests that the high rate of pre-trial detention in Poland is a result of these deeply rooted professional patterns, which often favor procedural safety over the standards of the European Court of Human Rights (Art. 5 ECHR). The presentation concludes by calling for a shift in judicial culture to move from "automatic" justification back to the original, discretionary meaning of the law.

Manufacturing Certainty: Rethinking Knowledge in Criminal Justice *Paweł Waszkiewicz, University of Warsaw, Faculty of Law and Administration*

Criminal justice systems are commonly understood as mechanisms for establishing truth. This paper proposes a different starting point: that their central function lies in transforming uncertainty into legally binding certainty. While existing research has extensively examined errors, biases, and wrongful convictions, it continues to treat them as deviations from an otherwise reliable system. This contribution shifts the focus from failure to process. It asks how facts become stabilised in criminal proceedings, how alternative interpretations are progressively narrowed, and at what point further doubt becomes institutionally impermissible. Drawing on empirical insights from case-file research and a comparative perspective, the paper explores the interplay between procedural norms, institutional routines, and evidentiary practices in shaping what ultimately counts as “known”. Rather than offering solutions, the paper aims to open a different analytical perspective on criminal justice—one that foregrounds the production of certainty itself as a problem requiring explanation.

122. POLWG Panel 14: Community Policing, Racial Bias, and Corruption: International Perspectives

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)

Paper Session

3:45 to 5:00 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.152

Chair:

Eyrún Eyþórsdóttir, University of Akureyri, Iceland

Participants:

External and Internal Corruption in Police Organizations: Evidence from Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Latvia, and Russia *Leonid Kosals, University of Toronto*

The author introduces the concepts of ‘internal’ and ‘external’ organizational corruption and analyzes them using a comparative cross-country sociological survey of police officers in Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Latvia. The sample included officers of various ranks working in many departments of large cities and small towns. The author analyzes the relationship between external and internal corruption and their relation to police performance. He used the concept of mafia-state to explain the systemic nature of police corruption in some Eastern European and Central Asian countries.

From Policy to Practice: Community Policing in Thailand’s Centralised Policing System *Atthapon Parkart, University College London (UCL), Department of Security and Crime Science, United Kingdom*

This paper examines how community policing (CP) is understood and implemented in Thailand, focusing on how frontline officers conceptualise CP and how it is enacted in practice. Although CP has been extensively studied in Western contexts, comparatively less attention has been paid to how it is interpreted and reshaped in non-Western settings, particularly in highly centralised policing systems such as Thailand. The study draws on qualitative data from 12 in-depth interviews with community policing officers across six police stations (three in Bangkok and three in rural areas), complemented by non-participant observations in four of these stations and analysis of national policy guidelines. The findings reveal uneven and partial understandings of CP among frontline officers, particularly in relation to partnership and problem-solving. In practice, CP activities are organised around high-priority projects and campaigns, emphasising visibility, public engagement, and volunteer mobilisation, with limited evidence of sustained problem-solving or shared decision-making. Instead of functioning as a transformative model, CP is shaped by frontline officers’ interpretations, policy framings, and the enduring influence of earlier models of Community Relations (CR) and Mass Relations Policing (MRP). These practices demonstrate how CP is layered onto existing approaches, shaping both its understanding and enactment. The paper argues that CP in Thailand operates as a hybrid model, where the language of participation coexists with earlier policing models and top-down, directive forms of implementation. Rather than being under-implemented, CP is carried out in ways that prioritise meeting organisational requirements over fundamentally transforming policing practices. These findings underline the importance of how CP is interpreted and enacted in practice, contributing to broader debates on policy transfer and how policing models are reshaped within centralised systems.

New Approaches to Police Training: Development, soft skills, and community policing in Saudi Arabia *SAAD ALAHMAD, King Fahad Security college, University of Leeds*

Policing scholarship has produced substantial evidence on training, professionalisation, and community engagement in Anglophone contexts, yet research on police training in the Middle East and particularly in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)remains limited. This research addresses that gap by examining how police training models in Saudi Arabia are conceived, structured, and operationalised, and what they are understood to produce in terms of everyday police practice. Positioned within policing debates on professionalisation and community-oriented policing, it asks how training articulates the purposes of policing,

how community policing principles are incorporated in the KSA context. The study adopts a qualitative research design combining semi-structured interviews with Saudi police trainers and trainees with documentary analysis of training curricula, guidance, and related institutional materials. The research is comprised of several sub-questions, focusing on the development and structure of training approaches, their integration of community policing principles, the perceptions of trainers and trainees, and the broader implications for police professionalisation and community engagement. Thematic analysis will be used to analyse the collected qualitative data. It is expected that the study will contribute to a better understanding of police training approaches in the KSA and determine the extent to which they align with police expectations and functions in Saudi society. Findings are expected to inform future comparative policing research and to support context-sensitive approaches to police education and training in Saudi Arabia.

'To protect and serve their own people': perceptions of police encounters among racialised male migrants in Iceland. *Eyrún Eyþórsdóttir, University of Akureyri, Iceland*

This study examines the experiences of male migrants of African and Asian descent in Iceland with proactive police practices, with a special focus on traffic stops. Drawing from ten in-depth, semi-structured interviews with migrants residing in Iceland, the research examines how participants interpret and respond to their encounters with the police. Findings suggest that participants frequently encountered proactive policing. While some initially rationalised stops as routine, many ultimately interpreted them as racially motivated, believing they were disproportionately targeted due to their skin colour. A perceived lack of transparency in these interactions compounded feelings of mistrust and marginalisation, eroding participants' trust in the police. The study contributes to the limited body of research on racialized policing in the Nordic context, underscoring the need for further research into the intersection of race, policing, and institutional trust in Iceland.

123. POLWG Panel 10: Vulnerability, Wellbeing, and Public Health Policing

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)
Paper Session
3:45 to 5:00 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.158
Chair:
Larissa Engelmann, University of Leeds
Participants:

Human rights-based policing as organisational myth: the case of Police Scotland *Markus Buderath, Bielefeld University*

This article draws on my PhD research exploring the interconnections between domestic police reform, international police engagements, and nation-branding in Scotland. Scotland launched a national police organisation, entitled Police Scotland, two years after the Scottish National Party won the 2011 parliamentary elections with a campaign promise to hold a referendum on Scottish independence from the UK. After an initial backlash to the policing changes, Police Scotland initiated further changes, emphasising its commitment to upholding a human rights-based approach to policing. Drawing on a neo-institutionalist approach and situating Police Scotland's reform efforts within the wider context of Scottish politics, I show how human rights-based policing emerged as a powerful myth within Scottish policing. A key observation is that individual actor entrepreneurs were key to pushing the human rights agenda forward within the organisation, yet at the same time the developments pertaining to human rights-based policing became aligned with wider Scottish political processes whereby a strong focus on human rights became seen as a means to create a distance to Westminster politics. In this way, there are elements of 'myth adoption' and 'myth creation' that surface in the context of Police Scotland's human rights-based policing journey.

Policing and public health in Scotland: what is the police's role in relation to community wellbeing? *Elizabeth Aston, Edinburgh Napier University; Ruth Friskney, University of Strathclyde; Katherine Smith, University of Strathclyde*

In 2012, Scottish legislation positioned the enhancement of community safety and wellbeing as the core purpose of policing. This paper examines how policy commitments to public health-oriented policing are interpreted and enacted. The non-crime 'secret social service' role of the police (Punch, 1979) has long been recognised, and proactive approaches are often driven by recognition of the limits, and potential harms, of conventional criminal justice responses. However, the extent to which such approaches are embedded in contemporary policing remains unclear. We first present findings from a scoping review of 50 international studies across five domains of police-led wellbeing interventions. The review identifies diverse rationales for police engagement, spanning reactive and preventative models, but highlights limited evaluation and an absence of community and lived-experience perspectives in both design and assessment. Against this backdrop, we present findings from the first phase of empirical research in Scotland, drawing on interviews (n=19) and a witness seminar (collective oral history) with key informants, exploring why the 2012 Act enshrined community wellbeing and how this has been operationalised. Our findings suggest this focus has fluctuated over time, disrupted by organisational reform and accompanied by shifts in discourse (including a recent shift from 'public health policing' to 'prevention'). Despite this, local initiatives, including multi-agency collaboration and diversion from prosecution to support services, persist and evolve. We interpret this as evidence of police officers operating as 'street-level bureaucrats' (Lipsky, 1980), exercising discretion to adapt policy and sustain local innovations. We conclude that public health policing in Scotland is characterised by shifting central narratives and structural barriers, including funding constraints, organisational silos and misaligned performance

frameworks. Despite this, local discretionary practices sustain elements of a public health model, highlighting both the limits of top-down reform and the conditions that would need to change to embed preventative, health-oriented approaches systematically.

Building a Compassionate System? The Tensions and Realities of Vulnerability-informed Policing *Larissa Engelmann, University of Leeds*

Contemporary shifts in criminology and policing—such as public health approaches to crime, trauma-informed policing, and the expanding 'vulnerability' agenda—reflect a broader movement toward delivering holistic, person-centred services to individuals in contact with the criminal legal system. These developments recognise that a substantial proportion of people encountering this system have experienced significant trauma, adversity, and structural disadvantage throughout their lives. Such experiences influence pathways into criminalisation, as well as outcomes across education, employment, and both physical and mental health. As a result, the criminal legal system is increasingly required to respond not solely to offending behaviour, but also to the underlying conditions that drive harm and shape life chances. This paper presents findings from the Economic and Social Research Council–funded Vulnerability and Policing Futures Research Centre, established in the UK in 2022. Working across more than thirty research projects and in partnership with numerous national and international organisations, the Centre has developed an extensive evidence base examining how police and allied agencies collaborations can reduce or exacerbate harm among people who experience vulnerability. Analysis across projects reveals several recurring themes that shape how 'vulnerability' is understood, operationalised, and acted upon within policing contexts in the UK. Five central themes are evident: (1) balancing compassion with accountability; (2) trust, vulnerability and help-seeking among established and emerging minority groups; (3) the limits of vulnerability-inclusive models as vulnerability becomes almost universal; (4) divergent multi-agency understandings of need and intervention ; and (5) the constrained visibility of vulnerability within and across organisational data systems. By engaging with place-based and problem-focused projects across the Centre, the paper reflects on these questions to offer critical insights into the future of a vulnerability informed criminal legal system.

124. POLWG Panel 16: Police Use of Force, Misconduct, and Accountability: Comparative Perspectives

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)
Paper Session
3:45 to 5:00 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.162
Chair:
Hyeyoung Lim, The University of Alabama at Birmingham
Participants:

"Governing through Police Misconduct: Insurance Risk Pools and the Regulation of Police Liability" *Stephen Wulff, University of Tennessee*

In the United States, limited research has examined the role of insurance to regulate police behavior, including the role of insurance risk pools (but see Rappaport 2016, 2017). Insurance risk pools spread risk across multiple cities that pay into a membership cooperative (Schwartz 2016). This paper provides an in-depth case study of the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT), which was created by Minnesota municipalities in 1980 and is one of the earliest municipal self-insurance risk pools established in the US with approximately 95 percent of Minnesota cities insured by LMCIT. I argue that the primary governing modality that insurance risk pools, like LMCIT, use to govern police misconduct is a neoliberal, market-based approach to social control. Further, I contend that, to some degree, the logic of an inverted new penology framework (see Feeley and Simon 1992 and Wulff 2022) applies to features of insurance risk pools, including their ability to employ risk management strategies to manage and regulate high-risk police departments and municipal members. Specifically, I find that risk pools have the power to compel police reforms, overhaul departments, and weed out municipal members that fail to reduce police liability and the financial costs stemming from it. Despite their ability to provide external oversight, LMCIT and their municipal members still lack transparency regarding police misconduct payouts, thus highlighting existing inequities within this model. Implications of regulating police behavior via insurance risk pools are discussed and future research directions proposed.

Institutional Response to Custodial Deaths in Tamil Nadu: Insights from Police Personnel and Legal Practitioners *Rameshkannan Ramar, Assistant Professor and Head, Department of Criminology, Kamaraj College (autonomous), Thoothukudi, affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, India; Balavisakan Kanagaraj, Kamaraj College (autonomous), Thoothukudi, affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, India.*

This study critically reflects on the persistent problem of custodial violence as a serious human rights and dignity issue. The research was conducted during the post-COVID-19 era and employed a mixed-method approach coupled with descriptive and analytical research designs. A total of nine experts participated in the study to provide professional insights. The study explores selected custodial crime cases filed between 2021 and the present in Tamil Nadu, specifically analysing the cases of Prabhakaran, Vignesh, and Akash, which collectively reveal patterns of torture, procedural negligence, and the denial of medical assistance in police custody. Explanations of professional opinion by law enforcement personnel, legal experts, and subject-matter specialists were considered to reveal the root causes of institutional pressure, the absence of human rights training, and low public awareness of legal safeguards. The results show that custodial deaths are not isolated instances of misbehaviour but manifestations of institutional failures based on thin accountability, political pressure,

and weak procedural checks. The study highlights the imperative of police accountability, human rights awareness, community consciousness, and institutional reforms. It concludes that custodial crimes must be addressed through an integrated approach involving legal, administrative, and social interventions to restore public trust and promote a just and humane policing system in Tamil Nadu. Keywords: Custodial deaths, Institutional response, Police accountability, Human rights, Criminal justice system, Tamil Nadu.

Police Crimes: When Law Enforcers Break the Law *D Scharie Scharie Tavcer, Mount Royal University; Raelyn O'Hara, Curious Mind Research Group; Milena Radzikowska, Mount Royal University*

Section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees that every individual is equal before and under the law. This principle becomes particularly curious when those responsible for enforcing the law are themselves accused of wrongdoing, and the consequences are perceived as less severe than those for civilians. In such situations, questions of accountability, transparency, and equality before the law become central. This paper examines disciplinary outcomes for sworn police officers in the province of Alberta, Canada, who have been accused of misconduct or criminal offences. A troubling double standard emerges when comparing civilian applicants, who must maintain clean criminal records, with sworn officers who remain employed despite violations of the Police Act or the Criminal Code. Union protections, evidentiary dynamics, and opaque disciplinary systems may shift alleged wrongdoing from the courts into internal administrative procedures. Compounding this, such cases are often not systematically recorded or published, limiting transparency and oversight. Drawing on government databases and research documenting violations committed by officers from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, two municipal police services, and First Nations policing agencies within Alberta, this study assesses patterns of misconduct and institutional responses. The findings suggest a persistent double standard, raising concerns about whether the constitutional guarantee of equality before the law is meaningfully upheld in practice. The paper further considers how differential accountability may affect public trust, perceptions of police legitimacy, and broader confidence in Charter protections within Alberta's justice system.

Police lethality in Brazil: an examination of the last 40 years *MAURICIO STEGEMANN DIETER, Senior Reader of Criminology - University of São Paulo (USP)*

Brazil's transition to democracy in 1988, marked by the promulgation of a republican Constitution intended to supersede twenty-four years of dictatorship, did not entail a corresponding reduction in state violence. Police lethality rates, in particular, have remained persistently high—and, in some respects, higher—under the formal democratic regime than during the last authoritarian period. Within Brazilian criminology, a substantial body of scholarship has emphasized the centrality of the "war on drugs" as a normative and discursive framework structuring police violence. This literature argues that prohibition operates as a key mechanism in the production and legitimation of lethal policing, such that its overcoming constitutes a necessary—though not sufficient—condition for addressing this phenomenon. At the same time, a heterogeneous corpus of research directly examining homicidal police violence remains only partially integrated at the theoretical level. This body of work can be organized along two axes: typologies of lethal violence and distinct analytical moments of its production, reproduction, and lack of accountability, across both formal and informal contexts. From a typological standpoint, a distinction emerges between lethal outcomes arising from individual police actions in routine encounters and those involving indeterminate groups, typically associated with specialized tactical units. Although both result in civilian fatalities, they are governed by distinct mechanisms and therefore demand differentiated analytical frameworks. From an analytical perspective, three moments can be identified: first, the ideological and normative frameworks legitimizing lethal violence; second, empirical analyses of situational dynamics and patterned regularities; and third, the structural and contingent obstacles to criminal and civil accountability. This article seeks to synthesize four decades of research by combining these different approaches, in order to advance a comprehensive diagnosis and propose medium- and short-term interventions to reduce police lethality.

The Ecology of Police Use of Force: A Longitudinal Analysis of Neighborhood Disorganization *Hyeyoung Lim, The University of Alabama at Birmingham; Brian Lawton, John Jay College of Criminal Justice*

Shaw and McKay's (1942) early exploration of Social Disorganization Theory identified neighborhoods characterized by structural disadvantages, including concentrated poverty, racial and ethnic homogeneity or heterogeneity, residential instability, and elevated adult and juvenile health risks, among other factors. These structural conditions have been consistently associated with communities exhibiting historically strained relationships with local police. Building on this theoretical framework, the present study employs longitudinal data from 2009 to 2017 to examine the relationships between indicators of social disorganization and incidents of police use of force in Austin, Texas. Police use of force is operationalized as an aggregate rate at the US Census tract level, while neighborhood-level ecological characteristics are derived from the American Community Survey to capture temporal variation in structural conditions. To account for the spatially embedded nature of both social disorganization and policing practices, the analysis incorporates spatial modeling techniques, including spatial lag measures, to explicitly assess the influence of geographic context and spatial dependence.

125. Sexual and Gender Minority Victimization: Comparative, National, and Community-Level Perspectives

Topic 4: Victimology/Patterns and trends in Victimization (Victimology WG)

Paper Session
3:45 to 5:00 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.168
Chair:
Marc Balcells, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya
Participants:

The violent victimization of sexual and gender minority persons in Eastern Europe: An inter-country comparative analysis *Viviana Andreescu, Department of Criminal Justice University of Louisville Louisville, KY, USA; Aura Preda, Spiru Haret University Bucharest*

Published by ILGA-Europe, the most recent Annual Review of the Human Rights situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and intersex people, shows large inter-country variations in the rates of victimization, harassment, and discrimination experienced by sexual and gender minority (SGM) populations in Europe. Using as a data source the EU LGBTIQ conducted in 2023 by the European Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) in 30 European countries, this comparative study intends to identify the factors (e.g., age, ethnicity, residency, socioeconomic status, marital/partnership status, religious affiliation, social support, etc.) that appear to increase or decrease the risk of violent victimization recently experienced by subsamples of SGM individuals whose sex at birth was male and who were born and resided at the time of the survey in Bulgaria, Poland, or Romania.

Experiences of Violence Among LGBTQI* Individuals. Findings from SKiD 2024 *Julia Rüdel, Federal Criminal Police Office; Christoph Birkel, Federal Criminal Police Office*

Official statistics on politically motivated crime and various studies on unreported cases —which, however, mostly refer only to individual regions and are not based on statistically representative samples— indicate that individuals belonging to the LGBTQI* community are particularly affected by experiences of violence, especially prejudice-driven violence. Time and again —most recently in June 2025 by the Conference of State Ministers and Senators for Gender Equality and Women's Affairs (GFMK)— there have been calls for a nationwide study on the unreported incidence of violence against LGBTQI*. Although the nationwide victimization survey SKiD 2024 does not constitute such a study specifically on experiences of violence among LGBTQI* individuals, it is the first nationwide representative survey to also generate findings on the underreported incidence of violence against LGBTQI* individuals. This article focuses on the findings of SKiD 2024 regarding the prevalence of violence against LGBTQI* individuals compared to the general population, both in general and specifically regarding hate crimes. It also examines reporting behavior, the extent of distress caused by victimization, and the utilization of victim support services. The findings confirm that violence against LGBTQI* individuals is a phenomenon of high relevance for criminal policy, prevention, and the victim assistance system.

Identity Under Attack: LGBTIQ-Victimization in the Context of Hate Crime *Ina Bieber, Federal Criminal Police Office; Laura-Romina Goede, Federal Criminal Police Office; Almut Schumann, Federal Criminal Police Office*

The LGBTIQ* community is exposed to a wide range of discrimination and forms of violence that manifest as hate crimes. Hate crimes are an offense in which the victim is deliberately targeted because of a specific charateristic or group affiliation. This form of crime not only poses a threat to the physical and mental well-being of those affected but is also an issue of societal security. This study aims to explore experiences of violence within the LGBTIQ* community in the context of hate crimes. The study is based on data of the survey "Living Situation, Safety, and Strain in Everyday Life (LeSuBiA, www.bka.de/lesubia)," - a collaborative project by the Federal Ministry of Education, Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMBFSFJ), the Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI) and the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA). LeSuBiA has a thematic focus on intimate partner violence, sexualised violence and of violence in the digital space and reached over 15,000 respondents across all genders. An existing study based on LeSuBiA data, has already revealed higher prevalences of violence within the LGBTIQ* community (Leitgöb-Guzy and Bieber 2026). Building on this, this study conducts in-depth analyses in the context of hate crimes. The aim is to clarify whether the increased experiences of violence within the LGBTIQ* community can be explained by hate crimes or by other factors, such as socio-structural factors. Furthermore, the question arises to what extent differences can be observed within the LGBTIQ* group, e.g. among gay, lesbian, and queer individuals. By identifying the specific threats and challenges faced by the LGBTIQ* community, targeted strategies can be developed to improve the safety and well-being of the LGBTIQ* community. Leitgöb-Guzy, Nathalie; Bieber, Ina (2026): Ergebnisse der Dunkelfeldstudie „Lebenssituation, Sicherheit und Belastung im Alltag (LeSuBiA)" I: Gewalterfahrungen innerhalb und außerhalb von (Ex-)Partnerschaften. Published by: BMBFSFJ, BMI, BKA.

Navigating Violence and Stigma: Exploring Victimization and Its Consequences in Male Sex Work in Barcelona (Spain) *Marc Balcells, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya*

Despite growing scholarly attention to sex work, male, transgender, and non-binary sex workers remain largely invisible in criminological and victimological research. Gendered myths — particularly the assumption that male sex workers can defend themselves or operate within more egalitarian sexual encounters — have historically obscured their exposure to violence and exploitation. This paper examines the prevalence, forms, and impacts of victimization among male, transgender, and non-binary sex workers in Barcelona, Spain, drawing on qualitative data from in-depth interviews conducted with participants recruited through NGO partnerships. Findings challenge the "empowerment paradigm," document widespread normalization of violence, and underscore the need for intersectional, gender-inclusive victimological

frameworks.

126. Protecting Victims' Rights: Enforcement, Assistance and Acknowledgement

Topic 4: Victimology/Victims' rights (Victimology WG)
Paper Session
3:45 to 5:00 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.172
Chair:
Kieran P McEvoy, Queens University Belfast
Participants:

Beyond the Letter of the Law: Can AI Chatbots Revolutionize Victim Support? *Aleksandra Bodzioch, University of Wrocław*

This paper explores the evolution of victim communication, shifting from traditional Letters of Rights to interactive AI-driven chatbots. Through a comparative analysis of Poland, Estonia, Croatia, and England & Wales, the study examines how varying levels of technological integration impact the accessibility of legal information for crime victims. The research highlights a critical tension between innovation and safety. On one hand, AI chatbots offer 24/7 accessibility, anonymity, and reduced stress due to interpersonal contact by providing a low-pressure interface for information. On the other hand, the study identifies significant risks, including algorithmic bias, data privacy concerns, and potential secondary victimization. By synthesizing the experiences of these four jurisdictions, the paper provides a concise framework for the ethical deployment of AI tools to ensure they enhance, rather than compromise, the rights and recovery of victims.

Victim protection through criminal enforcement law *Andrei-Dorin Bancila, University „Nicolae Titulescu" Bucharest - Romania, Faculty of Law*

The protection of victim`s rights must be ensured, including through criminal enforcement law. Through these rights, the victim of a crime must be protected from future aggression against him or her by the offender, but also have, directly or indirectly, a voice, so that he or she can influence the process and mechanisms for individualizing the enforcement of criminal sanctions. This article aims to analyze some concrete manifestations (from European criminal enforcement legislation) of the ways in which the victim of a crime is, on the one hand, protected against revictimization, and on the other hand, acquires some prerogatives with respect to the way in which the offender executes his or her punishment or other obligations associated with it. At the same time, the article proposes to outline and advocate for a new concept that could be called "victim empowerment", a new approach in criminal enforcement legislation, intended to join the prerogatives of the state's "jus supplicii" with those of the victim, in order to make the offender attach greater importance to repairing the harm caused.

Victims' Rights to Truth, Justice and Acknowledgement in the Post-Truth Era: The Value Added of Criminology *Kieran P McEvoy, Queens University Belfast*

Supported by an ongoing Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship, as well as a previously completed ESRC funded projects, this paper examines the rights of victims of conflict or authoritarianism to truth, justice and acknowledgement in the current post-truth era. In particular, it focusses on efforts by populist politicians to undermine established truths about past violence and human rights violations as established by truth commissions, trials, official apologies or other forms of acknowledgement. Using an illustrative range of case studies including Argentina, South Africa, the former Yugoslavia, the Boris Johnson era amnesty in the UK and other contexts, the paper explores the role of criminology as a buttress against post-truth populism and as a means of promoting victim-centred transitional justice. The paper draws upon theoretical literature from restorative justice, victimology, the criminology of war and the criminology/human rights intersection to underpin the distinct 'valued added' of criminology in this field.

127. Beyond the Passive Victim: Vulnerability, Recognition, and Denial in Criminological Theory

Topic 4: Victimology/Patterns and trends in Victimization (Victimology WG)
Paper Session
3:45 to 5:00 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.510
Chair:
Beatrice Coscas Williams, Western Galilee Academic college
Participants:

State and Corporate Violence Against Women in Sports-Related Contexts: The Current State of Critical Criminological Knowledge *Walter S. DeKeseredy, West Virginia University*

There is a substantial critical criminological literature on state and corporate violence. However, until recently, critical criminologists paid limited attention to women's experiences of such crimes of the powerful in sports-related contexts (SRC). The main objective of this article is threefold: (1) to theorize the academic neglect of female targets of these harms, (2) to review the extant critical criminological literature on state and corporate violence against women in SRC, and (3) to suggest new directions in theory and research.

The Opposite Sides of the Same Coin: The Role of Victims' Vulnerability in Shaping Laws and Transforming Criminal Justice *Beatrice Coscas Williams, Western Galilee Academic college*

History is replete with examples of individuals whose experiences as victims have shaped not only their personal destinies but also the ethical foundations of justice. Yet victims remain persistently stereotyped as either passive and fragile or as disruptive to fair adjudication, representations that marginalise their potential contributions to legal systems. This article challenges these representations by proposing a four-layer framework that conceptualises how victims can become agents of legal transformation. The first layer, vulnerability, is reconceived not as a static weakness but as a universal, dynamic human condition following harm. The second layer, resilience, describes how

people and groups rebuild meaning and power after trauma. The third layer, ethical responsibility, refers to the voluntary commitment to redirect personal suffering toward the prevention of harm to others. The fourth layer, institutional receptivity, designates the legal system's capacity to recognise and incorporate victims' voices into judicial and legislative processes. When these four dimensions intersect, individual suffering may acquire collective significance and generate legal change. The argument is grounded in landmark cases, including the Mazan trial in France, the Larry Nassar case in the United States, and the emergence of so-called *apostrophe laws* bearing victims' names. Drawing on victimological, philosophical, and comparative legal perspectives, the article concludes by proposing a new phase of victimology, one that recognises victims not merely as recipients of protection but as potential co-creators of justice, whose vulnerability, voluntarily engaged, constitutes a generative force within the legal arena.

128. Juvenile justice reforms and transformations

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Juvenile Justice and Children's Rights (Juvenile Justice WG)

Paper Session

3:45 to 5:00 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.511

Chair:

Magdalena Borowiak, Stanisław Staszic State University of Applied Sciences in Piła

Participants:

President Johnson's Commission and Gault: Transforming Juvenile Justice (1967-2027) *Alida Merlo, Indiana University of Pennsylvania*

Nearly sixty years ago, in 1967, President Johnson's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice released its report, The Challenge of Crime in a Free Society, and the Supreme Court issued its landmark decision, In re Gault. This paper assesses the transformation that occurred and the challenges that remain on their 60th Anniversary. The Commission recommended a more formal procedure for youth alleged to be delinquent, with the goals of "… due process and welfare" (p. 85), and a narrowing of the juvenile court's jurisdiction. In an 8-1 decision in Gault, the justices established that juveniles were entitled to due process in delinquency proceedings. The intervening years have witnessed significant progress. Clearly, the number of youth referred to the juvenile court for status offenses has decreased significantly. However, there also is evidence of disparity in the juvenile justice system. Although the Commission advocated for more diversion programs, minority youth have not had equal access to them. States implemented more formal court procedures, but not uniformly. In particular, the provision of counsel in the early stages of the process has varied from state to state. Subsequent decisions, statutes, politics, and research have impeded juvenile justice policy. Although impressive progress has occurred, the question is whether it can be sustained

Victims of intimate partner violence: a criminological analysis of juvenile delinquency influenced by the trauma of domestic violence *Albert Tanasescu, Faculty of Philosophy University of Bucharest*

The paper presents a criminological analysis of the silent victims of intimate partner violence, the participants being 12 young people from the Craiova Detention Center, who committed serious crimes and are serving prison sentences. The young people confess in interviews that they experienced feelings of frustration and guilt because they could not protect their mothers, or other family members, when the marital aggressor (the mother's intimate partner) manifested his coercive control and violence. One of the participants was a witness to femicide. Feelings of shame, distress, inferiority, poverty, discrimination influenced behavior in the first years of school. The participants claim that when provoked they reacted impulsively, without the possibility of controlling destructive emotions; in certain situations they were lacking self-control, their weak moral personality did not anticipate the consequences of criminal acts. The participants described that the relationship with the abusive father was cold, an instinctive aversion, but at the same time they had a deep attachment to the mothers-victims. Without being integrated into the family life, the participants consider that they do not belong to anyone, social life has no justification, they do not identify with moral values; the internal moral rules by which they are guided do not respect the general moral rules of society. During the interview, the young participants create the impression that they feel good in the resocialization institution. They respond positively to the reeducation programs, get rid of addictions and begin to regain their self-esteem. They confess that in the first 3 months of detention, the deprivation of liberty caused them to feel depressed. The research supports the idea that juvenile delinquency must be understood as a deeply moral and interactional phenomenon, in which trauma, dysfunctional family relationships and the lack of internalization of social norms lead to a process of forming an antisocial personality.

Punishing without imprisonment? Transformations in youth policing and their effects on juvenile confinement in São Paulo (Brazil) *Isabella Piovesan Ramos, University of São Paulo (USP)*

This study, conducted as part of a Master's program in Law at the University of São Paulo (Brazil), examines the recent decline in juvenile deprivation of liberty in the state of São Paulo, a phenomenon that intensified after 2019 and mirrors a broader national trend toward reduced use of custodial measures for young people. During the same period, a marked decrease in police apprehensions of adolescents by the Military Police was observed. The research investigates the extent to which transformations in proactive policing practices have contributed to this process of juvenile decarceration. The empirical focus is the Sapopemba district in the eastern zone of São Paulo, a territory characterized by high levels of socio-economic marginalization and dense police presence. The central hypothesis is that the decline in apprehensions reflects a reconfiguration of youth policing, involving a shift

from formal processing through the juvenile justice system toward informal, discretionary, and potentially extralegal forms of social control directed at poor and racialized youth. Rather than indicating a genuine reduction in punishment, this shift may reflect the displacement of control beyond formal custodial pathways. Methodologically, the study employs a mixed-methods approach. Quantitatively, it analyzes primary and secondary data on police deployment, juvenile apprehensions, deaths resulting from police intervention, and other indicators related to entry flows into the juvenile justice system between 2019 and 2024. Qualitatively, semi-structured interviews will be conducted with Military Police officers, Civil Police delegates, and young adults who, as adolescents, were subject to police encounters in the study area. By foregrounding the front-end of the juvenile justice system, police action as the primary gatekeeper, the study seeks to contribute to debates on the extrajudicial determinants of youth incarceration trends and on contemporary transformations in practices of social control.

Safety in Practice: Everyday Experiences of Staff and Youth in Regional Youth Rehabilitation Centers *Magdalena Borowiak, Stanisław Staszic State University of Applied Sciences in Piła; Przemysław Tadeusz Frąckowiak, Stanisław Staszic State University of Applied Sciences in Piła*

The presentation focuses on the issue of safety of minors residing in regional youth rehabilitation centers – a new category of institutions within the resocialization system in Poland. The aim of the presentation is to discuss the results of research on the determinants of safety in these facilities, with particular emphasis on the perspective of staff and the everyday experiences of residents. The analysis includes both structural factors, such as infrastructure and spatial organization, as well as relational aspects, including the dynamics of interactions among residents and between residents and staff. The findings indicate the complex nature of safety, which is shaped by the interplay of technical, organizational, and psychosocial factors. The presentation also seeks to identify areas of risk and good practices that support the enhancement of safety within the institutional environment. The conclusions presented may serve as a basis for further research and for improving systemic solutions in the field of working with minors.

129. EUROC Panel 4. Anti-Money Laundering

Topic 2: Types of Offending/White collar Crime, Organizational Crime, Corporate Crime, Financial Crime (EUROC)

Paper Session

3:45 to 5:00 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.516

Chair:

Colin King, University of Sydney

Participants:

Re-Defining the Active Subject in Money Laundering: Doctrinal Evolution, Self-Laundering, and Comparative Jurisprudence Across Europe and Beyond *Adrian Haratau, National Institute for Training and Improvement of Lawyers (I.N.P.P.A.)*

The stdy examines the evolving legal concept of the active subject in money laundering offences, with particular emphasis on the recognition of self-laundering and its implications for contemporary criminal policy. Drawing on Romanian jurisprudence—including Constitutional Court and Supreme Court decisions—as well as comparative case law from the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), Spain, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States, the analysis shows how courts have extended criminal liability to offenders who both generate and subsequently conceal illicit proceeds. The study traces the transition from traditional approaches excluding perpetrators of predicate offences from laundering liability to modern interpretations that emphasize the autonomy of laundering conduct, the existence of a distinct intent to conceal, and the need to avoid unjustified privileges for offenders who disguise their own gains. It further addresses the theory of "neutral acts," the criminal liability of legal persons, the role of attorneys in financial transactions, and the risks associated with politically exposed persons (PEPs). Comparative developments—particularly the CJEU's teleological reading of EU directives and recent US and UK case law on professional enablers—indicate a clear trend toward broader accountability.

The object of the perpetrator's act in the offence defined in Article 156 of the Polish Act on Counteracting Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism *Aneta Wilkowska-Płóciennik, University of Warsaw*

The presentation focuses on an analysis of the object of the perpetrator's act in the offence defined in Article 156 of the Polish Act on Counteracting Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism, in the context of its commission by an obligated institution. The aim of the paper is to determine which interests or values constitute the direct object of the perpetrator's action within the prohibited act consisting in the violation of obligations related to anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing (AML/CFT). The paper will be based on research into criminal cases under Polish law as well as AML guidelines issued by Polish institutions (in particular the General Inspector of Financial Information – GIIF) and international institutions. During the presentation, an attempt will be made to determine whether the object of the perpetrator's act in the analysed type of offence consists of information and documents related to the performance of AML obligations, data concerning transactions or business relationships of clients of the obligated institution, or, more broadly, the mechanisms of the anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing system. The analysis will be conducted using linguistic, systemic, and functional interpretation, as well as with reference to the views presented in the doctrine of criminal law and regulatory law. In conclusion, the consequences of adopting a particular understanding of the object of the perpetrator's act for the practice of law enforcement will be indicated, in particular with regard to attributing

criminal liability to persons acting within the structures of obligated institutions and distinguishing between criminal and administrative liability under AML regulations.

The Strategic Role of AML/CFT in Modern Private Banking *Teofil Mieszko Pietroń, Akademia Policji w Szczytnie*

The importance of the modern banking sector cannot be overstated, nor can the risks arising both from within and outside financial institutions. In particular, the private banking sector—due to its high-net-worth clientele and complex financial structures—remains especially vulnerable to money laundering and terrorist financing threats. In response to these challenges, the European Union has introduced a series of Anti-Money Laundering Directives, alongside national regulations and compliance frameworks, significantly strengthening the tools available to combat financial crime. These measures aim not only to enhance transparency and accountability but also to reinforce trust in financial institutions. This presentation explores the evolving role of AML/CFT frameworks in modern private banking, addressing their practical implementation, regulatory pressures, and strategic importance. Particular attention is given to Customer Due Diligence (CDD) as a key preventive measure in mitigating financial crime risks and safeguarding the integrity of the financial system.

Money laundering offense. Subsequent character in relation to the premise offense *Luminița Criștiu-Ninu, Nicolae Titulescu University of Bucharest*

An in-depth analysis of the mechanisms by which the recipients of the legal norm end up evading the payment of the tax obligations and, subsequently, giving an appearance of legality to the illegally obtained amounts, can only be beneficial for an overall understanding of the typical elements of those two offenses (tax evasion and money laundering). Without a tradition in our criminal law, criminalized for only two decades, the offense of money laundering has surprisingly gathered around it a rich case law, which is the subject of numerous criminal cases. At the same time, the analysis of the outlined case law has revealed different approaches and solutions from the courts on some important aspects of the offense of money laundering and their clarification is all the more necessary as we are talking precisely about its typicality elements. Whereas the offense of money laundering is often concurrent with the offense of tax evasion, it is necessary to analyze their points of interference, both at the level of their objective side and from the perspective of reparation of the damage.

Anti-money laundering and the art market *Colin King, University of Sydney; Saskia Hufnagel, University of Sydney*

The extension of the anti-money laundering (AML) regime to include 'art market participants' is illustrative of the continued expansion of the regime beyond its initial focus to now include a range of designated non-financial businesses and professions (DNFBPs) and increased emphasis on so-called 'gatekeepers' and 'professional enablers'. Art market participants were brought within the UK AML regime in 2020. The 2020 National Risk Assessment rated 'art market participants' as high risk, however that risk rating was downgraded to medium in the 2025 NRA. To date, however, there has been no empirical analysis of how AML operates in this particular sector. This presentation considers the operation of AML obligations from the perspective of small/medium art market participants, looking at issues such as supervision (by HMRC) and compliance challenges in practice.

130. Researcher Wellbeing and Emotionally Challenging Studies: Different University Approaches

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Feminist Criminology (Gender, Crime and Justice WG)

Roundtable

3:45 to 5:00 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.517

There is growing attention in UK universities to the needs of researchers who are undertaking emotionally challenging research, particularly in research areas such as crime and gender-based violence. In this round table key academics attempting to drive change in this field will come together to discuss what is happening to address the possibly negative impacts on researcher wellbeing of working on an emotionally challenging topic at their universities (University of Durham, University of Birmingham, University of Portsmouth, Anglia Ruskin University and University of Bath). These will be informal discussion papers (no PowerPoints) where these leaders outline what policies/guidance/supports their institution, faculty/school, departments and/or teams have (or do not have) in place to address this issue, their utility, and the gaps they hope to address in the future. The aim of this round table is to compare policy/practice, consider what best practice looks like, and how we might work together to improve practice and policy in the future on this issue. We welcome attendance from those interested in what we are attempting to achieve in our own institutions. Please also feel free to contribute what is (or is not) happening in your own institution.

Chair:

Tina Nicola Skinner, University of Bath

Discussants:

Theresa Redmond, The Policing Institute for the Eastern Region at Anglia Ruskin University

Tina Nicola Skinner, University of Bath

Participants:

A First Person Reflection on Researcher Wellbeing and Institutional Support at Durham University *Nikki Rutter, Durham University*

In this round table, I reflect on my experiences as a researcher at Durham University, examining how institutional policies and practices have shaped and supported my wellbeing and professional development. Through my collaborative autoethnographic work, I have explored the emotional and relational dimensions of research, particularly during periods of heightened uncertainty and global disruption. These projects highlighted the pressures faced by postgraduate researchers navigating complex emotional landscapes, but they also illuminated how responsive institutional frameworks can help mitigate such challenges. At

Durham, I have experienced a growing institutional commitment to wellbeing that aligns with broader sector priorities. Policies emphasising inclusive research cultures, supervisor training, and accessible pastoral support have shaped my understanding of what compassionate research environments can look like. My reflections resonate with collaborative findings showing that, when universities foreground care, researchers benefit from strengthened peer networks, improved supervisory relationships, and increased confidence in raising concerns. These insights highlight how formal support structures can complement the informal, peer driven practices of care that researchers often rely on. I argue that Durham's evolving approach demonstrates the value of embedding emotional literacy, relational supervision, and collective responsibility into the research lifecycle. By situating my personal experiences alongside collaborative reflections, I highlight how positive institutional alignment can enhance researcher wellbeing and create environments where researchers feel valued not only as knowledge producers but as whole people

Working toward researcher wellbeing at the University of Portsmouth *Lisa Sugiura, University of Portsmouth; Aram Ghaemmaghami, University of Portsmouth; Katie Short, University of Portsmouth; Stu Lucy, University of Portsmouth*

Research on sensitive or potentially traumatic topics raises critical considerations not only around participant protection, but also around the well-being of researchers themselves. While universities typically have well-established ethical procedures to safeguard participants, far less consistent attention is given to the emotional and psychological impact on those conducting the research. Working with distressing material, engaging with vulnerable communities, or repeatedly encountering traumatic narratives can have cumulative and lasting effects on researchers. In addition, there are growing risks of researchers being exposed to hostility or abuse, particularly in online spaces. Despite these challenges, institutional approaches to support—and to proactively mitigate such risks—often remain limited in scope. Although there is usually an expressed commitment to researcher well-being, this is not always matched by clear, practical, or tailored forms of support. Existing services are frequently generic and may not adequately reflect the specific demands of sensitive research. Drawing on institution-wide research conducted with staff at the University of Portsmouth (UK), this roundtable invites a focused discussion on how researcher well-being is understood, supported, and prioritised within academic environments. We are particularly interested in how institutions can move beyond symbolic commitments towards more meaningful and embedded practices of care. What does effective support look like in this context? Where are the gaps? And how can researchers be better prepared for—and supported through—the emotional demands of their work? By sharing experiences and perspectives, the discussion aims to surface common challenges, highlight promising practices, and explore how more responsive and context-sensitive approaches to researcher well-being can be developed.

Working toward researcher wellbeing at the University of Birmingham *Amy Burrell, University of Birmingham; Jessica Woodhams, University of Birmingham*

Researchers at the University of Birmingham work on a wide range of emotionally demanding topics including child sexual abuse, rape, incel (involuntary celibate) communities and misogyny, and spiking. There is an increasing awareness of the impact that working on such topics can have on researchers and, in this talk, we will discuss proactive measures that were taken to support researchers working on a project where researchers were exposed to online discussions of child sexual abuse. We will also discuss the development of an innovative, online course – Protecting Wellbeing when Working with Distressing Topics and Content (DToC) which is specifically designed for researchers and practitioners working in emotionally demanding spaces to support them to look after their wellbeing. This course has been evaluated and we'll discuss the findings of this evaluation and what this means for future course development and researcher wellbeing support.

Working toward researcher wellbeing at the Angia Ruskin University *Theresa Redmond, The Policing Institute for the Eastern Region at Anglia Ruskin University; Abbie Lake, Anglia Ruskin University*

Protecting the wellbeing of researchers who work in sensitive and emotionally challenging (SEC) areas is crucial to ensuring their mental health and resilience. It is an issue of emotional and psychological health and safety and therefore an institution's duty of care. The culture surrounding Researcher Wellbeing (RWB) in SEC topics must recognise that potential negative emotional and psychological impacts are often a normal and expected aspect of this research, and therefore proactively put in place strategies to mitigate these. This is the founding principle of the work led by Dr Theresa Redmond and Dr Abbie Lake, of Anglia Ruskin University (ARU), to: raise awareness and understanding of the wellbeing of researchers of SEC content, in a way that normalises these researchers' support needs; and to develop additional, appropriate support pathways, which are specific to these researchers. Dr Redmond and Dr Lake will share the progress they have made within their institution to improve the awareness and understanding of how SEC research can negatively impact wellbeing. Drawing on lived experience of the harmful impacts of this work, and research on RWB, the presenters will detail the strategic steps they have taken across their institution to raise awareness of this concern, shift research culture, build financial support to facilitate the work, inform ethical practice, and develop better support pathways for these researchers. They will also discuss emerging examples of best practice to embed care and reflexivity within research practice, as well as the challenges they face, and how they intend to overcome them to ensure that RWB is understood as a shared institutional responsibility rather than solely an individual burden.

Working toward researcher wellbeing at the University of

Bath *Tina Nicola Skinner, University of Bath*

While previous work has highlighted the possible impacts of undertaking emotionally challenging research, it is only recently, particularly within the UK with the 2028 Research Excellence Framework focus on research culture, that this subject is starting to gain senior leadership attention. Funded by the UK Research and Innovation, Researcher England, Enhancing Research Culture fund, the Researcher Wellbeing Project developed recommendations, free guidance and resources to help researchers not only survivor but hopefully thrive in their roles (Skinner et al, 2025). A key recommendation was that research institutions should develop a strategic institution wide response to researcher wellbeing and emotionally challenging studies that can be implemented in three stages: Bronze, which is focused on awareness raising and the development of policies and guidance that are built into ethical procedures; Silver, involving the establishment of training, clear referral pathways, and (funded) Researcher Wellbeing Plans - including regular academic supervision, team working, and extra time in workloads to undertake wellbeing interventions - built into the design of projects; and Gold, a wholistic institutional response where, in addition to the above, policies, processes, practices and culture are proactively attentive to the prevention of and provision for distress relating to emotionally challenging research. Currently the University of Bath is making its way towards this strategic response. In this paper I will outline what we are doing, the difficulties we have faced along the way, and what more we have to do.

131. Rethinking Environmental Harm: Crime, Victims, and Corporate Responsibility

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Environmental/Green Criminology

Paper Session

3:45 to 5:00 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.610

Chair:

Jennifer Ann Maher, University of South Wales

Participants:

Is "Greenwashing" a Crime? A Green Criminological Perspective on Corporate Environmental Deception *Joanna Narodowska, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn*

Corporate greenwashing — the practice of making misleading or unsubstantiated environmental claims — has become a pervasive phenomenon in the era of the accelerating climate crisis. The paper examines greenwashing through the lens of green criminology, arguing that the field is uniquely positioned to analyse environmental deception as a form of harm that transcends the boundaries of traditional criminal law categories. The paper addresses three interrelated questions: how does green criminology conceptualise greenwashing, what are the implications for regulatory policy, and to what extent can the harm-based approach inherent in green criminology capture the full scope of damage caused by corporate environmental deception.

Classifying Environmental Offenses: An Exploratory Analysis of Environmental Convictions across Quebec's Provincial Environmental Legislation *Malaika Jacques-berube Jacques-berube, Université Laval; Guillaume Masson, Université Laval; Yanick Charette, Université Laval*

Environmental offending remains difficult to quantify empirically and to comprehensively portray, despite growing concern about its scale and impacts. This study addresses this gap by analyzing the case of the province of Quebec, Canada, and includes all environmental convictions recorded under 7 provincial environmental legislation, comprising 2,543 offenses documented between 2011 and 2024. It pursues three objectives: (a) describe the nature of recorded environmental offenses; (b) examine associations among offense characteristics; and (c) identify distinct offense profiles. A systematic coding scheme was developed to capture multiple dimensions identified in the literature as relevant, including the presence of environmental harm (pollution, damage), the affected environment (water, soil, air, wetlands), the type of offender (individuals, corporations, municipalities), the administrative nature of the offense (e.g., absence of authorization, obstruction, non-compliance with conditions), and contextual information (e.g., hazardous materials management, agriculture, industrial activity). Analytical strategies include univariate and bivariate analyses, as well as Latent Class Analysis (LCA) to identifies profiles of infractions. Preliminary results echo key concerns regarding the selective enforcement of environmental law and the uneven application of regulatory frameworks. Several laws appear to be rarely or never enforced ($n < 10$), raising questions about their actual use. The analyses also suggest the 6 distinct profiles of environmental offenses, with the largest class (32.1%) characterized by non-administrative, air pollution and equipment related infractions. Infractions related to pollution from industrial activities represent a relatively small group of offenses (10.9%). Beyond documenting environmental crime in Quebec, this study provides a replicable analytical framework applicable across jurisdictions to classify environmental offenses, examine patterns, and identify distinct profiles. These findings contribute to the empirical development of green criminology and open avenues for future research, including recidivism, detection and control mechanisms, and temporal trends in environmental offending.

Conceptual Framework of Estimating Carbon Cost of Crime *Minkyoung Pyo, Department of Security and Crime Science, University College London; Ryan Davenport, Hertfordshire Constabulary; Ben Stickle, Middle Tennessee State University; Kate Bowers, Professor, Department of Security and Crime Science, University College London*

Crime generates environmental impacts that remain largely unaccounted for in existing carbon costing methods. Current approaches, including Environmentally Extended Input-Output Analysis (EE-IOA) and Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), capture emissions only where they are financially visible, and

fail to explain how carbon is produced through behaviour, decision-making, and procedural responses within the criminal event. This paper introduces a conceptual framework for the Carbon Cost of Crime (CCC) that maps emissions across the preparation, commission, aftermath, and justice response phases of offending. A three-type emission typology is proposed: Attributable-Visible, Attributable-Latent, and Associated emissions, operationalised through crime scripting to trace behavioural emission pathways that product-based accounting cannot identify. Application to residential burglary and parcel theft demonstrates how emissions accumulate through offender travel, investigative work, repair and replacement, and logistical duplication. Results reveal that burglary costs are heavily driven by material remediation and post-victimisation security investment, whereas parcel theft generates carbon primarily through repeated delivery chains, failed redeliveries, and repackaging processes, which are the emissions that would appear negligible under conventional CJS-focused accounting. By extending CCC from economic estimation to behavioural attribution, this framework highlights where carbon-efficient prevention and intervention strategies may be achieved. It provides a basis for integrating environmental harm more explicitly into crime science, policing practice, and sustainability policy, and positions crime reduction as a potential co-benefit for climate mitigation objectives.

One Health, Many Harms: Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework as a Case Study in the Expanding Frontiers of Green Criminology *Jennifer Ann Maher, University of South Wales*

Drawing on research informing the Wales Animal Health and Welfare (AHW) Framework Review 2025, this presentation argues that integrating animal health and welfare into criminology strengthens the discipline's ability to address intersecting harms affecting animals, ecosystems, and human communities. The Review evaluated Wales's decade long AHW Framework to inform its future AHW Strategy aimed at improving the welfare of all kept animals and, through a One Health perspective, enhancing the wellbeing of the nation as a whole. The Framework's long term, results based accountability model - built around population level outcomes and programme level performance measures - provides a valuable lens for examining multispecies harm. The presentation highlights why addressing harms against animals is essential and why doing so remains challenging. The Review identifies systemic issues including balancing the speciesist and species focus, identifying the sector, fragmented data, inconsistent enforcement, and persistent vulnerabilities among kept animals - each of which aligns with criminological concerns about environmental and multispecies harm. It also reveals opportunities created by clearer accountability structures, cross sector collaboration, and more cohesive governance, demonstrating how multi agency approaches can strengthen prevention, detection, and respond to harms against animals. These insights reflect wider environmental governance dynamics, where regulatory gaps and socio ecological pressures enable harm to persist. Using Wales as a case study, the presentation outlines how international jurisdictions can apply lessons from the Welsh Framework to advance cross species protection and justice, improve accountability, and enhance policy design aimed at preventing cross species related harms.

132. Community Sanctions 4: Evaluating Community Sanctions: Effectiveness, Outcomes & Impact

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Community Sanctions (Community Sanctions WG)
Paper Session
3:45 to 5:00 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.611
Chair:
Jakub Jan Ferencak, Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave
Participants:

How Effective Is Probation in Reducing Recidivism? A Systematic Review *Melisa Muric, Belgian National Institute for Criminalistics and Criminology; Luc Robert, INCC - Institut National de Criminalistique et de Criminologie; Benjamin Mine, INCC - Institut National de Criminalistique et de Criminologie; Eric Maes, INCC - Institut National de Criminalistique et de Criminologie*

Probation is the most frequently used community sanction worldwide, and its use continues to rise (Aebi, Pozo, Cocco et al., 2024). As a measure designed to promote rehabilitation while avoiding the social and financial costs of imprisonment, its effectiveness is an important point of scrutiny. While effectiveness is typically measured on the basis of recidivism (Yukhnenko, Farouki, Fazel, 2023), recent scholarship highlights the importance of broader outcomes such as desistance, to capture long-term behavioural change (Bersani & Doherty, 2018). For this reason, we examined the effectiveness of probation in reducing recidivism and supporting desistance, compared with custodial and other non custodial sentences. Earlier reviews have contributed valuable evidence on the effectiveness of community sentences. However, many are now dated, narrowly focused on specific probation components only, or too broad to capture variation within probation practices or comparison of community sentences against each other (e.g. Smith et al., 2018; Van Hall et al., 2024; Villettaz et al., 2015). To update and expand the evidence base, we conducted a pre-registered systematic search across seven databases and synthesized the findings using meta analysis. By focusing on experimental studies, our review assesses the strongest available causal evidence on probation's effectiveness. We account for heterogeneity in outcome definitions, intervention features and offender characteristics. The approach enables a comprehensive and causally robust assessment of probation's impact, and offers nuanced insights into how probation functions within the broader landscape of community sanctions. This provides policymakers, practitioners, and researchers with a deeper understanding of probation, and strengthens the foundation for evidence-based sentencing.

Evolution and Outcomes of Circles of Support and

Accountability (CoSA) in Spain *Meritxell Pérez Ramírez, Universidad Pontificia Comillas; Patricia Bayo Lopez, FIADYS Foundation; Laura Negredo Lopez, General Secretariat of Penitentiary Institutions, Ministry of the Interior (Spain)*

The present study analyses the evolution and outcomes of the Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) project in Spain, focusing on the Circles implemented between 2021 and 2025. The research examines 16 Circles and compares those that were completed as planned with those that ended prematurely due to voluntary withdrawal or regression to a more restrictive regime. The study evaluates key aspects of the intervention, including meetings and activities, dynamic risk evolution, and incident management throughout the program. Results show clear differences in the developmental trajectories of completed and non-completed Circles. Circles that progressed as expected followed a structured pattern across phases, characterized by a gradual decrease in internal meetings and an increase in follow-up contacts, reflecting the promotion of autonomy and social reintegration of the Core Member (CM). In contrast, non-completed Circles concentrated a higher number of meetings in the initial phase but failed to consolidate activities and follow-up processes, often ending during early stages of the program. Findings regarding dynamic risk indicate that, in completed Circles, risk factors tend to decrease while protective factors increase over time. Conversely, in non-completed cases, risk factors increase and protective factors decrease, suggesting a negative progression within the program. Incident analysis further reveals that although the overall number of incidents is similar across groups, non-completed Circles present a higher proportion of risk-related incidents and emergencies, particularly in early phases. In conclusion, the results underline the importance of early engagement, structured progression across phases, and sustained support in achieving successful outcomes. The study provides empirical evidence on the functioning of CoSA in Spain and contributes to the European discussion on effective community-based strategies for the management and reintegration of individuals convicted of sexual offenses.

Impact of community service on recidivism *Aaro Beuker, University of Helsinki; Karoliina Suonpää, University of Helsinki; Antti Latvala, University of Helsinki; Mikko Aaltonen, Faculty of Law, University of Eastern Finland; Pekka Martikainen, Population Research Unit, University of Helsinki, Finland*

In Finland, many short prison sentences are replaced with community service. Community service was introduced as a more humane option for low-risk offenders, as it does not disrupt social ties as drastically as imprisonment. In recent years, research has increasingly examined the potential effects of various non-custodial sanctions. However, evidence on the impact of community service on recidivism and other relevant outcomes, such as employment, remains inconclusive. In the Finnish context, community service was fully introduced in 1994 following a short pilot period. This policy change redirected some offenders - who would previously have been incarcerated – into community service, creating conditions suitable for a quasi-experimental design. We leverage this reform to apply a difference-in-differences approach and estimate the impact of community service on recidivism. By using detailed Finnish administrative register data from district courts and other sources, we can include a long follow-up period and relevant sociodemographic variables into our analyses.

Frictions in supervision. Strategies and decision-making following non-compliance with conditions in probation supervision. *Jennifer Doekhie, Leiden University; Annelies Kepper, Hogeschool Utrecht; Miranda Boone, Leiden University; Jacqueline Bosker, Hogeschool Utrecht*

During supervision, probationers are guided within a framework imposed by the court. This often involves conditions such as mandatory treatment or a location ban. Probation officers are then tasked with monitoring whether probationers comply with these conditions and supporting them in doing so, with the aim of reducing the risk of reoffending and promoting personal recovery. If probationers violate conditions, a careful assessment of the violation and the response to it by the probation officer is essential. Researchers from Utrecht University of Applied Sciences and Leiden University conducted research into decision-making by probation officers in Dutch probation practice in cases of non-compliance with conditions by probationers. The central question is: how can professional decision-making by probation officers in cases of violation of conditions be organized in order to promote substantive and formal compliance by probationers? The research was conducted using a mixed methods design: analysis of data on Dutch probationers, qualitative analysis of 40 files and ethnographic research in three probation teams. Data was collected based on observations of discussions between probation officers and probationers, interviews with probation officers and probationers, observations of case discussions, and attendance at meetings between probation officers and chain partners or a court hearing. According to the theory, procedural justice and the working alliance between probation officer and client are decisive for successful supervision. This study shows that both parties indeed invest significantly in that relationship. However, for the success or failure of a supervision trajectory, external factors such as housing, care, or finances appear to be at least as important. The presentation will address the different strategies that probation officers use to try and turn challenging supervision cases into a success.

The Reality of Community Sanctions in Slovak republic. Net-widening or Substitution? *Jakub Jan Ferencak, Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave*

This paper examines the increasing use of community sanctions in Slovakia, while highlighting the persistent lack of systematic and comprehensive evaluation of their effectiveness in addressing offending behavior. It provides a statistical analysis of the application of

community sanctions in comparison with custodial sentencing. In addition to the empirical part, the paper develops a theoretical framework to interpret observed patterns in sentencing practices, offering possible explanations for the use of community sanctions in Slovak republic. The paper further explores the practical realities of community sanctions in Slovakia, critically assessing their capacity to fulfill rehabilitative and restorative functions. It argues that, despite their widespread use, such sanctions often fall short of their intended goals due to the failure of correct integration and lack of understanding of the necessary aspects of community sanctions. The paper contributes to the understanding of the role and effectiveness of community sanctions within the Slovak criminal justice system and the system of community sanctions as a whole.

133. What Works, Works, Really Works? The Jungle of Effective Interventions in Juvenile Delinquency.

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Crime prevention
Pre-arranged Panel
3:45 to 5:00 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.616

Juvenile delinquent behavior has several negative outcomes for juveniles themselves and their environment. There is vast empirical evidence showing that juvenile delinquency is associated with delays in moral development, including moral judgment, empathy, and self-conscious emotions (guilt and shame ; Gibbs et al., 2007; Spruit et al., 2016; Stams et al., 2006; Van Langen et al., 2014). Through the years, various types of intervention and prevention programs have been developed that aim to target youth engaged in delinquent behavior. However, the effectiveness of interventions for juvenile delinquency remains controversial (Olsson et al., 2021), because interventions show whether negative (Petrosino et al., 2013), unclear or contradictory effects (Hartnett et al., 2017; Littell, 2005; Markham, 2018; Van der Stouwe et al., 2014; Weisman & Montgomery, 2019), even as modest positive effects (Hartnett et al., 2017; Tolan et al., 2013; Van der Pol et al., 2017; Van der Stouwe et al., 2014). This symposium discusses the results of different meta-analysis on the effectiveness interventions for diverse groups of juvenile delinquency.

Chair:

Puck Meulen, Open University

Participants:

Preventing Juvenile Delinquency: A Meta-Analysis *Puck Meulen, Open University*

No comprehensive and up-to-date understanding of the effectiveness of preventive interventions for juvenile delinquency, a common social problem affecting communities worldwide, existed yet. This meta-analysis synthesized empirical evidence of 72 studies (304 effect sizes) examining the effects of preventive interventions for juvenile delinquency. Results showed an overall small and significant positive effect of g = 0.20. Moderator analyses revealed that intervention effects were largest for children up to 12 years old, slightly smaller for early adolescents (11-15 years old), but almost zero and non-significant for adolescents from age 15 on. Interventions with a group treatment format showed smaller effects than interventions with an individual, family, and mixed treatment format. Consistent with the RNR-model, cognitive behavioral and multimodal programs, targeting multiple criminogenic needs, were most effective. The treatment types multi-systemic, school-based, parenting, mentoring, moral development, structured free-time (e.g., recreational or experiential), and community-based interventions proved to be equally effective. However, awareness education interventions in which ex-offenders (i.e., experts by experience) inform youth on the deterrent consequences of crime had a moderately negative effect. The need for early preventive intervention programs, and interventions adhering to RNR principles to most effectively prevent the development of juvenile delinquent behavior, are emphasized.

The Need for Program Fidelity Research on Preventive Judicial Interventions *Naomi Koning, Garage2020*

"Only You Decide Who You Are - junior" (OYD-junior) is a behavioral intervention based on sports to prevent youth delinquency in the Netherlands. The target population of this intervention is youth between 10 and 12 years old who are at risk of developing delinquent behavior. The aim of this intervention is to prevent delinquent behavior by reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors. The effectiveness of this intervention is dependent on how well the intervention is executed, also called program fidelity. The current study examines how well the intervention is executed, whether the target population is reached and how the working mechanism 'mentoring' is experienced by both the participants and the trainers who execute the intervention using both qualitative and quantitative data. The presentation will further stress the need for and importance of program fidelity research on preventive judicial interventions, using the current study and a recent meta-analysis (Meulen et al., 2025) as illustrations.

'Only You Decide Who You Are' Effectiveness Protocol *Aaliyah Hansen, Garage2020*

Background: Only You Decide who you are (OYD) is a behavioral intervention based on sports targeting vulnerable youth (12-18 years), aiming to prevent juvenile delinquency, reduce risk factors and strengthen protective factors. A fundamental part of OYD is the trainer, functioning as a mentor and role model, who gives individual guidance and creates a positive atmosphere within the team. Previous evaluations of OYD showed the intervention was effective in preventing juvenile delinquency, reducing risk factors, and strengthening protective factors. However, a fade-out effect in juvenile delinquency was also identified. To counter this fade-out effect, the intervention was extended to two years. Although, the impact of this extension has not yet been evaluated. Methods: The current protocol study describes a quasi-experimental study that will evaluate the effectiveness of the extended intervention on juvenile delinquency, risk factors, and protective factors. Results: Data collection will take place between December 2025 and October 2030, with an anticipated sample of 550

adolescents, of whom 250 will participate in OYD. Discussion: This study will provide insight into whether extending the OYD intervention to two years results in more sustainable effects on juvenile delinquency, risk factors, and protective factors.

Why Culture Matters in Juvenile Justice Interventions: Evidence from Meta-Analysis and a Mixed-Methods Study in Kosovo *Rita Selimi, University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina"; Njomza Llullaku, University of Prishtina*

Research on juvenile justice interventions has increasingly looked on identifying what reduces recidivism, yet less is known about how cultural context shapes intervention effectiveness. Mentoring and multi-modal interventions show the biggest reductions in reoffending, according to a previous meta-analysis (Selimi et al., 2025; 26 studies, 259 effect sizes), emphasizing the significance of holistic and pro-social relationship-based approaches. This presentation examines how sociocultural values influence youth engagement, program experiences and rehabilitation outcomes in Kosovo. Integrating findings from the meta-analysis and a mixed-methods study in Kosovo (PGCI N=81; interviews n=8), it explores how rehabilitation processes are shaped by culturally embedded meanings and norms. Findings show that behavioral change and program effectiveness are strongly influenced by culturally internalized values and meanings, shaping how youth interpret institutional practices. Contrary to international literature which shows institutional control as primarily repressive, youth in Kosovo perceived rules as supportive guidelines for self-improvement and reintegration. Key factors for engagement and behavioral change were found to be supportive staff-youth relationships and dialogue based on values. These findings highlight culture as a central factor in rehabilitation effectiveness and provide guidance for strengthening Kosovo's underdeveloped aftercare system through culturally responsive interventions that support sustainable reintegration and reduce recidivism.

134. Mental Health and Offending: Prevalence, Trajectories and Vulnerability

Topic 3: Crime Correlates/Mental Health
Paper Session
3:45 to 5:00 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.617
Chair:
Barbara Gualco, University of Florence
Participants:

Intellectual disability and autism spectrum disorder in Norwegian prisons 2009-2022: Prevalence and psychiatric comorbidity. *Torill Tverborgvik, The University College of Norwegian Correctional Service KRUS; Marianne Riksheim Stavseth, University of Oslo; Nicoline Toresen Lokdam, University of Oslo; Anne Bukten, University of Oslo*

Individuals with intellectual disability (ID) and autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are considered particularly vulnerable within the criminal justice system, yet population based evidence from prison settings remains limited. This study examines the prevalence of individuals diagnosed with ID or ASD in Norwegian prisons over a fourteen year period, as well as their psychiatric comorbidity. Using linked national registry data, we conducted a longitudinal cohort study including all individuals incarcerated in Norway between 2009 and 2022 (N = 62,834). Diagnoses of ID and ASD were identified through the Norwegian Patient Registry and compared with matched groups from the general prison population. Demographic, criminological and mental health characteristics were examined at both the individual and incarceration level. Overall, 1.6% (n=1026) of incarcerated individuals were diagnosed with ID or ASD. While the total number of incarcerations declined during the study period, the proportion of incarcerations involving individuals with ID or ASD increased. Individuals with ID or ASD were younger at first incarceration, experienced longer and more frequent imprisonment, and were more often placed in high security units than matched controls. Psychiatric comorbidity was substantial; approximately two thirds had two or more additional mental health diagnoses, and nearly half met criteria for severe mental illness. Our findings identify a small but highly vulnerable subgroup within the prison population, characterised by imprisonment at young age, extensive psychiatric morbidity and more restrictive correctional outcomes. The results underline the importance of improved identification and adapted responses for individuals with such disorders within criminal justice systems.

Offending outcomes for individuals experiencing contact with outpatient mental health services from childhood to early adulthood *James Ogilvie, Griffith University*

There is limited research that has examined developmental variation in the timing and intensity of contact with outpatient mental health services (MHS), including how offending outcomes are associated with different developmental trajectories of service contacts. This study applies Group Based Trajectory Modelling (GBTM) to identify patterns of outpatient MHS contacts over the early life-course, and then explores differences in offending outcomes across identified trajectory groups. We analysed longitudinal (age ≈10 to 23 years) outpatient MHS contact data for an Australian birth cohort (N = 5,359) using GBTM. We examined variation across trajectory groups by demographic characteristics (e.g., sex, race), psychiatric diagnoses, and offending outcomes (e.g., offending volume and type, age at first offence, incarceration). Four distinct trajectories of MHS contacts were identified, including escalating (5.8%), low (64.5%), adolescent limited (14.5%), and childhood peak declining (15.3%) trajectories. The escalating contacts trajectory group contained the fewest individuals (n = 308) but accounted for the highest proportion of MHS contacts (32.3%). Offending outcomes varied across trajectory groups, with more extensive offending outcomes observed for the escalating contacts group. Findings demonstrate that GBTM can assist examination of variations in MHS contacts across the life course. Efficacious intervention with a small but distinct group of

vulnerable individuals may meaningfully impact available system resources and improve their criminal legal system outcomes.

Suicidal Behaviors Among Children and Adolescents in Poland *Radosław Jasiński, Police Academy in Szczytno; Kornelia Stępień, Akademia Policji w Szczytnie*

The deliberate taking of one's own life, representing the ultimate abandonment of the struggle to continue living, constitutes one of the most complex and difficult phenomena affecting contemporary societies. An individual who makes a decision with such irreversible consequences is typically in a state of profound psychological crisis, characterized by a sense of internal blockage, hopelessness, and a limited ability to perceive alternative ways of coping with difficult life situations. Particular concern is raised by the dynamics of suicide attempts in Poland over the past decade, indicating a clear increase in their number, as well as a rise in completed suicides, especially among children and adolescents under the age of 19. This phenomenon requires in-depth and multifaceted analysis of risk factors and psychosocial conditions that may contribute to the occurrence of suicidal behaviors in this age group. The aim of this presentation is to review current data on the scale and dynamics of suicidal behaviors among children and adolescents in Poland, as well as to discuss selected risk factors and elements of the presuicidal syndrome. The presentation will have a review character and aims to highlight the need for effective preventive and supportive measures for young individuals experiencing psychological crises. Keywords: suicide, suicide attempt, presuicidal syndrome

Title: Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy: A Six-Year Retrospective Analysis from the Childhood and Adolescent Abuse Group of a Tertiary Pediatric Hospital *Csaba Győry, ELTE University Faculty of Law, Budapest /Institute of Legal Studies, Centre for Social Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences; Barbara Gualco, University of Florence; Defraia Beatrice, University of Florence; Focardi Martina, University of Florence; Bianchi Ilenia, University of Florence*

Background: Medical child abuse (MCA), historically referred to as Munchausen syndrome by proxy, is a complex form of child maltreatment in which a caregiver fabricates, exaggerates, or induces illness in a child, resulting in unnecessary diagnostic procedures, treatments, and healthcare utilization. Owing to its deceptive presentation and nonspecific clinical manifestations, MCA remains difficult to recognize, delaying diagnosis and exposing children to prolonged physical and psychological harm. This study aimed to describe suspected and confirmed MCA cases managed by a multidisciplinary child protection team at a tertiary pediatric referral center. Methods: A retrospective observational study was conducted on all suspected or confirmed MCA cases evaluated by the GAIA Childhood and Adolescent Abuse Group at Meyer Children's Hospital, Florence, Italy, between January 2010 and December 2022. Cases were identified using Rosenberg diagnostic criteria and clinical warning signs recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. Demographics, clinical presentations, healthcare utilization, perpetrator characteristics, and diagnostic classification were extracted from medical records and analyzed descriptively. Results: Of 816 children evaluated for suspected maltreatment, eight (0.99%) fulfilled criteria for suspected or confirmed MCA. Median age at diagnosis was 5 years (range, 4–12), and most patients were female (75%). In every case, the alleged perpetrator was the biological mother. Children showed extensive healthcare utilization, with a median of 23 Emergency Department visits (range, 4–44) before recognition. The most common complaints were minor trauma (87.5%), fever (75%), respiratory symptoms (62.5%), and gastrointestinal manifestations (50%). Per Rosenberg, five cases were possible MCA, one definitive, one by exclusion, and one inconclusive. Conclusions: Although uncommon, MCA is a severe, under-recognized form of child maltreatment causing iatrogenic harm and diagnostic delays. Findings underscore the importance of clinical suspicion, documentation, information continuity, and multidisciplinary collaboration. The GAIA model provides a structured framework for pediatric centers.

135. WG-PLACE 2 - Mobility, nightlife, and event-based crime generators

Topic 3: Crime Correlates/Neighborhoods and Crime (WG on Space and Crime)
Paper Session
3:45 to 5:00 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.012
Chair:
Stanislava Amsharinskaia, Central European University
Participants:

How much crime do football matches generate? *Matt Ashby, UCL*

Professional football matches drive the movement of large numbers of people into neighbourhoods and other places in many European cities. Several previous studies have looked at whether football matches are associated with crime in surrounding streets, often with conflicting results. But most previous studies have looked only at a single stadium over a short period of time, limiting the generalisability of the results. This study combines 10 years of crime data for the areas surrounding 10 large football stadia in London with causal-inference methods to quantify the causal effect of professional football matches on different types of crime in surrounding streets and neighbourhoods, and how that effect varies in different settings.

Risky Places, Risky Times: Alcohol Outlets, Adult Entertainment, and Gendered Patterns of Assaultive Violence across Time of Day *Lyndsay N Boggess, University of South Florida; Alyssa Chamberlain, Arizona State University; Yuna Kim, University of South Florida*

Features of the built environment can generate or attract crime by creating opportunities where potential offenders and unsuspecting victims intersect in settings with minimal guardianship. Certain types of businesses such as those associated with gambling, drinking, and

sex may be particularly problematic, especially during late evening and nighttime hours when activity levels increase and formal and informal controls tend to weaken. Despite this, little empirical attention has been given to how these venues may contribute to patterns of victimization by sex, or how these patterns vary across time of day. The current study examines the spatial and temporal distribution of alcohol outlets and adult entertainment venues in relation to assaultive violence using data from a large American city. We explore how place-based risks associated with these types of businesses may influence neighborhood patterns of violence across male and female victims and perpetrators, with particular attention to how these relationships shift over the course of the day.

Night-time transit and urban crime: spatial complementarities between transport nodes and nightlife
Stanislava Amsharinskaia, Central European University; Dolzhin Toktonova, Central European University; Péter Márton, Central European University

The expansion of night-time public transport raises a critical policy dilemma: night transit is essential for the economy, it provides a sustainable way to commute, reduces car dependency, and improves equity, but may also concentrate criminal opportunities around transit hubs. This paper examines whether night-time crime is driven simply by transit accessibility, or whether it emerges more strongly from the interaction between transit nodes and nightlife concentration. Drawing on routine activity theory and crime pattern theory, this study investigates the conditions under which transit infrastructure acts as either a crime generator or a guardian. We use spatial-temporal panel data from New York City and analyse crime counts within a 300-metre buffer around transit stations across evening and night-time periods. The empirical design combines station fixed effects with difference-in-differences (DiD) and triple-difference (DDD) specifications. This approach allows us to isolate the independent effect of transit access from the synergistic effect of transit and nearby nightlife density. We further separate offenses by severity to test whether opportunistic misdemeanors and more serious felonies follow different spatial mechanisms. Our results indicate that while baseline night-time crime spikes at high-transit stations, the standalone transit effect becomes statistically insignificant once nightlife density is introduced. The triple interaction term between high-transit zones and high night amenities density remains large and highly significant, suggesting that extreme night-time crime emerges from spatial complementarities between transportation infrastructure and nightlife activity. Heterogeneity analysis reveals distinct behavioural mechanisms based on offense severity. Misdemeanors are primarily driven by standalone transit intensity, reflecting opportunistic dynamics at major hubs. In contrast, felonies are associated with the synergistic effect of both high transit access and dense nightlife. These findings highlight the role of criminogenic nodes formed by intersecting urban systems transit infrastructure and nightlife activity.

136. Retribution and Reciprocity Model (RRM): Theoretical Foundations, Empirical Tests, and Interdisciplinary Extensions

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Biological, Biosocial and Psychological Perspectives
Pre-arranged Panel
3:45 to 5:00 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.014

This panel presents the Retribution and Reciprocity Model (RRM), a novel framework in evolutionary criminology, and explores its application across a range of disciplinary and empirical contexts. The RRM proposes that criminal propensity can be understood through three evolved cooperative mechanisms — positive reciprocity, negative reciprocity, and retribution — operating in interaction with individuals' perceptions of their social environment. The panel is structured to move from theoretical foundations through to empirical validation, computational formalisation, and philosophical extension. The first paper introduces the RRM, outlining its evolutionary and behavioural foundations and situating it within contemporary criminological theory. The second paper empirically tests the model using a large nationally representative dataset of South Korean adolescents, demonstrating that retributive attitudes and negative reciprocity each play distinct roles in cyberviolence perpetration and the victim-offender overlap. The third paper formalises the RRM mathematically through agent-based modelling, translating its theoretical assumptions into testable equations and generating new predictive capacity. The fourth paper engages the RRM with moral philosophy, examining how its account of group-level negative reciprocity and retribution can inform longstanding debates between forward- and backward-looking theories of punishment. Taken together, the papers demonstrate the RRM's capacity to integrate insights from criminology, evolutionary biology, behavioural economics, mathematics, and ethics — establishing it as a productive and generative framework for understanding the causes, dynamics, and social responses to crime.

Chair:
Evelyn Svingen, University of Birmingham

Participants:

Introducing the Retribution and Reciprocity Model: An Evolutionary Framework for Understanding Crime
Evelyn Svingen, University of Birmingham

Crime is a fundamentally social phenomenon, yet criminological theory has not always engaged systematically with the evolved behavioural mechanisms that govern human social life. This paper introduces the Retribution and Reciprocity Model (RRM), a framework situated within evolutionary criminology that explains criminal propensity through the lens of human cooperation. The RRM proposes that criminal behaviour can be understood through three core mechanisms — positive reciprocity, negative reciprocity, and retribution — operating in response to how individuals perceive their treatment by others and by the broader social environment. Positive reciprocity reflects the tendency to return benefits received; negative reciprocity captures the impulse to respond to harm or perceived unfairness in kind; and retribution concerns third-party responses to norm violations, even where the individual is not a direct victim. Together,

these mechanisms shape an individual's criminal propensity — the likelihood that a criminal act will be committed when the opportunity arises. Drawing on evolutionary biology, behavioural economics, and criminological theory, the RRM offers a unified account of offending that bridges individual-level psychological mechanisms and broader social and structural conditions. This paper outlines the theoretical foundations of the model, situates it within existing criminological debates, and demonstrates its capacity to generate testable, falsifiable predictions about when and why crime occurs. In doing so, it establishes the conceptual scaffolding for the empirical, computational, and philosophical extensions of the RRM presented across this panel.

Testing the Reciprocity and Retribution Model (RRM) in Cyberviolence *HongJun Park, University of Birmingham*

The victim-offender overlap is a prominent issue in cyberviolence, yet the psychological mechanisms turning victims into perpetrators remain under-explored. This study empirically validates the Reciprocity and Retribution Model (RRM), proposed by Svingen (2023, the 2024 ESC Book Award winner), to explain the cognitive and emotional pathways driving cyberviolence offending. Using a pooled, nationally representative dataset of South Korean adolescents from 2023 and 2024 (N=18,697), the research applies multinomial logistic regression and generalised structural equation modelling. The findings reveal two distinct pathways. Firstly, a retributive attitude emerged as a unique predictor of cyberviolence perpetration, significantly explaining membership in both the pure offender and victim-offender overlap groups. This implies that cyberviolence functions not as mere private revenge, but as an internalised mechanism of deserved punishment for norm violation aimed at maintaining communal values. Secondly, negative reciprocity was identified as the essential psychological conduit for the victim-offender overlap. While general emotional distress (e.g., depression and anxiety) failed to directly trigger offending. It was successfully transformed into active offending only when mediated by negative reciprocal thoughts. Crucially, these results suggest that the RRM may provide a possible theoretical bridge within General Strain Theory. It may clarify that the transition from passive emotional strain to active offending is not an automated impulsive outburst. Instead, it may be a calibrated response where an individual's trait-level reciprocity and retributive stance act as the primary cognitive filters that determine the behavioural outcome of that strain.

Agent-Based Dynamics of Criminal Propensity: Creating the Mathematical Retribution and Reciprocity Model (mRRM) *Daniel Holland, University of Birmingham; Abigail Saynor, University of Birmingham; Galane Luo, University of Birmingham*

Here, we look at the Retribution and Reciprocity Model (RRM), which is a novel framework presented in evolutionary criminology. It states that crime can be studied through the lens of cooperation, particularly retribution and reciprocity. Reciprocity is how one acts when actions occur against oneself, and retribution is how one acts when the action does not include oneself (i.e. when one is a third party). These are combined with how one feels treated by the environment around them to yield criminal propensity - how likely crime is to occur the next time a criminal act could be committed. Creating a mathematical model enables a deeper examination of RRM by translating its theoretical assumptions into equations, allowing us to stress-test its components, reveal emergent relationships, and obtain predictive insights that purely conceptual theory cannot provide. Opinion dynamics provides a mathematical foundation for studying how individual attitudes evolve through repeated interactions among agents. In this work, we integrate the bounded-confidence framework from opinion dynamics with RRM, producing a mathematical formulation of RRM's core ideas. We present a bespoke model and accompanying simulations of how individual criminal propensities co-evolve with perceptions of the environment, through reciprocal and retributive interactions. Simulations are performed on a well-mixed population as well as small-world networks that dynamically rewire, allowing connections to sever after negative interactions and new connections to form after positive events. Simulated data reveal patterns of population-wide convergence towards high or low criminal propensity, as well as oscillatory behaviour, which is rarely observed in traditional opinion-dynamics models but one that aligns closely with the patterns anticipated by RRM. We discuss the implications of these results for real-world interventions, as well as for criminological theory development.

Games and Retribution: RRM, Group Identity and Ethics of Punishment *Ismail Demirkan, University of Warwick*

Punishment theories are generally divided into two: forward-looking theories and backward-looking theories. The former mainly focuses on the possibility of future crime and tries to prevent it from happening or minimise it (such as how to punish the crime in a way to prevent its re-occurrence or rehabilitating conditions) while the latter emphasises the justification of punishment (e.g. appropriate amount of retribution or possibility of a restoration to the victim) for the committed crimes. The difference of standpoint between these approaches may create a philosophical tension, and I argue that the application of RRM to criminology can provide insights into this debate. When the concept of general negative reciprocity in RRM is understood from the group behaviour perspective, the significance of rehabilitative theories comes into the foreground. Within group discussions, individuals tend to end up at more extreme versions of their own ideas, a process called "group polarisation". Especially in any sort of marginalised group that reflects upon the systematic unfairness, the intensity of negative reciprocity tends to go higher as well. In such an environment, reaching the point where criminal action is seen as a justified form of retribution is quite possible, driven by group identity. Purely a past-oriented approach to the crime has the potential to miss this relationship, and as a result, overlook an

opportunity to decrease future crime. In fact, since other group members are likely to perceive the punishment not as a form of justice but as another unfairness, they would be even more prone to react in the same manner as criminal activity. Therefore, this study will try to achieve two goals: How RRM makes it easier to understand the effect of group behaviour in criminal cases, and how moral theories of punishment can be informed by and benefit from such understanding.

137. Reporting, Measuring and Policing Cybercrime

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Cybercrime (Cybercrime WG)
Paper Session
3:45 to 5:00 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.110

Chair:
Mario Santisteban Galarza, Universidad Miguel Hernández de Elche

Participants:

Measuring 'Digital Crime': Evidence from a National Victimisation Survey in Italy *Gabriele Baratto, Faculty of Law, University of Trento | Centre of Security and Crime Sciences, University of Trento and University of Verona; Andrea Di Nicola, Associate professor of criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Trento, and director of the Centre of Security and Crime Sciences (University of Trento and University of Verona); Beatrice Rigon, School of International Studies, University of Trento | Centre of Security and Crime Sciences, University of Trento and University of Verona*

Digital crime (encompassing activities that are dependent on, assisted by, or enabled by digital technologies) is a pervasive feature of contemporary societies, generating substantial harm for both individuals and businesses. Yet, it remains intrinsically difficult to measure due to its largely hidden nature. Official statistics provide only a partial account of the phenomenon, being constrained by a substantial "dark figure" of unreported offences. In Italy, these limitations are exacerbated by issues concerning data accessibility and the classification frameworks adopted by public authorities. Against this backdrop, victimisation surveys constitute a crucial methodological tool for capturing the extent and characteristics of digital crime. However, in Italy such surveys are still limited and often affected by methodological and representativeness constraints. This paper reports findings from two victimisation surveys conducted in Italy in 2025, specifically designed to address these gaps. The first targets a representative sample of the adult population (N = 1,000), while the second focuses on small and medium-sized enterprises (N = 815). The survey instruments were developed through a critical review of the literature and major international models. The analysis adopts a tripartite framework of digital crime, distinguishing between cyber-dependent, cyber-enabled , and cyber-assisted offences. It examines prevalence, victimisation patterns, reporting behaviours, as well as economic and psychological impacts, alongside individual and organisational risk factors. Data were collected via CAWI and adjusted through consistency checks and post-stratification weighting. Findings show that digital crime in Italy is widespread and systematically underestimated, with low reporting rates and significant social and economic consequences. The study provides novel empirical evidence and highlights the need for more robust and standardised measurement strategies. This research was carried out within the HARD DISC – SERICS project, funded under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan.

The Strategic Seductions of Cybercrime in 21st C Geopolitics *Andrew Goldsmith, Flinders University; David Wall, University of Leeds*

This paper explores several dimensions of the recent convergence between the conduct of geopolitics and the realm of cybercrime. One example is the Russia/Ukraine conflict. These dimensions include the backgrounds and affiliations of cybercrime actors engaged in activities of geopolitical consequence, the motivations present behind criminal participation in examples of these activities, and the methods taken from cybercrime and cybercriminals and deployed by other actors engaged in geopolitical conflicts and competition. The paper takes the position that while the politics/crime nexus in off-line environments has a long academic history, this is less true in the digital domain. The widespread distribution of access to deployable digital technologies has contributed to an expansion of potential participants in arenas of conflict and competition. Criminal actors and methods are increasingly present and often visible in these arenas. Moreover, the ability of these technologies to render nation-state boundaries operationally irrelevant as well as making the attribution of responsibility for digital attacks difficult or impossible, presages major shifts in how, and by whom, geopolitics is conducted today. The concept of 'seduction' draws on previous work (Goldsmith and Wall 2022) examining the affordances of digital technologies in terms of their attractiveness and ease of operation for many young persons that encourage as well as enable their deployment for patriotic and nationalistic, as well as materialistic, reasons. The paper examines some examples of non-materialistically motivated participation by cybercrime actors in geopolitical events. The digital tools considered include ransomware, data exfiltration, denial of service attacks and crypto-currency heists. We also examine the harms linked to these tools and the often complex and shifting relationships between cybercrime actors and state actors that constrain as well as enable their participation in geopolitical activities.

Understanding What Drives Cybercrime Clearance: A Nationwide Study of Incident, Agency, and Community Factors *Yan Zhang, Sam Houston State University; Chia-Hung Hank Lin, Sam Houston State University; Jihong Zhao, Sam Houston State University*

Cybercrime constitutes a growing share of reported offenses, yet little research has examined the conditions under which these incidents are cleared by law enforcement. This study provides the first nationwide assessment of cybercrime clearance by linking 49,112

incidents from the 2023 National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) with agency characteristics from the 2020 Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) survey and community indicators from the 2020 U.S. Census. Rare-event Bayesian multilevel logistic regression models are used to evaluate how incident characteristics, investigative capacity, and jurisdictional context shape clearance outcomes. Findings show that incident-level solvability is the dominant determinant of cybercrime clearance. Offense type, monetary loss, victim demographics, and especially the victim–offender relationship strongly predict outcomes, with stranger or unknown-offender cases exhibiting sharply reduced clearance odds. Agency factors play a secondary but meaningful role: higher detective staffing is associated with greater clearance once community context is considered, while community characteristics explain limited variation beyond lower clearance in larger jurisdictions. Overall, the results suggest that cybercrime clearance is structured less by technological distinctiveness than by familiar principles of solvability and investigative capacity. Strengthening investigative staffing and improving early-stage information capture may enhance law enforcement responses to cybercrime.

Reporting cybercrime through flagging systems: lessons from a survey of Spanish gamers *Mario Santisteban Galarza, Universidad Miguel Hernández de Elche; Pablo Romero Seseña, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya; Aiala Tejada García de Garayo, CRÍMINA Center, University Miguel Hernández of Elche*

Several obstacles arise when attempting to prevent cybercrime. One of them is that cybercrime is likely underreported to the authorities, with several studies attempting to provide evidence on this issue and linked to factors that explain the underreporting of conventional crimes. Currently, the private sector plays a significant role in the prevention of cybercrime, particularly digital platforms. These platforms establish channels through which users can report illegal activity, removing infringing content. Few studies have explored the factors that lead users to interact with platforms through their reporting systems. This study offers quantitative evidence on these motives, seeking to explore whether some of the causes linked to police reporting of cybercrime or conventional crimes also apply to reporting to the platform. Specifically, it applies to reporting to multiplayer video game companies through a survey of players. The results show that many of the traditional factors that explain reporting to the police do not apply to reporting to the platform, except for the type of cybercrime reported. This raises the need to further explore the causes of reporting and, overall, the role of digital platforms in the prevention of cybercrime.

138. Authors meet critics: The Routledge Handbook of European Penology

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Penology and Theories Punishment (Crime, Science and Politics WG)

Author meets critics

3:45 to 5:00 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.118

The Handbook aims to offer an - inevitably partial - overview of the current state of the art and of cutting-edge penological research in Europe, covering all the regions (north, south, east, west) and Europe's institutional organisations - the Council of Europe and the European Union, and including research that may hitherto not have been published in English. It covers both scientific developments (theories, methodologies) and developments in penal policies and practices.

Critics:

Maximo Sozzo, Universidad de A Coruña / Universidad Nacional del Litoral

Berit Johnsen, Kriminalomsorgens høgskole og utdanningssenter KRUS

Alessandro Corda, Queen's University Belfast

Book Authors:

Sonja Snacken, Free Universsity of Brussels

Ioan Durnescu, University of Bucherest

139. Pathways into Serious and Organized Crime: Online Recruitment, Relational Risks, and Network Structures

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Organized Crime (Organized Crime WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

3:45 to 5:00 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.130

This panel examines how (young) individuals become involved in serious and organized crime, with a focus on digital communities, relational environments, and the structural features of criminal networks. Across the presentations, particular attention is given to how exposure to organized crime within families, schools, workplaces, and neighbourhoods shapes criminal trajectories. This exposure interacts with individual propensities, including socioeconomic disadvantage, mental health issues, and early-life disruptions. Research further highlights the role of social media in facilitating recruitment, showing how young people encounter criminal opportunities through high-risk content, indirect exposure, and direct approaches from offenders. Network-analytic studies demonstrate that proximity to individuals involved in violent, organized, or high-risk crime substantially increases the likelihood of youth violence and related behaviours. Structural analyses of multiplex networks within criminal organizations reveal how overlapping ties, such as kinship, friendship, and co-offending, create cohesive environments that can draw individuals into illicit activities. Together, these contributions provide an integrated account of how social media, exposure to criminal peers, and multilayered network structures shape pathways into serious and organized crime. The panel offers new insights into mechanisms of recruitment, escalation, and embeddedness, with important implications for prevention, intervention, and policy.

Chair:

Christophe Vandeviver, Ghent University

Participants:

Social Media And Youth's Involvement In Serious And Organized Crime In The Netherlands *Sjoukje van Deuren, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; Robby Roks, Erasmus University Rotterdam; Veroni Eichelsheim, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement; Rutger Leukfeldt, NSCR*

There are growing concerns across Europe about the increasing severity of youth crime and the involvement of young people in serious and organized criminal activities. These concerns focus particularly on the role of social media in drawing young people into activities related to the drug economy and violent offenses. To date, scientific research has primarily examined offline pathways through which young people may become involved in organized crime. However, despite these concerns, little is known about online entry mechanisms of youths in serious and organized crime. This study aims to explore the role of social media in young people's involvement in serious and organized crime in the Netherlands by employing a mixed-method approach. It begins from a broad perspective, focusing on the general youth population, and gradually shifts toward a more specific group: young people who are at risk of becoming involved in, or have already been involved in crime. More specifically, the study used a national online survey among a Dutch youth panel aged 16 to 27, a content analysis of publicly available Telegram messages, and (group) interviews with professionals and with youths who have been involved in crime or are considered 'at risk'. This presentation centers on some of the key findings of this mixed-method study by discussing the extent to which young people are exposed to criminal calls to action and directly approached via social media platforms for committing crimes, the nature and content of these messages, and the ways in which social media facilitates their involvement in serious and organized crime.

Different Strokes for Different Folks: Differential Influences of Youth's Exposure to Organised Crime on Organised Crime Involvement *Julie Erber, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement; Steve van de Weijer, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement; Brenda Bos, Statistics Netherlands*

Organised crime (OC) involvement poses a great risk for the normative development of youths. A growing amount of research has shown that youths become involved in organised crime through social learning and social opportunities in their networks. In other words, the exposure to OC involved individuals within their networks increases the probability that youth will become involved in OC themselves. However, we expect the strength of this relationship to depend on a number of other risk factors like educational attainment, poverty, mental health issues and early family disruptions that have previously been linked to OC involvement and to susceptibility to peer influence. Accordingly, youths that are simultaneously facing multiple risk factors may be more strained, and thus more susceptible to the effect of exposure than less vulnerable youths. We therefore aim to study the interaction effects of exposure to OC and youth's vulnerabilities using data from all youths of the ages 12 to 26 registered as living in the Netherlands on January 1st, 2020 (N = 2,991,006). Our data provides insight into OC exposure within the youth's family, household, classmates, colleagues and neighbours. We analyse to what extent exposure in these layers predicts organised crime involvement, and how the aforementioned risk factors moderate this relationship. The results will inform law enforcement and policy makers on evidence-based decisions for preventive measures and interventions for youths' OC involvement.

Relational Risk Factors for Youth Serious Violence: A Network Analysis of UK Police-Recorded Data *Cecilia Meneghini, University of Exeter; Paolo Campana, University of Cambridge; Noemi Corsini, University of Cambridge*

The United Kingdom has experienced a sustained rise in youth violence and knife crime in recent years, prompting growing interest in identifying risk factors that can inform prevention strategies. While much existing research focuses on individual-level predictors of youth violence, emerging evidence suggests that relational contexts also play a crucial role. This study adopts a network-based perspective to examine how risky behaviours diffuse through co-offending networks and shape young people's likelihood of engaging in violence. Using police-recorded data on a sample of UK youths aged 10–18 with criminal involvement, we analyse both individual and relational risk factors associated with violence with injury and knife-related violence. We build a co-offending network linking young people to both youth and adult suspects and derive measures of network embeddedness and proximity to individuals involved in various forms of offending. Our findings show that relational environments substantially shape the risk of violence. Youths who are more embedded in co-offending networks face significantly higher risks of both violence with injury and knife-related violence, and closer network proximity to individuals involved in organised crime, robbery, drug, and property offences further increases this risk. Crucially, the results demonstrate that the risk of violence cannot be understood solely in terms of individual histories but must be situated within broader relational environments. Incorporating network-based relational risk factors is therefore essential for effective violence prevention strategies.

The Structure of Multiplex Ties in the Sinaloa Cartel *Francesco Calderoni, Transcrime / Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Milan)*

How are multiple social ties layered within large criminal organizations, and what does this reveal about collaboration and cohesion? Research on organized crime has long shown that criminal cooperation is embedded in kinship, friendship, and repeated interaction, yet multiplexity—the overlap of different tie types within the same dyads and actors—remains underexplored as an organizational feature in its own right. This paper examines the patterns and structural role of multiplex ties in the Sinaloa Cartel. The analysis draws on official transcripts from Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán Loera's U.S. federal trial and reconstructs a multiplex network of 188 actors connected through kinship, friendship, compadre relations, meetings, and criminal collaboration. Building on prior work that examined how different ties predict collaboration, this study shifts the focus to multiplexity as a structural property. It combines descriptive multiplex measures,

interlayer overlap, actor-level multiplex profiles, and analyses of core-periphery structure and cohesive subgroups. Dyadic permutation-based models also assess whether higher multiplexity is associated with a greater likelihood of criminal collaboration. Preliminary findings suggest that multiplexity is not widespread across the network but concentrated in specific segments, especially around structurally central actors. Friendship and meeting ties appear to form the most consequential multiplex bundles, while kinship often overlaps with shared organizational affiliation. These results indicate that multiplexity functions as an organizational mechanism that thickens trust, concentrates cohesion, and helps sustain coordination in a large illicit network. The paper contributes to organized crime research by moving beyond the question of which ties predict collaboration and instead showing how layered ties structure trust, differentiation, and resilience within a major drug trafficking organization.

140. Fear of Crime and Risk perception II

Topic 6: Perceptions of Crime and Justice/Fear of Crime and Risk perception

Paper Session

3:45 to 5:00 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.136

Chair:

Loreen Tisdall, University of Basel

Participants:

From Digital Sketch Maps to Prediction: Exploring the predictors of (in)accurate crime perception in two European cities. *Ourania Kounadi, Associate Professor Department for Geography and Regional Research, University of Vienna; Alexander Bressler, University of Vienna; Mariana Vallejo-Velázquez, University of Vienna; Andrea Pődör, Institute of Geoinformatics, Alba Regia Technical Faculty, Óbuda University*

The Spatial Crime Perception Gap (SCPG) is the discrepancy between the perception of safety and statistically significant crime patterns in space. In our previous study, perceptual data were collected through a geo-questionnaire in which participants marked areas in Budapest (Hungary) and in Vienna (Austria) that they considered safe or unsafe in order to delineate the "perceptual gaps" in space, namely the SCPG. For example, a statistically "unsafe area" -in terms of crime prevalence- that is perceived as a "safe area". In this study, we investigate the SCPG at an individual level. Previous studies have examined and confirmed various predictors that are strongly correlated to FoC, but it is still unclear if some predictors are associated with an accurate perception, while others are associated with an inaccurate perception. In our study, we looked specifically at demographic variables (i.e., age, income, gender, education, nationality, residence) as well as other crime-related variables (i.e., trust in police, feelings of unsafety, victimization experience, perception of crime prevalence). The four spatial crime perception types (AS -accurate safe; AU – accurate unsafe; IS – inaccurate safe; IU – inaccurate unsafe) were analyzed at a participant level using bivariate and regression analyses. Our preliminary results indicate that in both cities, crime-related variables of experiences and perceptions are stronger predictors of the (in)accurate spatial crime perception than demographic variables. However, there are significant differences between the two cities, for example, in Budapest, women were more often inaccurate regarding the safe areas than men, and the longer a person lived in a city, the more likely it was that they would inaccurately label a safe area as unsafe, whereas such patterns were not observed in Vienna. More analysis is required to quantify these relationships and associate them with the current literature on fear of crime and risk perception.

Navigating Fears and Risks of Violence: Intersecting inequalities in drivers and strategies of risk-mitigation by gender, ethnicity, and migrant status *Hannah Manzur, Violence and Society Centre, City St George's University; Annie Bunce, City University (London)*

Despite persistent attention from researchers, the fear-victimisation paradox remains largely unresolved. Recent research (Manzur 2024) on contrastingly low victimisation and high levels of violence fear and anticipation found that this phenomenon not only applies to women's fear, but also minoritised ethnic and migrant groups and their intersections. Proposed explanations include barriers to disclosure, media-driven perceptions of violence, community victimisation, and behaviour modification in response to risk, yet evidence remains inconclusive. This study addresses whether, and how, risk-based perceptive and behavioural factors drive inequalities in the fear-victimisation paradox. We analyse data from 369,000 adult respondents across 10 years of nationally representative data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (2010-2019/20). Using an intersectional quantitative approach, we use regression models and multilevel analyses of individual heterogeneity and discriminatory accuracy (MAIHDA) to analyse differences in perceptions, drivers, and mitigating behaviours towards victimisation risk by single-axes and intersectional inequalities. We found significant variations along gendered, ethnic, migration-based, and intersectional inequalities in terms of: security consciousness, everyday risk-mitigation behaviours, and reasons for increased security consciousness. In line with higher levels of fear and anticipation of violence, women, minoritised ethnic, and migrant populations reported increased security consciousness in their day-to-day behaviours. However, actual reported changes in behaviour to avoid the risk of violence, such as avoiding walking home alone, were higher among women, but lower for minoritised ethnic and migrant groups. Minoritised ethnic and migrant populations reported more direct drivers of security consciousness, including direct victimisation of respondents and their family and friends, whereas women reported more indirect drivers, such as media reports and perceived vulnerability. These findings indicate markedly different patterns in risk perception and mitigation across different marginalised groups, posing significant implications for understanding the impact of fear and victimisation of violence through

behaviour modification by intersecting inequalities.

Neighbourhood Safety Perception around the Hamburg Main Station *Judith Hauber, Hamburg Police Department; Henriette Madita Thiele, Hamburg Police Department; Tabitha Vos, Hamburg Police Department; Amalia Vasquez Alvarez, Hamburg Police Department*

The area around the Hamburg Main Station is considered a particularly high-risk and crime-prone area. This especially affects the neighbourhood St. Georg, which is located directly next to the station in the city centre and often subject of the public safety discourse. The area is characterised not only by crime, disorder and prostitution, but also a multicultural atmosphere, queer nightlife and support services for homeless and drug-dependent people. As part of a multi-faceted security analysis of this urban space, we analysed the 2024 survey on Safety and Crime in Germany to provide insights into how the sense of safety and perception of problems in the inner-city districts differ from those of Hamburg's overall population, and to what extent these differences are shaped by dynamics specific to the city centre. The survey results show diminished feelings of safety, neighbourhood satisfaction and neighbourhood cohesion as well as higher disorder perception in relation to drug and alcohol use and fear of assault and sexual harassment. However, the trust in public institutions and especially the perception of the police is not affected. Other empirical elements of the security analysis show that the strategy of intensified police presence is falling short in dealing with the worries of the neighbourhood population. Community-oriented policing strategies are discussed as a solution to deal with this highly urbanized area with many conflicting interests regarding the spatial use.

Personal safety apps and the geography of fear - examining how digital tools translate urban risk into prevention *Alina Ristea, Assistant Professor Department of Security and Crime Science, University College London; Yijun Liu, University College London*

Fear of crime, and particularly women's fear of violence in public space, is shaped by the environments through which everyday journeys take place. Yet the growing use of personal safety applications has moved part of this process into the digital space, where risk is increasingly interpreted, communicated, and acted upon through app-based tools. Despite their growing visibility in discussions around violence against women and girls (VAWG), we know far less about how these applications conceptualise risk, which risk factors they prioritise, and whether they reflect what research on safety perception and crime prevention has shown to matter at the micro-spatial level. This paper examines a set of personal safety applications used in the UK and internationally, including SafestWay and WalkSafe. Drawing on environmental criminology and situational crime prevention, the study develops a framework of spatially grounded risk factors linked to perceived safety, such as visibility, enclosure, activity levels, guardianship, and temporal context. The apps are then comparatively analysed in relation to the preventive logics embedded in their design and functionality. The paper argues that many current safety apps emphasise reactive measures, such as alerts, live tracking, and emergency response, while giving more limited attention to the environmental characteristics that shape anticipatory fear and everyday route choice. In this context, Safest Way is a particularly useful case because it places route guidance at the centre of the intervention. An exploratory empirical component will further examine how app-based safety information is interpreted by users. The paper contributes to debates on VAWG, digital crime prevention, and the role of spatial technologies in shaping perceptions of safety in urban environments.

Helping at a Cost: Age Differences in Bystander Intervention Using Virtual Reality *Loreen Tisdall, University of Basel*

Bystander intervention plays a crucial role in social cohesion and public safety, but intervening often involves a tension between prosocial motivations and the risk of harm to one's health and safety. As demographic shifts increase the likelihood of older adults becoming bystanders, little research has examined age-related differences in intervention decisions. Furthermore, existing research has relied primarily on hypothetical scenarios or CCTV footage, neither of which provides the combination of experimental control and ecological validity necessary to rigorously examine bystander decision-making. This preregistered study adopted a virtual reality harassment scenario in an age-diverse community sample to study age differences in bystander decision making and identify potential mechanisms. Sixty-four adults across two age groups (32 participants aged 18–35 years; 32 participants aged 50+) reported on their intervention intentions, preferred intervention strategy, and situational risk perception. Think-aloud protocols complemented standard survey methods to provide additional insights into bystander decision making. In line with preregistered expectations, younger adults reported wanting to intervene more often than older participants, yet contrary to expectations, the former perceived risk to their personal safety more often than the latter. Aligned with predictions, older adults preferred indirect intervention more often than younger adults. Exploratory analyses emphasized several considerations for decision making, including judgments about need for help and the role of others as protective buffers for bystanders, some of which varied by age. These findings underscore the need to clarify the mechanisms that may reduce intervention in later adulthood to support effective bystander action in aging societies.

141. PWG Panel 7: Researching Prisons and Transforming Prison Environments

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Imprisonment, Prisons, Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment (Prisons WG)
Paper Session
3:45 to 5:00 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.156
Chair:
Ingke Goeckenjan, Ruhr University Bochum

Participants:

Global Patterns and Blind Spots in Prison Climate Research: A Systematic Mapping Study *Milena Milićević, Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research*

Over the past three decades, prison climate has become central to criminology, with growing recognition of its impact on safety, legitimacy, rehabilitation, and well-being. However, the field remains conceptually fragmented, with divergent definitions and measurement approaches across different contexts. This study systematically maps empirical research to identify dominant conceptualisations, recurring themes, methodological patterns, and literature gaps, aiming to clarify the field's structure and identify critical blind spots. Following PRISMA guidelines, a systematic search of major databases (Scopus, Web of Science, PsycINFO) was conducted. Peer-reviewed empirical studies in adult and juvenile custodial settings were screened and coded across conceptual, geographical, institutional, population-level, methodological, and theoretical dimensions. The mapping reveals a rapidly expanding but geographically skewed field. Since 2005, research has grown substantially but remains concentrated in Western Europe, the UK, the US, and Nordic countries, with limited representation of post-socialist or low- and middle-income systems. Studies predominantly focus on adult male prisons, while women's facilities, pre-trial detention, and marginalised groups receive less attention. Thematically, relationships, safety, legitimacy, and fairness dominate. Methodologically, the field is characterised by cross-sectional quantitative surveys and standardised self-reports. Comparative, longitudinal, and intervention-based studies are rare. Cultural validation and participatory approaches remain limited. These patterns highlight a need for geographical diversification, particularly beyond Western-centric contexts. To improve theoretical coherence and contextual sensitivity, future research should prioritise comparative and longitudinal designs, mixed methods, and cross-cultural validation of instruments. Policymakers should adopt context-sensitive assessments, as overreliance on standardised tools may overlook structural institutional differences. In summary, this study identifies priorities for a more globally inclusive research agenda on prison climate.

Green Transitions in Prison Environments: A Cross National Assessment of Sustainability Competencies & Organisational Practices in European Prisons *Ana Rita Pires, IPS_Innovative Prison Systems; Claire Machan, IPS_Innovative Prison Systems; Heloisa Becker, IPS_Innovative Prison Systems*

Climate change is increasingly recognised as a criminological concern, with environmental harms and climate related vulnerabilities affecting marginalised populations. Overcrowding, resource scarcity and infrastructural degradation heighten the exposure of incarcerated populations to environmental risks, while limiting the capacity of prison administrations to respond effectively. European policy frameworks, including the European Green Deal, the European Climate Law and the UN 2030 Agenda, call for public sector institutions, including correctional services, to actively contribute to the green transition. Despite these imperatives, evidence on sustainability related competencies among prison professionals or the organisational readiness of administrations remains limited. This paper presents initial findings from a cross national comparative study within the EC-funded Green Prison Pathways (GreenPP) project, across Portugal, Romania, Malta, Belgium and Turkey, examining: (1) the existing landscape of sustainable and energy efficient practices in European prisons, and (2) the green competencies of prison staff and management. Central to the research is a newly development digital green competency assessment tool, designed to capture both institutional practices (through management level assessments) and individual staff competencies (via self assessment assessments). The tool integrates structured and open ended indicators to enable comparisons between organisational expectations and staff perceptions. Drawing on pilot data across partner jurisdictions, the analysis highlights significant disparities in sustainability practices, institutional priorities and staff preparedness for the green transition. Initial findings reveal persistent barriers, alongside opportunities for integrating sustainability into prison management, staff development and offender reintegration pathways. By positioning prisons as active sites within the European green transition, the paper underscores the need for evidence based competency development, cross sectoral cooperation and the establishment of minimum standards for sustainable practice within correctional systems. The study's insights will inform the subsequent development of a digital training toolkit for prison staff to strengthen sustainable prison cultures and enhance reintegration opportunities through green community links.

Participatory Criminology and Creative Methods in Prison Research: Narrating Uncertainty through the "Terza Branda" Project *Luisa Ravagnani, University of Brescia; Carlo Alberto Romano, university of Brescia*

Uncertainty is a pervasive feature of imprisonment, shaping prisoners' perceptions of time, identity, and future possibilities. Yet the lived experience of uncertainty remains underexplored in criminological research, particularly from the perspective of those who directly experience incarceration. This paper examines how uncertainty is narrated and interpreted by prisoners themselves through the experience of Terza Branda, a participatory project developed with incarcerated individuals that combines creative expression and collaborative knowledge production. The project involved participants in the collective writing and performance of a theatrical script reflecting everyday prison life. The notion of the "third bunk" (terza branda)—a bed placed high above the others in overcrowded cells—emerges both as a concrete element of prison architecture and as a metaphor for the precarious and suspended condition of detention. Positioned physically at the margins of the cell and symbolically suspended between floor and ceiling, the third bunk captures the instability and uncertainty that characterise imprisonment. Drawing on excerpts from

the script, the paper explores how participants narrate uncertainty through experiences of waiting, overcrowding, institutional unpredictability, and fragile expectations of release. Importantly, Terza Branda represents the latest attempt by prisoners to position themselves as credible interlocutors in dialogue with public institutions. The project follows several collective initiatives aimed at making prisoners' voices heard through respectful and socially legitimate forms of communication. Among these efforts was an open letter addressed to the President of the Italian Republic calling attention to the persistent problem of prison overcrowding and seeking institutional support. Participants, however, often perceived a lack of sustained listening and meaningful engagement from actors outside prison. By foregrounding prisoners' voices, the project illustrates the potential of participatory and creative approaches to challenge traditional hierarchies of expertise in criminology and to generate situated knowledge about prison life.

Researching Prison: What We Can (and Cannot) Know
Ingke Goeckenjan, Ruhr University Bochum

What can we know about prison? Prison research has emphasised the need for multi-perspectival and reflexive approaches that take seriously the viewpoints of different actors within carceral settings. This raises the question of how such perspectives can actually enter institutional processes. Issues of access to justice in prison provide a particularly revealing site to examine these conditions, especially in the context of the German prison law system, which offers a comparatively well-developed and specialised framework of legal remedies. Socio-legal and criminological studies have pointed out that this process is shaped by significant constraints. Research on the law in action has shown that the use of legal remedies in prison may be discouraged or even sanctioned within institutional practice, and that legal procedures themselves may produce forms of procedural injustice. Work on legal mobilization further highlights the contested and political nature of prisoners' rights, while conceptual approaches underline the multiple, interrelated dimensions of access to justice. This paper builds on these insights but shifts the focus to a perspective that has received less systematic attention: judicial decision-making in prison law. It asks what becomes visible – and what remains obscured – when prison is encountered through legal proceedings. Methodologically, the paper develops the notion of institutionally embedded reflexivity. Drawing on the author's dual role as researcher and judge, it conceptualises judicial practice as a situated mode of observation shaped by procedural rules, institutional expectations and limited forms of interaction. Rather than claiming privileged access, the analysis focuses on the limits of this perspective: selective case exposure, reliance on mediated accounts, and the reduction of complex lived realities to legally processable claims. The paper argues that judicial decision-making constitutes a structurally constrained form of perspective integration. In doing so, it aims at contributing to a more critical understanding of how prison can be understood.

142. PWG Panel 3: Families, Parenting and Imprisonment

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Imprisonment, Prisons, Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment (Prisons WG)
Paper Session
3:45 to 5:00 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.158

Chair:
Magdalena Sadowska, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan

Participants:

Perspectives of incarcerated mothers on parenting through prison and the development of a prison Family Hub in Greece. *FOTINI MILIONI, EPANODOS _Greek Ministry of Citizen Protection; Elli I. Anitsi, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens*

Most female prisoners in Greece are mothers. Previous research has shown that the loss of daily contact with children, anxiety about the children's wellbeing and fear that they will be unable to maintain a steady relationship with them, as well as the reconstruction of the maternal identity during imprisonment are among the most significant challenges faced by mothers during imprisonment. Moreover, incarcerated mothers often bear a multi-layered stigma, characterized by social blaming, discrimination and internalized shame. The current contribution presents the research project conducted in the Greek women's prison 'Eleona Thivon' titled "Gender, family and incarceration". The purpose of the project was to identify the needs of incarcerated mothers and develop effective policies about maternal parenting during imprisonment. It consisted of two phases, a diagnostic phase including the conduction of interviews with incarcerated mothers and a policy development and implementation phase, involving the creation of a Family Hub within the prison 'Eleona Thivon'. The research included interviews with 113 incarcerated mothers with minor children. The research questions focused on mothers' perspectives and feelings about parenting through prison, the effects of motherhood in imprisonment and their dreams after incarceration. The creation of the Family Hub within the prison aimed to provide specialized, intensive support services to the families of prisoners, to make it possible to maintain and strengthen family ties. Furthermore, its purpose was to address a variety of issues, such as mental health problems and addictions and to implement specialized child protection programs. The research findings as well as the preliminary findings of the operation of the prison Family Hub are discussed.

The 'best interests' of children with imprisoned mothers: intentions and realities across three jurisdictions *Isla Masson, The Open University; Cara Jardine, University of Strathclyde; Natalie Booth, Bath Spa University; Rebecca Foster, Edinburgh Napier; Francesca Pilotto, Università di Bologna*

There is a stark tension central to policy and practice with mothers of babies and young children facing imprisonment: some argue that pregnant women and children should never be held in custodial

environments (Avlonitis and Abbott, 2024); whereas others suggest that the removal of children from their mother is so profoundly damaging that Mother and Baby Units (MBUs) have transformative potential in supporting the promotion of secure mother/child attachments (Abbott, 2024). Decision-making in this contested space must therefore pay close attention to 'the best interests of the child'. What is considered the 'best interests' of the child varies depending on individual circumstances. However, 'best interests' requires that certain considerations are taken into account in decisions that affect the child, such as the views, feelings and wishes of the child (if appropriate), and their physical, social, and emotional needs. Notably, the Bangkok Rules requires the consideration of best interests both in instances of children residing with their mothers in prison (Rule 49) or being separated from their care (Rule 51). This working paper draws on empirical research conducted in Italy and provides a critical review of policy and practice across Great Britain to suggest that an international, comparative lens can bring new perspectives to this issue. Given the limited evidence (particularly in GB) and inherent complexity of 'best interests', rather than proposing 'answers', this paper encourages questions regarding how we construe and apply 'best interests' when their mothers are imprisoned, and when penal culture shapes policy and practice.

The role of imprisonment in family and friendship relationships *Annie Kensey, CNRS/CESDIP; Aline Désesquelles, INED*

Data collected in the survey of ex-prisoners conducted by the National Institute for Demographic Studies (INED) provide insight into the role played by family and friendship ties during imprisonment, how these relationships evolve over the course of a prisoner's time in prison, and their influence on the conditions of release. These relationships can help to cushion the shock of imprisonment, maintain personal stability and prepare for reintegration into the community. However, they remain poorly documented in a systematic manner, particularly using standardised data collected both during imprisonment and upon release. At this conference, we will present the initial findings on this topic.

The impact of penitentiary isolation on the attitudes of men serving prison sentences towards parental rights and responsibilities – a research report. *Magdalena Sadowska, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan*

In Polish prisons, contact between imprisoned fathers and their children is determined, among other things, by the rules of law governing the execution of prison sentences, making this contact accessible to almost every person deprived of their liberty. At the same time, research on the relationships between imprisoned men and their minor children shows that these contacts become looser with time spent in isolation. The research results presented in this paper, which were conducted as part of the project "The Impact of Penitentiary Isolation on the Exercise of Parental Rights and Responsibilities by Men Serving Prison Sentences for the First Time," attempt to answer the question: how do men incarcerated in closed prisons exercise parental authority, exercise their rights and obligations regarding contact with minor children, and fulfill their child support obligations, and does this change with time spent in isolation? The study involved men sentenced to imprisonment for the first time, serving their sentences in a closed institution. The study identified fathers' attitudes toward exercising their parental rights and responsibilities, and identified the motivations behind their actions. It also identified best practices and strategies employed by the men studied, which facilitate fulfilling their role as fathers despite imprisonment.

143. The International Penal and Penitentiary Foundation (IPPF): Preventing Reoffending Through the UN Kyoto Model Strategy

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Imprisonment, Prisons, Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment (Prisons WG)
Roundtable
3:45 to 5:00 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.164

This Roundtable is organised by the IPPF (International Penal and Penitentiary Foundation). It will discuss the outcomes of the recent IPPF Colloquium which was held at the headquarters of the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute (UNAFEI) in Tokyo from 7 to 10 October 2025. The IPPF has its roots in 1872 when the International Prison Commission (IPC) was established. It is the oldest international organisation working in the field of prison and penitentiary reform. The 2025 IPPF Colloquium centred on promoting the prevention of reoffending through the Kyoto Model Strategy. During the Colloquium the IPPF developed a series of propositions which are designed to help UN member states to develop their thinking on preventing reoffending and facilitate their implementation of the Kyoto Model Strategy. The Roundtable will explain these propositions and discuss their implications. The Roundtable will also report on the proceedings of the UN 15th Crime Congress which is scheduled to be held in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates at the end of April 2026. The predecessors of these UN Crime Congress were run by the IPPF. Finally, the Roundtable will consider other work of the IPPF in this area and explain how the IPPF intends to continue to drive forward its commitments to it in the future. The Roundtable will be chaired by Professor Dr Stephen Shute, Professor of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice, at the University of Sussex, who is the current (11th) President of the IPF and Professor Dr Rita Havercamp, Professor of Crime Prevention and Risk Management, at Eberhard Karls University of Tubingen, who is a Vice-President of the IPPF.

Chair:
Stephen Cameron Shute, University of Sussex
Discussants:
Rita Elisabeth Haverkamp, University of Tübingen
Gintautas Sakalauskas, Vilnius University

144. EDLC Panel 3. Turning Points, Desistance and Rehabilitation

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Development and Life Course Perspectives (Development and Life Course Criminology WG)
Paper Session
3:45 to 5:00 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.170

Chair:

Grace Wing Yan Au, Hong Kong Metropolitan University

Participants:

Desistance from malicious hacking: Turning points and the moderating role of autism *Leah Keirnan, University of South Florida; George Burruss, University of South Florida; Mateus Renno Santos, University of South Florida; John Cochran, University of South Florida; Christian Jordan Howell, University of South Florida; Zacharias Pieri, University of South Florida*

Though studies have evaluated the motivations behind cyber-based criminal offending, little attention has been given to the drivers of desistance from such activities. This study draws on Sampson and Laub's age-graded life course theory and on survey data from a sample of active malicious hackers to investigate how "turning points" (e.g., marriage, parenting, employment, joining a legal institution, and religious experiences) affect malicious hackers' willingness to desist. Additionally, based on research describing the high prevalence of autism among malicious hackers, this study examines how autism moderates the association between turning points and hackers' willingness to desist. Initial findings show that nearly all measured turning points are associated with willingness to desist as theoretically predicted. Autism, however, emerged as a key moderating factor, mitigating the relationship between nearly all turning points and desistance. The two exceptions were opportunities for legal employment and for higher education, both of which involve instrumental instead of social incentives. The findings highlight important nuances in how traditional turning points shape the trajectories of malicious hackers and individuals with autism, with significant implications for extending the life course framework.

The Potential Use of Psychedelic-Assisted Psychotherapy as a Desistance-Focused Intervention for People who Engaged in Criminal Behaviour *Lidia M. Stoica, University of Hertfordshire*

The contemporary desistance literature highlights the role narratives play in helping offenders to cease involvement in crime. Some theories state that the most crucial cognitive change in people who desist from crime is a cognitive readiness and openness to positive change. However, the brain's ability to change decreases with age, which makes cognitive and behavioural changes especially difficult for adults. Nevertheless, psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy could be the groundbreaking intervention that might break down this barrier and provide a catalyst for positive change, and, ultimately, desistance from crime. There is a growing body of literature that strongly suggests that psychedelics can be used for their therapeutic effects. Psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy has been proven very effective in treating depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder and substance use disorder. Furthermore, qualitative results indicate this treatment improves wellbeing, mood, and many individual indicators of life quality, with long-lasting effects. Even though literature on the potential effectiveness of psychedelics for crime desistance is very limited, there are a few studies that indicate that psychedelics could be useful for reducing antisocial and criminal behaviour. These studies found that psychedelics contributed to positive changes in personality and behaviour, such as positive shifts in values, confrontation of repressed emotions and insights into how one's past experiences are related to their present circumstances. The factors relevant to crime desistance are similar to the narratives of recovery from conditions that psychedelic-assisted therapy seems to be effective for. This paper is based on an ongoing study, and the presentation will go through the rationale behind why this pioneering therapy could be an effective intervention for crime desistance, and some preliminary findings from interviews and questionnaires. This is the first study to comprehensively explore the narratives of people who desisted from crime after using psychedelics, and it will constitute a substantial contribution to knowledge.

Vis à Vis: Mentoring and Accountability Processes in Juvenile Justice and Residential Care Youth *Valeria Saladino, Magna Graecia University of Catanzaro; Anna Cappa, Institute for the Study of Psychotherapy; Marta Sechi, Department of Humanistic Research and Innovation, University of Bari Aldo Moro; Danilo Calaresi, University Magna Graecia, Catanzaro; Valeria Verrastro, University "Magna Graecia" of Catanzaro*

Juvenile offenders frequently display socio-emotional vulnerabilities, such as difficulties in regulating emotions, forming a stable identity, and engaging in healthy relationships. These challenges often stem from traumatic experiences, insecure attachment, and neglect, which can impair mentalisation and affect regulation. Consequently, deviant behaviour should be understood not also as a manifestation of developmental and relational disruptions. The "Vis à Vis" project—developed in collaboration between a university and a residential care facility for justice-involved juveniles in southern Italy (names omitted for privacy reasons) - introduces a rehabilitative intervention model aimed at justice-involved youth aged 14–25 who are engaged in youth services. Grounded in an educational framework of juvenile justice, the project centres on mentoring, defined as a structured, emotionally meaningful relationship in which a competent adult mentor—holding a degree in psychology or criminological psychology—provides a vulnerable young person with emotional support, recognition, and developmental guidance, with the continuous support of a supervisor and a psychotherapist. Over three days—one per week—mentors and participants engage in dyadic and group activities designed to foster interpersonal connection, emotional expression, self-awareness, and future-oriented reflection. Exercises include identity exploration, perspective-taking, reflective dialogue, and autobiographical narrative tasks. The intervention is organised around three developmental dimensions: empowerment (strengthening personal resources and resilience), accountability (raising awareness of the impact of unlawful behaviour on victims and

communities), and reparation (encouraging symbolic or concrete reparative actions). By enhancing responsibility, relational competence, and future planning, the "Vis à Vis" project aims to support desistance and reduce recidivism, promoting a culture of legality and social reintegration among justice-involved youth.

Reciprocal Family Processes and Pathways to Desistance: A Dyadic Study of Formerly Delinquent Young Men in Hong Kong *Grace Wing Yan Au, Hong Kong Metropolitan University*

This paper examines how reciprocal parent–child dynamics shape desistance among formerly delinquent young men in Hong Kong from a life course perspective. Drawing on in depth interviews with six purposively selected parent–child dyads from a larger qualitative study (30 young desisters and 30 parents), interpretive thematic analysis explores how family relationships, incarceration, and NGO based prison ministry interact to support sustained cessation from offending. Three findings extend life course desistance theory in a non Western context. First, parents and sons articulated contrasting narratives of delinquency: young men stressed culpability and violence, whereas parents minimised wrongdoing while affirming their sons' moral worth. Shaped by cultural imperatives of filial piety and "face," these accounts reframed crime as a shared familial rupture rather than an individual failure. Second, imprisonment functioned as a paradoxical turning point: while providing temporary respite for parents, frequent prison visits strengthened bonds, communicated moral expectations, and converted shame and guilt into "hooks for change." Third, Christian NGO prison ministry supported emotional regulation, mediated parent–child communication, and stabilised prosocial routines. The revitalisation of family bonds generated social capital that redirected trajectories away from deviant peers and toward education, employment, and faith based communities. The study highlights culturally embedded turning points and contributes to comparative life course criminology.

145. Institutions, Coercion and the Governance of Criminal Policy

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Criminal Policy, Criminalization, Policy of Criminal Sanctions (Criminal Law Making Policy WG)

Paper Session

3:45 to 5:00 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.015

Chair:

Ana María Cristancho, University College London

Participants:

Policy Preferences of the Criminal Policy Bureaucrats (Administrative Prosecutors) in Japan: Evidence from Career Path Analysis *Shunsuke Kyo, Chukyo University*

The research question of this paper is what policy preferences the criminal policy bureaucrats tend to have. They are administrative prosecutors who are temporarily transferred to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) from the Public Prosecutors Office (PPO) and play an important role in the Criminal Law Subcommittee of the Legislative Council (hereafter, Subcommittee), which is a crucial arena for criminal policymaking in Japan. The Japanese government started to examine the retrial system revision in the Subcommittee in the context of several cases of severe false charges (e.g., the Hakamata case). Although the Subcommittee reached a conclusion in February 2026, the parties involved in the cases and their attorneys have intensely criticized it because their core opinions are not reflected in it. Important criminal bills in Japan are usually deliberated by criminal law experts in the Subcommittee, drafted by the criminal policy bureaucrats, submitted by the Cabinet, and finally passed by the National Diet (Parliament). The main members of the Subcommittee are criminal law researchers, judges, prosecutors, and attorneys. In addition, the administrative prosecutors participate in every Subcommittee as secretaries who administer the meetings. They have de facto authority to appoint the members of the Subcommittee, control the flow of deliberation in the Subcommittee, and play a role in converting the Subcommittee's conclusions into concrete provisions. Japanese prosecutors are appointed just after their qualification as lawyers in their mid-twenties, are promoted to positions within the PPO and the MoJ, and do not return to a prosecutor's position after their resignation (non-revolving-door system). This paper seeks to answer what positions the prosecutors who administer the Subcommittee have been transferred to in their career paths compared to other prosecutors, because roles within institutions might partly shape personnel's policy preferences.

Sanctioning in Armenia: The Reality of Crime Control *Liana Marukyan, Yerevan State University; Anna Margaryan, Professor, Head of the Chair of Criminal Law and Criminology, Faculty of Law, Yerevan State University, Armenia*

This paper, to be presented jointly by the author in collaboration with Prof. Anna Margaryan from Yerevan State University (YSU), examines the relationship between international sanctions affecting Armenia and the realities of crime control within the country. It aims to provide a broader and more nuanced understanding of how external economic and political pressures intersect with domestic governance structures, law enforcement capacity, and patterns of criminal activity. Rather than treating sanctions solely as an instrument of foreign policy, the study focuses on their indirect and often unintended consequences for internal security and social stability. The analysis begins by outlining the scope and nature of sanctions relevant to Armenia, as well as their broader geopolitical and economic context. It then explores how such external pressures may influence the effectiveness of key state institutions responsible for maintaining public order, including law enforcement agencies, judicial bodies, and anti-corruption frameworks. Particular attention is given to institutional resilience, resource allocation, and adaptive strategies under conditions of constraint. In addition, the paper investigates potential shifts in criminal behavior associated with sanction-related

environments. These include the expansion of informal economic activity, changes in smuggling and trafficking networks, variations in corruption risks, and adaptive responses by organized crime structures. The study also considers the wider societal implications of these dynamics, including public trust in institutions, economic vulnerability, and social inequality. By integrating institutional and socio-economic perspectives, the paper highlights the complexity and non-linearity of crime control under external pressure. It argues that the effects of sanctions are mediated by domestic governance quality, political stability, and institutional capacity. While sanctions may place additional strain on state systems, they can also, in certain contexts, encourage regulatory adaptation or institutional reform.

Social Control and Criminal Responsibility: A Critical Analysis of the Criminal Justice Policies on Mental Disordered Offenders *Celeste Novaro, University of Perugia*

This study aims to develop a critical criminological analysis of the role of psychiatric knowledge as an instrument of social control, starting from the roots of the issue. On the one hand, it examines the legal concepts that require psychiatric intervention, namely «criminal responsibility», «capacity to understand and to will», and «social dangerousness». On the other hand, it reconstructs the institutional genealogy of the nexus between custody and care, tracing the historical development of criminal asylums. In most judicial systems, the so-called «dual-track system» prevails: mentally healthy offenders are considered responsible and punishable, whereas individuals with mental disorders are deemed not responsible and are subjected to security measures based on assessments of their «social dangerousness». Drawing on Foucauldian framework, the study seeks to show how the medico-judicial continuum – embodied in this dual structure – establishes a network of institutions whose primary function is neither to respond to illness nor to crime, but rather to manage danger. In this sense, such a network can be understood, in Foucauldian terms, as a «dispositif de sécurité» oriented toward social control. Particular attention is devoted to the Italian context, where a 2025 decision by the Supervisory Judiciary proposes a set of measures likely to shape future approaches to custodial security measures for mental disordered offenders. The research contributes to capture the complexity of criminal phenomena and legal categories, and to question the legitimacy of existing institutional responses.

The Logic of Hard Coercion: Militarisation and the Reconfiguration of Democratic Sanctioning *Ana María Cristancho, University College London*

This article argues that militarisation transforms the logic of sanctioning in democratic policing, producing conditions under which coercion undermines rather than secures compliance. Prevailing deterrence models assume that expanding coercive capacity increases compliance by raising the expected costs of non-compliance. Yet growing empirical evidence suggests the opposite: escalating coercion can provoke defiance, backlash, and violence.I theorise militarised sanctioning as a shift from procedurally mediated punishment to immediate and discretionary forms of hard coercion. Under these conditions, coercive encounters are more likely to be perceived as illegitimate and interpreted within a loss frame, encouraging risk-acceptant responses rather than compliance. Integrating insights from deterrence theory, procedural justice, prospect theory, and defiance theory, the framework specifies the institutional and psychological mechanisms linking extreme coercion to behavioural backlash.The article develops a behavioural backlash model in which reactions to coercive enforcement—such as resistance, mobilisation, or violence—are recoded by political actors as evidence of renewed threat, thereby legitimising further coercive expansion. Militarisation thus generates a self-reinforcing feedback cycle in which deterrence failure is endogenous rather than anomalous. By reframing coercion as a mode of governance rather than a simple instrument of deterrence, the article identifies the conditions under which expanding coercive capacity produces insecurity instead of compliance.

146. Voice, Participation and Power in Restorative Justice

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Restorative Justice (Restorative Justice WG)
Paper Session
3:45 to 5:00 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.025

Chair:
Pablo Pineda, University of York

Participants:

Negotiating Vulnerability: Enhancing Meaningful Participation in Restorative Justice Processes *Katherine Doolin, University of Auckland, New Zealand*

Restorative justice seeks to repair harm through inclusive, dialogical processes that bring together those who have caused harm, those who have been harmed, and their communities. Yet the effectiveness of these processes relies heavily on participants' ability to engage meaningfully - something not always achievable within justice-involved populations in which neurodiverse conditions (often undiagnosed), trauma, and other vulnerabilities are prevalent. Drawing on qualitative research with victims and offenders participating in prison-based restorative justice, this paper examines how individual, structural, and systemic vulnerabilities intersect to shape restorative justice participation and outcomes. The analysis highlights the complex needs and life histories that can inhibit participants' capacity to engage effectively in processes that depend on communication, emotional literacy, and relational understanding. At the same time, the paper argues that broader structural conditions, such as socio-economic inequities, the enduring impacts of colonisation, racial discrimination, and institutional biases, further compound these vulnerabilities and influence who participates, how they participate, and with what degree of agency. The paper contends that recognising and responding to this

multi-layered landscape of vulnerability is essential for seeking to ensure equitable, effective restorative justice processes. The paper proposes strategies for strengthening meaningful participation in restorative justice to best address participants' needs, thereby supporting more participatory and relationally restorative outcomes.

Voice without Power? The "Integration under Tension" between Restorative and Transitional Justice in the Special Jurisdiction for Peace in Colombia *Silvana Avendaño, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Open University of Catalonia); Beatriz Martínez Perpiñá, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya*

This research analyzes the type of integration established between restorative justice and transitional justice in Colombia, taking victim participation in the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) as its central axis. The study addresses an academic gap concerning how this participation is experienced in practice and whether the restorative component fulfills its promise of placing victims at the center of the process. Methodologically, a triple-level analysis (theoretical, legal, and empirical) is developed. The empirical component consists of a qualitative study based on 37 semi-structured interviews with accredited victims, legal representatives, and JEP officials. To evaluate the significance of participation, the research proposes an original "double-level model" that distinguishes between the procedural dimension (empowerment and dignified treatment) and the outcome dimension (institutional responsiveness and real influence). The findings reveal a deeply ambivalent participatory experience. At the procedural level, victims highlight significant progress in terms of listening, dignification, and psychosocial support. However, these achievements contrast with structural barriers regarding geographic, economic, and security access, as well as a marked "epistemic asymmetry" compared to the perpetrators (comparecientes). The reaserch concludes that the JEP has configured an "integration under tension," characterized as being partial, differentiated, and contested. It is partial because procedural advances do not always translate into satisfactory material outcomes regarding truth and reparation. It is differentiated due to greater institutional responsiveness at the macro level (agenda and criminal patterns) than at the micro level (design of specific sanctions). Finally, it is contested as the centrality of victims is strained by the logic of selectivity and the persistence of armed conflict in the territories. The study provides a realistic evaluation standard for transitional justice systems in contexts of mass victimization.

Embedding Restorative Justice in Higher Education: What Works, What Challenges Remain, and Why It Matters *Anna Bussu, School of Law and Criminal Justice, Centre for Applied Criminal Justice and Policing Research, Edge Hill University, Ormskirk, UK; David Karp, University of San Diego*

This paper presents findings from a qualitative study examining the implementation and institutionalisation of restorative justice (RJ) in higher education, drawing on data from 68 institutions across multiple international contexts. While RJ is increasingly promoted as an alternative to punitive approaches and as a framework for fostering inclusive academic communities, limited research has explored how it is experienced, enacted, and sustained within complex university environments. The analysis adopts a unified qualitative approach, using reflexive thematic analysis supported by ATLAS.ti to examine practitioners' accounts of RJ implementation across teaching, student conduct, and organisational contexts. The results identify two interrelated dimensions that capture both the operational and structural dynamics of RJ in higher education. First, RJ is associated with a range of pedagogical and relational achievements, including enhanced student engagement, development of reflective accountability, improved communication, and the creation of more inclusive, dialogic learning environments. These findings highlight the role of RJ as a pedagogical and professional learning framework within criminal justice education. Second, the analysis reveals persistent challenges that constrain sustainability, including limited resources, uneven training provision, reliance on individual champions, institutional risk aversion, and tensions between restorative principles and existing disciplinary or legal frameworks. These barriers underscore the fragility of RJ initiatives when not embedded within coherent institutional strategies. Overall, the study conceptualises RJ in higher education as a relational and organisational project, whose transformative potential depends on alignment between institutional values, structures, and practices. The paper contributes to criminological and educational debates by offering empirically grounded insights into the conditions that enable—or inhibit—the sustainable embedding of restorative approaches within higher education.

Child-Centred Restorative Justice in Wartime: Reframing the Child First Approach for Conflict-Affected Juvenile Justice *Natalia Khmelevska, Leonid Yuzkov Khmelnytskyi University of Management and Law*

The full-scale war in Ukraine has fundamentally transformed the environment in which juvenile justice and restorative justice operate. While restorative justice has traditionally been developed for stable social contexts, contemporary armed conflicts generate new forms of harm affecting children, including war-related psychological trauma, forced displacement, disrupted family relationships, increased risks of exploitation, and domestic violence in military families associated with combat-related stress and post-traumatic conditions. These challenges demonstrate that restorative justice can no longer rely exclusively on peacetime assumptions and requires new theoretical foundations. This paper argues that the Child First approach should be understood not only as a child-centred philosophy of juvenile justice but also as the normative foundation for child-adaptive justice in wartime. Drawing upon international restorative justice scholarship, Ukrainian legislation, judicial practice, and the implementation of the Ukrainian Restorative Justice Programme for Juveniles, the paper examines how wartime conditions transform restorative justice

and require new procedural, psychological, and institutional responses. The paper proposes a conceptual framework in which Child First becomes the key mechanism for adapting restorative justice to ongoing armed conflict. It argues that child-centred restorative justice during wartime must integrate trauma-informed practice, specialised procedural safeguards, multidisciplinary cooperation, and community-based reintegration while responding to emerging forms of victimisation, including domestic violence affecting children in military families. Rather than treating children solely as offenders or victims, this framework recognises them as rights-holders whose developmental needs must shape every stage of justice interventions. The paper contributes to restorative justice theory by extending the Child First approach beyond conventional juvenile justice and positioning it as the conceptual foundation of child-adaptive justice in conflict-affected societies. It demonstrates that wartime Ukraine represents not only a national case study but also an opportunity to rethink restorative justice theory for jurisdictions facing armed conflict, humanitarian crises, and long-term social disruption.

"These are difficult times for alternative forms of justice": prosecutorial perspectives on using Restorative Justice for sexual violence cases in Chile. *Pablo Pineda, University of York*

The use of restorative justice in sexual violence cases remains one of the most contested issues within contemporary victimological debates. While debates surrounding its application to such offences have developed notably in the Global North and Australasia, the topic remains largely unexplored within the Latin American context -an absence that is particularly salient given the region's strong punitive orientations and the growing social demand for harsher responses. Chile has been characterized as a punitively driven society, with limited inclusion of citizens' voices in resolution of serious interpersonal conflicts. Typically, both institutional and public responses to sexual offences are highly punitive, relying heavily on retributive practices and reflecting its automatic "punitive apriorism". Within this framework, the Chilean Public Prosecution Office occupies a central gatekeeping role in the criminal justice system. Against this background, this research examines some of the cultural and legal challenges in considering restorative justice for sexual violence cases from the perspective of prosecutors specialised in sexual violence cases. The analysis draws on semi-structured interviews with fourteen professionals from the Chilean Public Prosecution Office. Through thematic analysis, the study explores how these actors perceive the Chilean criminal justice system, its connection to victims' central justice needs, and how they assess the potential role of restorative justice to sexual violence. By situating restorative justice within Chile's broader legal culture and social debates on gender-based violence, this presentation highlights the complexities involved in introducing innovative restorative practices for sexual offences through the lens of the system's primary gatekeepers.

147. Virtual Reality in European Criminology

Topic 8: Methodologies in Criminology/Advances in Experimental Methods (Qantitative Methods WG)
Roundtable
3:45 to 5:00 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.110

Criminology has long grappled with methodological limitations in studying crime, offenders, punishment, and victimization—particularly in accessing real-time crime events and capturing authentic behavioural responses. Virtual reality (VR) and immersive technologies (AR/MR) present a paradigm shift, offering controlled simulations that could enhance criminological research. From the 360° Virtual Scenario Methods for studying criminal decision-making to VR-based offender rehabilitation and victimological studies, these tools promise to bridge longstanding gaps in the field. This roundtable invites scholars to critically examine: - How immersive technologies can address core criminological challenges. - The methodological and ethical implications of adopting VR/AR in criminological research. - The future of the discipline: What steps are needed to integrate these tools effectively? By fostering interdisciplinary dialogue, this session will explore how Europe can lead in advancing criminological research through immersive technologies—questioning not just what these tools can do, but how they can reshape the field.

Chairs:

Jean-Louis van Gelder, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law
Stefano Caneppele, University of Lausanne

Discussants:

Ranran Li, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security, and Law
Shadi Derakhshan, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law
Max Knabe, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security, and Law
Ann-Kathrin Arui, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security, and Law
Christoph Herrmann, University of Cambridge
Gabriela D Roman, University of Cambridge
Inês Sousa Guedes, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice, School of Criminology, Faculty of Law of the University of Porto
Mariana Sebastião Sebastião Machado, School of Criminology, Faculty of Law - University of Porto / CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice / Faculty of Law - Lusíada University of Porto / CEJEIA - Center for Legal, Economic, International and Environmental Studies
Carla Sofia Cardoso, CIJ-Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice; CEJEIA - Center for Legal, Economic, International and Environmental Studies; School of Criminology, Faculty of Law of the University of Porto
Boglarka Meggyesfalvi, University of East London & Middlesex University
Marcelo F. Aebi, University of Lausanne
Edoardo Cocco, University of Lausanne

148. Latest Progress in the Application of Varied Methods in Advancing Empirical Research on Human Trafficking

Topic 8: Methodologies in Criminology/Advances in Clinical Criminology
Pre-arranged Panel

3:45 to 5:00 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.120

Research on human trafficking has gained increased attention from varied disciplines. There has been a significant growth in published literature on the various aspects of this topic, from estimating the prevalence of human trafficking to dissecting the types of gross rights violations in different labor sectors. This session showcases the latest development in the application of idfferent methods to study human trafficking, beginning with a systematic review of the laste devleopment in quantitative methods on estimating the prevlanece of human trafficking, then a validation of an internationally known measurement scale, a case study using classical field methods, and ending with an study using social network analysis to explore the illicit sex market.

Chair:

Sheldon X Zhang, University of Massachusetts Lowell

Participants:

Latest Strategies in Operationalizing and Measuring the Prevalence of Human Trafficking: A Systemic Review *Xichen Wang, University of Massachusetts Lowell; Sheldon X Zhang, University of Massachusetts Lowell*

Human trafficking prevalence remains difficult to estimate because researchers lack shared, operational definitions, struggle to sample hidden populations, and must correct selection bias. This paper systematically reviews 22 empirical prevalence studies published between 2000 and 2025 to compare how trafficking is measured, how samples are obtained, and how prevalence is estimated. Most studies rely on legal definitions (Palermo Protocol, ILO conventions, or national laws such as the TVPA), which facilitate comparability but often impose high evidentiary thresholds and depend on incomplete administrative records. Population-based instruments designed for prevalence work are increasingly used and may be easier to implement at scale. Innovative sampling approaches have also appeared in some frequency in generating prevalence estimates, e.g., respondent-driven sampling and link-tracing designs (including VLTS), time-location sampling, household probability designs, and administrative-data approaches. Estimation methods include survey weighting, RDS-II and NE4NS estimators, network scale-up, and mark-recapture/multiple-systems estimation. The review highlights tradeoffs and recommends aligning measurement, sampling, and estimation to context to improve accuracy and comparability.

Validation of Human Trafficking as a Latent Construct using the Prevalence Reduction Innovation Forum (PRIF) Instrument: Evidence from Zambia and Malawi *David Okech, University of Georgia, School of Social Work*

Efforts to measure human trafficking prevalence have been constrained by the lack of validated instruments capable of capturing its multidimensional nature. This study evaluates three structural equation models for measuring trafficking as a latent construct using survey data from youth and young adults aged 18–37 in Malawi and Zambia. Data were drawn from 12 samples (N = 7,381) using both household and respondent-driven sampling. We compare the seven-domain Prevalence Reduction Innovation Forum (PRIF) framework with hierarchical and simplified Force–Fraud–Coercion (FFC) specifications. Across samples, the PRIF model showed consistently strong fit (CFI/TLI = .95; RMSEA < .06) and acceptable reliability, whereas the hierarchical FFC model was unstable, and the simplified FFC model showed limited reliability. Convergence with a direct forced-labor measure further supported the PRIF specification. Results support PRIF as a robust instrument for population-based measurement of trafficking.

Between Hope and Hardship: A Qualitative Inquiry on Migration & Work Experiences of Ethiopian Domestic Workers in Jordan, Kuwait and Lebanon *Meredith Dank, New York University*

Between Hope and Hardship presents a qualitative study of Ethiopian migrant domestic workers in Lebanon, Kuwait, and Jordan, showcasing the sustained values in old-fashioned field methods to capture nuanced human experiences. Researchers conducted interviews and focus groups with 36 women (Lebanon 14, Kuwait 12, Jordan 10) via community partners and field observations. Without a priori assumptions, researchers posed a wide range of questions to the study participants and found that migration was driven by economic hardship and obligations to support families, with agents and brokers shaping routes; irregular travel was common for Lebanon. Across countries, women reported recruitment fees, passport and phone confiscation, restricted movement and communication, long hours, and wage theft; physical and sexual violence was most acute in Lebanon, while loss of freedom was stark in Jordan. Many fled abusive employers, becoming irregular and exposed to arrest and deportation, and depended on Ethiopian peer networks and NGOs more than embassies for help. Recommendations include improved pre-departure information and financial literacy, stronger social protection, embassy/consulate helpdesks, tighter recruitment oversight, and better post-arrival orientation and services.

Embedded in Risk: Social Network Structure and Continued Participation in Illicit Sex Market Facilitation *Amber Horning Ruf, University of Massachusetts Lowell; Loretta J. Stalans, Loyola University Chicago; Zedny Immatong, University of Massachusetts Lowell*

Research on illicit markets consistently highlights the role of social networks in shaping participation, yet most studies emphasize exposure to deviant peers rather than the structural configuration of those relationships (Bright, Koskinen, & Malm, 2019; Haynie, 2001). This study examines whether structural properties of personal social support networks differentiate individuals who remain active in the illicit sex trade from those who report having exited. Using ego-network data from 183 individuals involved in sex market facilitation in New York City and Chicago, respondents identified key support persons and reported the relationships among them, enabling the construction of ego-centered networks with alter–alter ties. We analyze network density, deviant clustering, assortative mixing by deviance, and the proportion of

criminogenic alters while adjusting for network size and demographic characteristics. Results indicate that both active participants and those who report having ceased facilitation remain embedded in networks with substantial criminogenic exposure. Multivariate analyses further assess levels of involvement in criminogenic networks and evaluate whether differences between active and former participants emerge in the structural organization of these networks rather than in their overall composition. By shifting attention from exposure to the configuration of ties, this study contributes to research on networks and illicit markets and offers new insight into how individuals may remain socially embedded in criminogenic environments even as their participation in illicit activities changes (Morselli, 2009; Papachristos, 2009).

149. Homicide in Context: Violence, War and Intimate Partner Killing

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Homicide and Violent Crime (Homicide Research WG and European Violence Monitor WG)
Paper Session
3:45 to 5:00 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.128
Chair:
Cristina Branca Soeiro, Egas Moniz School of Health and Science
Participants:

Are Neoliberal Reforms Truly Responsible for High Violence Rates in Latin America?: Globalization, Marketization, and Homicide, 1970-2022 *William Alex Pridemore, Department of Sociology, University of Georgia; Guillermo Jesús Escaño, Villanova Univserity; Anthony Ferreyra, University of Georgia*

Latin America suffers the highest regional interpersonal violence rate in the world, with many of its cities and nations at the top of annual global lists of homicide rates. Research provides evidence of region-specific structural covariates of national homicide rates in Latin America like state legitimacy, monetary remittances, get tough anti-cartel policies like mano dura and similar, firearm availability, and illicit markets controlled by cartels. A stylized fact in the region is also that neoliberal market reforms over the last several decades have been a major cause of high violence rates, especially due to their impact on human development, inequality, commodification of labor, state capacity, and privatization of social services. Despite the popularity of this explanation, there appear to be no direct tests of the association at the national level. In this study we examined the effects of internal market orientation and of globalization on national violence rates in Latin America. We employed panel data on 24-28 nations between 1970 and 2022. We obtained homicide data from the World Health Organization's Mortality Database, and measures of internal market orientation from the Fraser Institute and of economic globalization from the KOF Swiss Economic Institute. To consider other forms of globalization we also obtained measures from the latter of political globalization and social globalization. Controlling for a wide range of general and region-specific structural covariates of homicide, we estimated effects employing fixed effects models. Our results do not support the hypothesis that either internal market orientation or globalization are positively associated with homicide rates in Latin American nations during this period.

Intimate Partner Homicide: with and without a previous history of violence *Andreia Matias, Egas Moniz School of Health and Science; Cristina Branca Soeiro, Egas Moniz School of Health and Science; Marlene Matos, Psychology Research Centre, School of Psychology, University of Minho; Mariana Gonçalves, University of Minho*

This study examines the role of prior intimate partner violence (IPV) in shaping the characteristics and dynamics of homicide cases, through a comparative analysis of incidents with and without documented histories of abuse. The study draws on a Portuguese sample (n = 75) of female and male homicide offenders. The majority of cases were perpetrated by men (84%), and a substantial proportion (72%) involved a prior history of IPV. Psychological violence emerged as the most frequently reported form (91%), often co-occurring with other types of abuse, indicating patterns of cumulative and escalating violence. Notably, in 19% of cases, violent behaviors were only reported after the dissolution of the intimate relationship, highlighting the critical period following separation as a context of increased risk. Furthermore, more than half of the victims (54%) had previously sought help, suggesting missed opportunities for intervention. Comparative findings reveal distinct offender profiles. Perpetrators with a history of IPV were more likely to be unemployed, to have prior criminal records involving offenses against persons, to present substance abuse problems, and to have experienced previous relationship separations. These homicides were more frequently committed using non-firearm weapons and occurred in the context of interpersonal conflicts or arguments. In contrast, perpetrators without prior IPV histories tended to be older, often retired, and in ongoing relationships with the victim. In these cases, offenders more frequently cited the victim's health problems as a motivating factor and were more likely to use firearms. Overall, the findings underscore the importance of differentiating between IPV-related and non-IPV-related homicides, as they reflect distinct risk configurations. This distinction has significant implications for risk assessment, early identification of high-risk cases, and the development of targeted lethality prevention strategies within criminal justice and public health frameworks.

Homicide Trends in Ukraine in Wartime *Olena Shostko, Ukrainian Center of Legal Studies; Olha Podilchak, Ukrainian Center of Legal Studies*

This paper examines the impact of full-scale war on trends and structural patterns in one of the gravest types of violent crime. The upcoming presentation provides a comprehensive analysis of registered homicides committed between 2022 and 2025, using a multi-method approach that combines qualitative and quantitative data. The analysis covers various

categories of homicide/murder under the Criminal Code of Ukraine, including premeditated murder, murder committed in the heat of passion, infanticide, and murder committed in excess of necessary defence or measures to apprehend an offender. The weight of various motives is described, such as financial gain, hooliganism, and racial, national, or religious intolerance. Furthermore, we examine the methods used to commit these crimes, paying particular attention to those that pose a public danger, such as the use of firearms, explosives, and cold weapons. The study also categorises murders committed through prior conspiracy, contract killings, and those associated with sexual violence or the concealment of other offences. Particular attention is given to offender profiling, focusing on psychological factors such as heightened anxiety and prolonged stress caused by wartime conditions. The presentation will address the methodological challenges of analysing official data from the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine and other state sources. It will highlight issues related to registration and reporting, as well as the inherent latency in reporting this type of offence. The number of recorded intentional homicides increased sharply after the outbreak of full-scale war. However, the number of individuals reported as suspects and convicted has remained roughly the same since 2020. The authors supplement official statistics with empirical data from the Unified State Register of Court Decisions.

IPHPsy-Program: A Structured Intervention for Intimate Partner Homicide Offenders *Cristina Branca Soeiro, Egas Moniz School of Health and Science; Ana Cristina Neves, Egas Moniz School of Health and Science; Ricardo Ventura Baúto, Egas Moniz School of Health and Science; Andreia Matias, Egas Moniz School of Health and Science; Iris Sofia Almeida, Egas Moniz School of Heatlh & Science*

Intimate partner homicide (IPH) is the most lethal outcome of intimate partner violence (IPV), yet remains, in many cases, preventable, as it is typically preceded by patterns of prior abuse, coercive control, escalating threats and access to lethal means. Building on recent evidence from Portuguese and international studies, the IPHPsy-Program was developed as a structured psychological intervention specifically tailored to men convicted of IPH in forensic settings. The programme is grounded in the risk–need–responsivity model and a cognitive-behavioural, relational framework, targeting dynamic criminogenic needs such as coercive control, pathological jealousy, emotion dysregulation, and homicide-supportive beliefs. Empirical findings by Matias et al. (2020) on IPH risk factors – including separation, coercive control, threats, jealousy and weapon access – are explicitly integrated into the programme's conceptual model, its case formulation procedures, and the design of core modules. This presentation presents the conceptual foundations and general structure of the IPHPsy-Program as a complex intervention. First, we outline the integrative theoretical-clinical model of IPH that organizes the assessment and formulation of individual trajectories towards lethal violence. Second, we describe the modular structure of the intervention, combining individual and small-group sessions that address (1) detailed reconstruction of the homicide pathway, (2) coercive control and entitlement beliefs, (3) jealousy and relational scripts, (4) emotion regulation in high-risk situations, and (5) planning and management of future relationships and risk. Finally, we summarise the design of an ongoing mixed-methods pilot study in Portuguese prisons, focusing on feasibility, acceptability and proximal changes in legitimising beliefs and emotion regulation. The presentation discusses how a manualised, IPH-specific programme can fill a critical gap in current IPV interventions and inform evidence-based policies for managing lethal IPV risk.

150. WG EXTREME PANEL 1. Emerging Digital Extremist Ecosystems: Networks, Incels, Nihilism and AI

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Terrorism and Terrorism Financing, Radicalization, Extremism (Radicalization, Extremism, Terrorism WG)

Paper Session

3:45 to 5:00 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.132

Chair:

Elanie Rodermond, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Participants:

Between Fragmentation and Structure: Rethinking Contemporary Extremist Networks and Violent Subcultures *Hannah Pollack Sarnecki, Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI)*

Today, a wide range of extremist networks operate through loosely organised, decentralised, and dynamic constellations. Radicalisation and recruitment frequently unfold in digital environments and across platforms, where violent, dehumanising, and polarising content circulates at scale. In recent years, researchers and intelligence communities have pointed to how an increasing share of the extremist threat landscape is constituted by actors who engage with multiple ideological traditions simultaneously or actively combine elements from different ideological orientations. Relationships that cut across ideological boundaries—as well as between domestic and international actors, and between state and non-state actors—point to interconnected and highly adaptive extremist milieus. Established analytical categories and organisational models appear increasingly insufficient to capture how contemporary politically motivated actors organise and how ideologically motivated crime takes shape. Analyses grounded in overly simplified and static categories risk obscuring important patterns. At the same time, there is a parallel tendency to emphasise fragmentation and fluidity to such an extent that milieus, structures, and meaning-making social contexts risk being overlooked. This tendency—towards both over-simplification and over-fragmentation—gives rise to concrete challenges, affecting possibilities for early detection, risk assessment, and prevention. How, then, can we understand the contemporary organisation of extremist networks? This paper builds on a research project examining ideologically motivated crime in Sweden

(2019–2025) and addresses this question. By analysing multiple extremist networks and emerging violent subcultures, the study contributes to an empirically grounded understanding of how extremist networks develop and the types of crimes generated by Swedish extremist milieus. It further examines how different ideological milieus are linked to patterns of serious crime, how they intersect and overlap, and how digital propaganda is implicated in these developments.

Beyond ideology: Profiles and backgrounds of individuals associated with nihilistic violent extremist (NVE) groups *Elanie Rodermond, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; Arjan Blokland, NSCR*

Law enforcement agencies increasingly warn about online nihilistic violent extremist (NVE) groups that glorify and stimulate violence. These transnational networks, active on platforms such as Discord and Telegram and including constellations such as '764', blur the boundaries between extremism and other harmful behaviours. Emerging evidence suggests a shift in radicalization pathways, in which attraction to violence precedes or even replaces ideological commitment. This aligns with broader findings that contemporary acts of violence are frequently shaped by personal grievances and hybrid or unclear motivations, rather than coherent ideological frameworks. Despite the identification of hundreds of such online groups and their potential reach, systematic empirical insight into participants remains limited. This study examines the characteristics of individuals associated with NVE networks, focusing on the risk and protective factors shaping their trajectories. An exploratory design is employed, based on an initial dataset of approximately 100 individuals identified through open-source intelligence (OSINT) as linked to NVE environments. Media reports are systematically coded using variables derived from established risk assessment instruments and the broader literature, enabling a structured analysis of life-course patterns, criminal careers, and underlying psychosocial dynamics. The findings provide insight into the profiles and trajectories of individuals involved in NVE networks and are interpreted in relation to ongoing debates on the transformation of extremism, particularly the shift towards violence-centered and non-ideological forms of engagement. In doing so, the study contributes to a more nuanced understanding of an evolving extremist landscape characterized by individualized, digitally embedded, and fluid participation. These insights aim to inform risk assessment and prevention strategies that move beyond ideology-focused frameworks and better address the hybrid nature of contemporary NVE involvement.

Beyond Individual Vulnerability: A Temporal Network Analysis of Incel Radicalisation in Online Forums *Giorgia Caon, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore*

Research on incel radicalisation has largely prioritised individual-level psychological explanations to account for why only a minority of incels escalate towards offline mass violence (Mooney, 2025, Aiolfi et al., 2024). While these approaches provide important insights, they insufficiently account for the relational and structural dynamics of online communities in which radicalisation unfolds. This PhD project integrates longitudinal social network analysis with computational text analysis to examine how structural position and social exposure shape radicalisation trajectories within online incel forums. Drawing on scraped thread-based forum data, this project aims to construct periodic exposure networks in which directed, weighted ties represent repeated posting within others' threads. Radicalisation will be operationalised as a multidimensional, non-linear process. Posts will be coded for the presence of dehumanisation, glorification of attackers, explicit violence endorsement, and incel-specific terminology. Following manual annotation and supervised machine learning classification, these features will be aggregated at the user-level. Additionally, posts will be analysed using Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC; Boyd et al., 2022) and the Grievance Dictionary (van der Vegt et al., 2021), with principal component analysis generating baseline affective dimensions. The project will seek to answer: (1) How do users' structural positions within the forum network shape the temporal development of radicalisation at the individual level? (2) Does exposure to radicalised peers predict subsequent radicalisation, controlling for users' structural position and activity levels? (3) Do baseline affective profiles condition the effect of social exposure on radicalisation trajectories? And 4) Are distinct radicalisation features differentially associated with structural position and social exposure over time? Longitudinal logistic, mixed-effects, and event-history models will be employed.

The Online Radicalisation Process of Incels: A System Dynamics Approach *Tess Jongsma, Delft University of Technology; Floortje d'Hont, Delft University of Technology; Willem Auping, Delft University of Technology; Patrick Steinmann, Delft University of Technology; Jan Kwakkel, Delft University of Technology*

Involuntary celibates (incels) have been responsible for nearly 50 deaths and have injured hundreds since 2014. Incels are young men struggling to form romantic and sexual relationships and form an online community associated with extreme misogyny. Incels radicalise at home on the internet, and spend a lot of time on incel forums. The increase in online presence and violent attacks has led to the recognition of the incel community as a terror threat in the United States, Canada, and Europe. To better understand the systemic radicalisation of incels and to explore potential policies, we developed a system dynamics model built on criminological theories of radicalisation. The simulation model shows the causal relationships between incel forum posts, time spent on the internet, interest in the ideology, and radicalisation of incels. Exploratory analyses were conducted to test different scenarios, given the uncertainties surrounding the incel community, its members, and their online and offline presence. Furthermore, we tested multiple policies, examining their short- and long-term effects and their preventive impact. The results of this study show that early interventions, focused on reducing the groups of interested males and potential incels, help prevent

radicalisation and, therefore, reduce the growth of the incel community. This research shed light on the major feedback mechanisms and influential factors in the radicalisation process of incels. Future research could examine the applicability of the developed system dynamics radicalisation model to other extremist or terrorist ideologies.

Humanising AI, Dehumanising Humans: The Malicious Use of AI (MUAI) as a Socio-Cognitive Ecosystem in the Hybridisation of Terrorism, Extremism and Criminal Markets *Arije Antinori, Sapienza University of Rome*

This paper examines the Malicious Use of Artificial Intelligence (MUAI) not simply as a tool that enhances isolated acts of crime or extremism, but as an emerging socio-cognitive ecosystem that is (re-)shaping the relationship between terrorism, radicalisation, extremism and transnational criminal markets. The argument is that MUAI marks a decisive shift. It no longer merely supports harmful actors, but increasingly provides the environment in which manipulation, monetisation and mobilisation are produced, accelerated and normalised. In contemporary hybrid threat scenario, geopolitical conflict no longer remains separate from criminal enterprise, illicit finance, disinformation and extremist mobilisation. Instead, these domains overlap and reinforce one another. Within this convergence, MUAI expands the scale, reach and emotional precision of harmful activity. It enables propaganda, recruitment, fraud, synthetic trust-building, identity manipulation and influence operations, while lowering barriers to participation and facilitating new alliances between ideologically motivated and profit-driven actors. This transformation is characterised by a dual socio-criminological dynamic. On the one hand, people are progressively dehumanised: reduced to targets, data profiles, exploitable vulnerabilities, disposable operatives and/or sources of extraction. On the other, AI is increasingly humanised, performing empathy, authority, familiarity and credibility in ways that make it socially persuasive and criminologically consequential. The paper argues that MUAI should therefore be understood as the core of a new hybrid architecture of socio-cognitive harm, one that erodes trust, amplifies cognitive vulnerability and blurs the boundaries between economic predation, ideological persuasion and terrorist support.

151. Wildlife and livestock crime through a rural and coastal lens

Topic 3: Crime Correlates/Rural Criminology (Rural Criminology WG)
Paper Session
3:45 to 5:00 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.142
Chair:
Anthony de Villiers Minnaar, University of Limpopo
Participants:

Livestock Theft as a Criminological Problem in Rural Areas: Insights from Kazakhstan *Katarzyna Laskowska, University of Białystok; Emilia Jurgielewicz-Delegacz, Faculty of Law, University of Bialystok*

Livestock theft remains an underexplored yet significant form of rural crime, often treated as a subset of property offences. However, research in rural criminology indicates that crime in rural areas is shaped by specific structural and socio-spatial conditions, such as geographic isolation, limited formal control, and the importance of local knowledge and community relations. In this context, livestock theft appears as a distinct phenomenon that requires a more nuanced criminological approach. This paper examines livestock theft in Kazakhstan as an illustrative case study, drawing on analysis of official statistics, legal frameworks, and case-based materials. It explores the scale of the phenomenon, typical modus operandi, and selected socio-cultural and economic factors influencing this type of crime. The findings suggest that livestock theft reflects both broader global patterns and locally specific conditions, supporting the argument that it should be conceptualized as a distinct form of rural crime requiring context-sensitive analysis.

Navigating Risk in Troubled Waters: How Normative Guardianship Strategies Emerge in High-Value Fisheries *Ellie Côté, Université de Moncton; Véronique Chadillon-Farinacci, Université de Moncton*

High-value aquatic species constitute lucrative commodities that attract illegal harvesters operating within illicit markets. Licensed fishers, by virtue of working in prime fishing areas where poaching activities occur, are positioned on the frontline of these offenses. This proximity makes them primary guardians protecting targeted species from motivated offenders. However, this role exposes them to intimidation, threats, and violence from poachers seeking to facilitate illegal harvesting or theft of catches. As a result, fishers must navigate significant risks to both their livelihoods and personal safety. Perceived gaps in institutional management and enforcement across fisheries shape the context in which resource users operate. In Canada's Maritime provinces, prior research suggests that responses by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans can be slow and reactive. This, in turn, contributes to persistent vulnerabilities. This study examines the range of normative strategies employed by commercial fishers harvesting high-value species in Canada's Maritime provinces to manage criminal threats to both their safety and livelihoods. Using framework analysis on semi-structured interviews with commercial fishers operating on Canada's East Coast (n=38), the study identifies key mechanisms influencing guardianship practices. We hypothesize that the technical organization of fisheries amplifies fishers' exposure to threats, shaping both their perceptions of risk and their responses. In the absence of effective state intervention, some fishers may adopt illegal strategies they view as necessary to protect their income and their safety. They do so by weighing the benefits against the perceived risks of offending. This study puts forward policy recommendations aimed at strengthening regulatory responses and reducing criminal activity in the fisheries sector. Additionally, it provides a valuable case study of "guardians-turned-targets", offering a novel contribution to the concept of guardianship.

Taking the Pulse of Patrols: Operational and Hierarchical Dynamics in a High-Pressure Fishery *Véronique Chadillon-Farinacci, Université de Moncton; Ellie Côté, Université de Moncton*

Research on non-compliance in capture fisheries often focuses on fishers: how they interpret rules, justify their actions, and navigate shifting regulatory boundaries. Equally important, however, is the state's role in shaping these conditions. The strategies through which enforcement agencies deploy their officers and coordinate decisions structure the institutional context in which legality is negotiated on the ground. This study examines how Canadian Fishery Officers operated during Nova Scotia's 2023 glass eel season, a short and high-pressure period marked by rising tensions and widespread illegal harvesting. The analysis draws on 132 operational documents and 502 emails involving fishery officers obtained through an access-to-information request. These documents, which primarily record fishery officers' overtime, offer a unique window into how additional efforts and information were mobilized in response to the crisis. Using this data, the study reconstructs patrol activity involving 52 officers between April 5 and 18, 2023. Information on officers' seniority helps qualify patterns of involvement, while hierarchical relationships are explored to understand how coordination and decision-making shaped behavior in the field. From this reconstruction, the study develops exploratory indicators to describe how the state responded to shifting forms of non-compliance. Adaptability, mobility and hierarchical coordination highlight not only what officers did, but also how organizational routines produced the crisis response. The overtime data indicates that only a minority of officers mobilized intensively. This pattern may reflect an inspection-oriented logic, geography-based differences in the perceived urgency of the crisis, and routines that limit redeployment. Such dynamics place the burden of response on a small group of team players with mixed consequences for enforcement.

Operationalising of policy and strategy imperatives for law enforcement agencies for protecting the rhinoceros population in South Africa (2012-2025) *Anthony de Villiers Minnaar, University of Limpopo*

Prior to 2008 the numbers of rhinoceroses (rhino) being poached in South Africa were relatively low. Between 1980 and 2007, on average, only nine rhinos were annually poached. But in 2008 there was a dramatic increase in the number of rhinos killed by poachers (83) and in 2013 breaking the annual 1,000 mark of rhino killed. In the 18 years since the first abnormally large annual increase in 2008, South Africa has lost thousands of rhinos to poachers (2008-2025 a total of 11,057). It was an urgent imperative for the government to develop a comprehensive national strategy to secure and keep the rhino population in the country safe. In late 2010 the National Strategy for the Safety and Security of the Rhinoceros Population in South Africa was released, which included the Department of Environmental Affairs' Rhino Anti-Poaching Action Plan. One of the pillars of this strategy being the implementation of a national co-ordination structure for law enforcement agencies, supported by an integrated information management system. Within a Situational Crime Prevention and Crime Pattern Analysis theoretical framework, this paper traces the implementation, effectiveness and impact of the operationalising of this action pillar between 2012 and 2025).

152. Reconfiguring Rights and Justice in Contemporary Chinese Criminal Justice: Property, Punishment, and Victim Protection

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Criminal Justice Policy (Crime, Science and Politics WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

3:45 to 5:00 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.146

This panel brings together four papers that examine how Chinese criminal law and procedure are adapting to profound social and technological transformations, with a shared focus on the reconfiguration of rights protection within the criminal justice system. Moving beyond traditional state-centered and offense-oriented paradigms, the panel highlights an emerging shift toward integrating individual rights—particularly property rights, defendants' differentiated treatment, and victims' remedies—into both substantive and procedural legal frameworks. The first paper reconceptualizes the regulation of case-related property in criminal procedure, arguing for a transition from a disposal-centered model to a rights-protection-oriented approach. It proposes the construction of an independent procedural framework that integrates criminal and civil elements to better safeguard property rights. The second paper addresses the challenges posed by offense-related virtual property in the digital economy and calls for an integrated substantive–procedural reform to ensure fair and effective handling of digital assets. The third paper examines lenient sentencing for elderly offenders in an aging society in China. It reinterprets such leniency through the lens of preventive punishment, emphasizing individualized assessments of recidivism risk and advocating a more principled and balanced sentencing framework. Finally, the fourth paper centers on victim protection, analyzing the judicial dilemmas surrounding moral damages in child sexual abuse cases. It proposes doctrinal innovations—including recognizing sexual autonomy as an independent personality right and introducing presumptions of severe mental harm—to expand and ensure effective remedies for minor victims.These contributions reveal a broader transformation in Chinese criminal justice and this panel offers both theoretical insights and practical reform proposals, contributing to ongoing debates on better protection of individual rights in a rapidly changing society.

Chair:

Weimin Zuo, Sichuan University School of Law

Participants:

From Disposal to Protection: the Procedural Regulation of Case-Related Property In Chinese Procedure law *Weimin Zuo, Sichuan University School of Law*

The Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China identified the system for disposing of case-related property as an important issue. As a cornerstone of the market economy system, property rights constitute one of the

essential elements of modern human rights protection, and continuously improving the property rights protection system in criminal procedure is an inevitable response to modern society. Currently, the traditional "physical property" characteristics of case-related property are gradually diminishing, while its rights-based features are becoming increasingly prominent. However, the case-related property disposal mechanism pays insufficient attention to "rights" factors. The fundamental reason lies in the lack of a "rights protection" guiding philosophy in the design of the case-related property disposal mechanism, resulting in the neglect of the substantive rights claims of property owners and the absence of procedural rights. The fourth amendment to the Criminal Procedure Law of China should explicitly adopt "property rights protection" as the guiding principle for constructing the case-related property disposal procedure, create a new type of property rights protection procedure that possesses relative independence and substantive adjudication, and through a design that integrates both criminal and civil elements and adopts either parallel or overlapping procedures, effectively achieve the goal of property rights protection in criminal proceedings.

Judicial Disposal of Offense-Related Virtual Property *QI An, Yunnan Minzu University, China*

With the expansion of the digital economy, criminal cases involving cryptocurrencies and other forms of virtual property have increased significantly, making the judicial disposal of offense-related virtual assets a pressing issue in contemporary criminal justice. Virtual assets are characterized by strong technological dependence, anonymity, high liquidity, and ease of cross-border transfer, which together create substantial challenges in legal classification, valuation, ownership identification, and procedural handling. On the substantive level, virtual currency should be recognized as property under criminal law and disposed of according to the general framework of property-related crimes. However, current practice still suffers from over-expansive confiscation, insufficient distinction between lawful property and criminal proceeds, and inadequate protection of bona fide acquisition. On the procedural level, blockchain-based transactions and the data-intensive nature of virtual assets complicate seizure, preservation, transfer, execution, restitution, and compensation, while also generating persistent evidentiary and proof-related difficulties. This paper argues that the judicial disposal of offense-related virtual property should be reconstructed through an integrated substantive-procedural approach: substantively, by adhering to the principle of full compensation and limiting the scope of disposal in a principled way; procedurally, by strengthening evidentiary rules, improving market-oriented disposal mechanisms, and exploring compliant channels for asset transfer and liquidation through licensed virtual asset trading platforms.

An Analysis of Lenient Sentencing Rules for Elderly Offenders in an Aging Society — An Examination from the Perspective of Preventive Punishment *Shi Jiahui, Sichuan University School of Law; Shaojun Liu, Anhui university*

Against the backdrop of an aging society in China, the lenient sentencing system for elderly offenders has increasingly become a significant topic in Chinese criminal law theory and judicial practice. Within the framework of unitary theory of punishment, further distinction should be made between the distributive principles of retributive punishment and preventive punishment, clarifying that the lenient sentencing rules for elderly offenders are essentially special preventive rules centered on the risk of recidivism. In legislation, the distributive principle of preventive punishment should dominate the application of Article 17-1 of the Chinese Criminal Law; in judicial practice, retributive and preventive sentencing factors should be strictly distinguished, the recidivism risk of elderly offenders should be carefully assessed in individual cases, leniency should be restricted for elderly recidivists, and the capacity for re-offending should be reasonably evaluated based on crime type and health status. This approach would, on the one hand, remedy the legitimacy defects of the current age-based legislative model, and on the other hand, balance legal certainty with the diverse penal effects sought in individual cases. Only then can the legitimacy, rationality, and crime control effectiveness of the lenient sentencing system for elderly offenders be achieved.

Universal Application of Moral Damages in Child Sexual Abuse Cases in China : Judicial Dilemmas and Rule Optimization *Guohua Bai, Shanxi University of Finance and Economics;Cardiff University*

This study explores how to ensure all minor victims of sexual assault in China obtain moral damages through judicial adjudication. Since 2021, the Judicial Interpretation of the Criminal Procedure Law by the Supreme People's Court has reserved institutional space for minor victims to claim moral damages via incidental civil actions or independent civil lawsuits. To activate this institutional function, this study starts with the origin of Chinese laws and regulations on moral damages, summarizes adjudication dilemmas based on judicial cases from China Judgments Online (2021-2024), demonstrates the necessity of comprehensively applying moral damages in such cases, and explores relevant improvements. Adopting a case analysis method, the study finds that establishing sexual autonomy as an independent personality right, relaxing the identification standard of severe mental damage, improving evidence and discretion rules, and strengthening prosecution support systems are essential. It breaks through the traditional limitation on the scope of moral damages for minor victims, proposes the "presumption rule of severe mental damage" and "independent personality right of sexual autonomy", providing new ideas for legal system improvement.

153. New Perspectives and new approaches of Transitional Justice (sponsored by The European Criminology Group on Atrocity Crimes and Transitional Justice)

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity, War Crimes (Atrocity Crimes and Transitional Justice WG)

Paper Session
3:45 to 5:00 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.150
Chair:
Valeria E Vegh Weis, Konstanz University
Participants:

Bursting the Bubble of Supranational Law – Why System Interactions are Crucial to Successfully Address the Gravest of Contemporary Crimes *Nathalie Otroshi, UiT The Arctic University of Norway*

The international community has made numerous efforts to address and combat the most severe crimes of humanity for almost a century, even longer if we look beyond the modern atrocity crimes. Despite this, we are currently experiencing an era in which violations of international norms are both frequent and severe. International law is fragmented, with a multitude of legal systems and crime control mechanisms attempting to target and prevent the worst human rights violations. This raises the important question of how crime control mechanisms interact across supranational legal systems that aim to address the same issues. This project seeks to establish and explain the interactions between crime control mechanisms within three distinct legal systems: European Union law, the legal framework of the Council of Europe and international criminal law. Its main focus is on these interactions in the context of human trafficking. Human trafficking is often transnational in nature and has been the subject of extensive international attention and legislation over the last three decades. Because of this it effectively engages all three legal systems, making it a suitable case study for identifying system interactions. The project employs a mixed-methods design. Drawing on traditional legal dogmatics and a comparative functional analysis to first identify these interactions in court cases and other legal sources, it then uses socio-legal theory to explain how they work and what effects they cause. The project concludes that supranational legal systems today operate with frequent interactions between crime control mechanisms. These interactions have both theoretical implications for how law is conceptualised and structured into legal systems, and practical implications for how supranational criminal law functions and the justice it can deliver.

Disproportionate Killings of Civilians in the Gaza Genocide: The Rules of Engagement, Artificial Intelligence, and the Disregard for the Principle of Proportionality *Vasja Badalič, Institute of Criminology*

This paper examines the normalization of disproportionate killings of civilians as an integral part of genocidal violence in Gaza. Based on Israeli government statements, news media reports, and UN reports, it provides an interpretive analysis of the various elements of the target selection process – for example, the use of over-broad rules of engagement, the employment of artificial intelligence (AI) for determining alleged military targets, and the reinterpretation of key aspects of proportionality assessments – to demonstrate how the Israeli military deliberately disregarded the principle of proportionality, thus enabling disproportionate violence against Palestinian civilians. The paper is divided into two parts. First, it discusses how the use of an AI-based tool that was unable to see all civilians trapped on the battlefield resulted in an inability to determine "expected civilian losses," a key element of proportionality assessments. Second, the paper examines how the Israeli military reinterpreted key aspects of proportionality assessments to ignore the constraints of the proportionality rule. For example, the military adopted various civilian fatality cut-off values in proportionality assessments, thereby quantifying civilian losses. Additionally, the military used an overly broad definition of "military advantage," which led to a misinterpretation of the proportionality rule. The paper demonstrates how the Israeli military deliberately created conditions for disproportionate killings of civilians, thus enabling genocidal violence in Gaza. The human-machine assemblage in the target selection process significantly expanded the scope of the unlawful use of armed force and decreased the protection of civilians.

The Peripheries of the Holocaust: Criminological Perspectives *Emilia Rekosz-Cebula, University of Silesia in Katowice*

This paper proposes a criminological reframing of the Holocaust that moves beyond analysing the event strictly within its conventional temporal, spatial, and perpetration boundaries. Drawing on criminological perspectives on genocide, social harm, and the fluidity of agency in coercive environments, I argue that the Holocaust can be understood as a phenomenon whose borders are neither fixed nor easily identifiable. Genocidal violence did not emerge suddenly nor conclude neatly in 1945; nor was it confined to the designated sites of destruction. Instead, it unfolded across a continuum of practices, locations, and actors, including those operating on the peripheries of the Holocaust—before, during, and after the period traditionally defined as the genocide. Conceptualizing these peripheries as criminologically meaningful offers a broadened analytical lens. It foregrounds forms of micro-violence, ambiguous or constrained agency, and modes of participation that do not fit neatly into established categories of perpetrator, victim, or bystander. This approach highlights a mosaic of circumstances, opportunities, and pressures that shaped behaviours, decisions, and interactions in these marginal zones. By examining these fluid boundaries—spatial, temporal, and related to agency—this paper demonstrates that the criminological dimensions of the Holocaust extend far beyond its canonical core. The presentation outlines the theoretical foundations for such an expanded criminological perspective and discusses its analytical implications. I argue that engaging with the peripheries of the Holocaust enables a deeper understanding of the dynamics of mass harm within authoritarian systems and contributes to contemporary debates in criminology on violence, complicity, and the mechanisms through which extreme forms of social order are produced and maintained.

What can be done if the perpetrators are dead or protected by impunity laws? *Valeria E Vegh Weis, Konstanz University*

This article builds on Third World Approached to International Law (TWAIL) and critical approaches to international criminal law scholarship to contribute to the decolonial turn in international criminal justice. To do so, this empirically grounded article examines the decolonial critique of international criminal justice and uses the case of Argentina to show how victims' organizations have developed original initiatives ('escraches', truth trials, people's tribunals) to address international crimes, which can complement traditional forms of international criminal justice. These victim-driven initiatives can not only work as justice-seeking mechanisms when perpetrators are dead or protected by impunity laws, but also as decolonial tools in three ways: (i) to address critical shortcomings of Northern-dominated international criminal law, including victim participation, costs, selectivity and formalistic operation, and its primarily punitive features; (ii) to address colonial crimes even though the perpetrators are dead, and (iii) to open up the international criminal law debate to the voices and experiences of victims, what we will call the 'demographic South', from Argentina, a country in the global South.

154. Gender, Crime and Justice Working Group Panel 4: Misogyny

Topic 3: Crime Correlates/Gender and Crime (Gender, Crime and Justice WG)

Paper Session

5:15 to 6:30 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.110

Chair:

Lisa Sugiura, University of Portsmouth

Participants:

A feminist urbanism: Using the experiences of young women to redefine safety in public space *Vivian Gravenberch, Dutch Institute for Safe & Secure Spaces; Sara Houweling, Dutch Institute for Safe & Secure Spaces (DISSS)*

Public space design has historically been dominated by male perspectives, resulting in environments that often fail to accommodate the diverse safety and accessibility needs of all citizens. This article presents a feminist critique of this exclusionary pattern and advocates for a paradigm shift towards inclusive urban planning, using the pioneering efforts of Umeå, Sweden, as a compelling case study. Umeå's strategy, termed 'inclusion through exclusion,' intentionally prioritises the voices and experiences of young women in the public space design process. Study suggests that designing spaces with and for young women significantly enhances the perception of safety across the entire population, due to their inclusive and intersectional approach to accessibility and safety, which fosters greater street activation and mitigates risk. The goal of this article is to propose a socially innovative framework for creating inclusive and diverse safe public spaces, specifically making them more appealing and secure for young women, particularly during night hours. This framework challenges the traditional, often inadequate, focus on increased lighting as the sole solution for nighttime safety, instead underscoring that design must prioritise clear sight lines and visibility. To analyse and structure this inclusive design approach, the paper applies and extends the theoretical framework of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), incorporating its latest, comprehensive iterations. The CPTED standard provides clear, simple principles for achieving preventative performance through environmental management. CPTED is deployed through a broad spectrum of measures encompassing physical, social, and sustainable actions. These range from engineering solutions, such as creating better sightlines from buildings in the area and installing access control, to soft measures like public awareness, participation, and jointly organised behavioural influence. This research offers critical insights for urban planners committed to moving beyond gender-blind design towards genuinely equitable and safe public spaces.

Misogynist incels as a [digital] form of violence against women and girls (VAWG) *Lisa Sugiura, University of Portsmouth; Anda Iulia Solea, University of Portsmouth*

Misogynist incels have drawn increasing attention from scholars, media, policymakers, and law enforcement due to their links to deadly attacks. However, the more routine and less visible harms within incel communities are often dismissed as less "real," despite their persistence and spread across mainstream platforms. This minimisation contributes to the depoliticisation of incel violence, obscuring its roots in broader structures of male supremacism and misogyny that underpin violence against women and girls (VAWG). This talk explores how incels' everyday behaviours and their engagement in online VAWG through doxing, image-based abuse, harassment, and stalking. These digital behaviours are both enabled by and reinforce wider societal misogyny. Additionally, their glorification of incel killers, rape and murder fantasies, denial of VAWG, and promotion of inversive sexism demonstrate how incel ideology itself constitutes a form of VAWG and plays a role in its normalisation.

Researching Incels A critical Feminist Intervention *Stu Lucy, University of Portsmouth; Frazer Heritage, Manchester Metropolitan University; Lisa Sugiura, University of Portsmouth*

The involuntary celibate or 'incel' community have increasingly garnered attention from academia, media, and state authorities following association with a series of violent incidents. Incels are increasingly engaged within survey studies to determine psychological characteristics, the largest recently funded by the UK government's Commission for Countering Extremism (CCE). Surveying 564 US and UK incels, the study found incels to be left leaning politically, reported poor mental health and high levels of perceived victimhood, anger and misogyny. Despite these findings, the report contains substantial ontological, methodological, and conceptual limitations. This paper draws from a recent publication Researching Incels A critical Feminist Intervention, a crucial intervention into problematic

incel research calling for a new framework for rigorous and responsible research to inform policy on the incel crisis. This critical overview examines the UK CCE report, outlining methodological flaws, analytical unreliability, and how such work normalises misogyny. Focusing primarily on two critical flaws - limited conceptualisation leading to poor methodology; and positionality; we provide a feminist positioned critical analysis to offer a blueprint for the future of robust incel research in response to these limitations. Our rebuttal to poorly constructed research is situated at the forefront of current polarising debates developing within the incel community – emphasising that incel research must address from a feminist perspective the underlying structural processes and ideologies that give authority and motivation to communities such as incels. Concluding with "how to" guide for future research, we provide guidance for research, practice and policy on how to approach and assess existing work, with explicit caution where research is characterised by the limitations outlined. Breaking new ground as the first broad commentary on researching incels, this is an essential roadmap for "Season Two" of incel research.

The "Manosphere" as a Catalyst for Violence: An Exploratory Study on Gender Radicalization in Digital Ecosystems *NURIA FERNÁNDEZ FERNÁNDEZ, Universidad de Granada*

The digital age—or rather, the era of social media—has transformed socialization processes, creating new spaces where anti-feminist or misogynistic discourses proliferate. This exploratory study aims to identify and analyze gender biases and content within the so-called "manosphere" on platforms such as X, Instagram, YouTube, and Reddit. The primary objective is to examine how the consumption of narratives promoting the "recovery of masculinity" (alpha/beta male archetypes) and incel rhetoric (red pill, blue pill, or black pill) influences perceptions of equality, as well as sexual and gender-based violence, among minors and young people. Through a qualitative content analysis of these network dynamics, this work maps the regression of gender standards. It examines how the defense of hegemonic masculinity and the return to anachronistic behavioral models coexist with a discourse that actively delegitimizes women's freedom. The study hypothesizes that these digital ecosystems not only reinforce inequality but also act as catalysts for disruptive behaviors and attitudes that legitimize gender-based violence within the social environment. This preliminary study intends to provide an empirical basis for designing criminological and educational prevention strategies, addressing digital radicalization from a gender perspective.

155. EHC-WG Panel 2. Epistemology and Methodology in Historical Criminology

Topic 7: Comparative and Historical Perspectives/Historical Comparisons of Crime (Historical Criminology WG)
Paper Session
5:15 to 6:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.120
Chair:
Esmorie Jacqueline Miller, Lancaster University
Participants:

Crime in Hans Ostwald's Metropolitan Documents (1904–1908): Early Qualitative Criminology? *Janne Kivivuori, University of Helsinki*

The Großstadt-Dokumente (Metropolitan Documents, GD) was a monograph series launched and edited by the German journalist and social critic Hans Ostwald (1873–1940). Published between 1904 and 1908, the fifty GD monographs were written by various authors and consisted largely of short ethnographic studies of urban life in Berlin and Vienna. Prior research has suggested that these monographs influenced the emergence of the Chicago School of Sociology in the early decades of the 20th century. To date, the corpus has been examined primarily from the perspectives of sociology and urban studies. This paper explores their criminological content and significance. How many of the monographs focused predominantly on crime and crime control? What types of crime were addressed? What kinds of empirical materials were used? By examining these questions, the paper discusses the GD series as an embryonic form of qualitative criminology, anticipating fractures in the dominant biomedical pathology paradigm of late-19th-century studies of crime.

Working backwards: historical criminology and the need for grounded theory *Johan Edman, Department of Criminology, Stockholm University*

The historical development of criminal policy is often understood in terms of large discursive social phenomena and patterns of thought. Whether it is a question of humanizing tendencies in the penal system from the 18th century onwards, or a punitive turn from the late 20th century, empirical examples often serve only as illustrations of a theoretically predetermined development. At an intermediate level of the history of ideas, descriptions of transnational legal doctrinal tendencies, or the emergence of various scientific disciplines, serve the same purpose of telling a large story that is then (at best) exemplified with concrete empirical evidence. These are often interesting studies, but they are also characterized by two difficulties. Firstly, there is a risk of missing important nuances in historical development where different social phenomena and patterns of thought often compete for influence. Secondly, it can lead to poor research economics when theory-inspired hypotheses have to be tested only to be dismissed. In an ongoing project on the knowledge use in Swedish criminal policy, 1840–2025, the method of working backwards is instead used. The main questions of what Swedish politicians have known about various criminal policy issues and how they have used this knowledge to legitimize their criminal policy proposals are answered based on what they have actually said and written on the topic. With inspiration from WPR analysis and grounded theory, themes are modelled from these statements only to be connected to overarching discourses (in the plural) in the last stage of the analysis. The presentation will focus on three of sub-studies from the project, covering the years 1840–1902, that collectively demonstrate the

fruitfulness of working backwards in historical criminological research, from a large empirical source material to a more comprehensive discursive understanding of the development of criminal policy.

Western Paradigm, Epistemic Colonialism and Pedagogical Challenges: Toward a Quest for Decolonizing Criminology in Bangladesh *Mohammed Jahirul Islam, PhD Student, Law and Legal Studies, Carleton University; Md. Lab Hossain, Master of Science (MS), Department of Criminology and Police Science, Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University, Tangail, Bangladesh.; Md Fahad Khan, Graduate Assistant, Department of Criminal Justice and Legal Studies, University of Mississippi, Oxford, USA.; Umme Aymoon Tazally, MA, Global Criminology, Utrecht University, Netherlands.*

Criminology in many Global South contexts continues to be shaped by Western theoretical paradigms, reproducing epistemic hierarchies that marginalize local histories, Indigenous knowledge systems, and postcolonial realities. Despite the expansion of criminology programs in Bangladesh, little research critically examines how criminological education and pedagogy remain epistemically dependent on Euro-American frameworks. Our study addresses this gap by asking: (1) How do Western criminological paradigms structure criminology curricula and knowledge production in Bangladesh? (2) What pedagogical and institutional challenges hinder the development of decolonial criminological perspectives? Drawing on counter-colonial criminology (Agozino, 2003) and decolonial critiques of racialized and colonial knowledge production in criminology (Kitossa, 2012), we conceptualize criminology as a discipline historically embedded in colonial power relations. Methodologically, we employ qualitative curriculum analysis and critical discourse analysis of university syllabus, textbooks, and criminology programs in Bangladesh, supplemented by a review of academic publications and institutional reports. We argue that Bangladeshi criminology largely reproduces Western positivist and legal-administrative thought while marginalizing subaltern, Indigenous, feminist and post-colonial/decolonial epistemologies. Such epistemic dependency constrains the discipline's ability to explain colonial legacies, state violence, genocide and ethnocides and structural inequalities in the Global South, particularly in Bangladesh. By foregrounding decolonial pedagogies, we contribute to ongoing debates on decolonizing criminological knowledge production and education. Throughout this research, we call for curriculum transformation, epistemic plurality, and the inclusion of Global South theoretical traditions to advance a more reflexive and socially grounded approach for Bangladeshi criminology. Key Words: Western centrism; Epistemic violence; Colonialism; Counter-colonialism; Decolonizing criminology; Bangladeshi Criminology.

THE ETHICS OF DISCRETION AND ANONYMITY IN Historical Criminological Research: WHOSE DISCRETION? WHOSE ANONYMITY? *Esmorie Jacqueline Miller, Lancaster University*

My current research explores intersections of youth, gender, and race in interwar youth justice reform. Criminologists note this period's race blindness, despite critical attention to reformers interventions in White, working-class youth's lives. Deviance invention perspectives warn that reformers' efforts are not to be romanticized. Critics emphasize reform controls, starting with goals to save the nation through moral re-education of working-class children. Responding to race-blindness criticisms, my research explores archival records, including the Fletcher Report. One strand of my research explores the everyday representation of racialized young women, particularly those of Afro-Anglo origins, in significant public narratives. Documents like the Fletcher Report attributes a purported exceptional hypersexuality and amorality to Afro-Anglo young women. Such representations are devoid the wider context of social liberation including suffrage and the consequential sexual and gender revolution. Labels of indiscretion and transgression dominate those young women's representation, coterminous with their designation as 'Anglo-Negroid'. My presentation is inspired by the request from a prominent history journal to remove the term 'Anglo-Negroid' from a text I submitted for publication, indicating need for discretion and anonymity. Yet, I had cited the source material. Consistent with my concerns with ethics and representation I ask three questions: to what extent are discretion and anonymity part of a continuum, necessary in some cases, while in others counterintuitive? Whose discretion? Whose anonymity? Questions of discretion and anonymity remain key ethical considerations for historical criminology. My response is informed by postcolonial methodological approaches, designed to challenge Eurocentric knowledge production, centring experiences and histories of colonized peoples. Postcolonial methodologies posit that while discretion and anonymization are designed to prevent harm, they can sanitize history and distort datasets through omissions. Indeed, in some cases a blanket rule appears counterintuitive and can reflect a reproduction of colonial gatekeeping knowledge production, seeking to sanitize history.

156. DRUGS Panel 5. Substance Use, Public Health and Prevention

Topic 3: Crime Correlates/Substance abuse (European Drug Policies WG)

Paper Session

5:15 to 6:30 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.128

Chair:

Aušra Pocienė, Vilnius university

Participants:

Challenges and Opportunities for Reducing Post-Release Overdose Mortality among Incarcerated Persons with Opioid Use Disorders *Steven Belenko, Temple Univesity; Jennifer Stanley, Arcadia University; Sarah DeLucca, Marist University*

A substantial proportion of people under correctional

supervision in the United States have and opioid use disorder, yet access to treatment is limited in correctional facilities. Although many prison and jail systems provide access to opioid substitution therapies such as buprenorphine or naltrexone, there remain a number of barriers to receipt of this treatment. Accordingly, many incarcerated persons with opioid use disorders remain untreated and lose their tolerance to opioids. Linkage to treatment following release is the exception rather than the norm. As a consequence, overdose mortality rates are extremely high, particularly in the first two weeks after release, with mortality rates 40-80 times greater than in the general population. Based on a decade of research, this presentation describes the barriers to treatment access while incarcerated and following release, including institutional and staff resistance, stigma, lack of discharge planning, and resources. This population also presents with many other health and social problems, including high rates of mental health disorders, that complicate access to recovery services and increase the likelihood of relapse and recidivism. Despite these barriers, research has identified a number of interventions that can increase treatment access and engagement during and after incarceration, improve linkages to post-release services, and reduce mortality. This presentation describes these opportunities and their impacts, and suggests a range of cost-effective policies and programs that can be implemented in both institutional and community correctional settings.

Why do people who use crack and/opioids come into contact with the police in England? Preliminary findings from the INTERPRET study. *Samuel David Gianfranco Hinrichs, University of York; Andrew Papworth, University of York, UK*

In the UK, crack and opioids are controlled substances, and people who use these drugs (PWUCO) often come into contact with the police. The most recent UK-based research on these encounters, however, comes from studies that are around 15-20 years old. In this paper, we will first present a brief summary of our synthesis of global research on encounters between people who use drugs and the police. Secondly, we will present findings from our current project, a case-study design based on one police force area in Northern England. The data come from three sources: Interviews with PWUCO, who have been recruited using a variety of approaches designed to achieve a maximum variation sample; Observations of police practice, using the walklong/ridealong method; and Interviews with professionals who frequently work with PWUCO, including health professionals and those working in drug treatment services and local NGOs. This presentation will concentrate on the reasons for the encounters between PWUCO and the police. In contrast to much of the evidence from other countries, very few encounters between PWUCO and the police were directly related to drug possession. Instead, encounters described by the PWUCO and professionals interviewed, and those observed when shadowing police officers, usually related to shoplifting, homelessness, domestic violence, and mental and physical health vulnerabilities. We will identify differences and points of consensus between the three groups of participants regarding the nature of these encounters. Implications for policy and practice will also be explored.

Illicit drug use and experiences of physical aggression in public settings *Dominique de Andrade, Griffith University; Kira Button, Griffith University; Tim Piatkowski, University of Queensland*

Despite significant policing and liquor regulation changes in the past 2 decades, violence in public settings continues to be a significant community safety and public health concern. Efforts have been largely concentrated on reducing alcohol availability and accessibility with little focus on the rising use of illicit drugs in these settings. This study examined predictors of experiencing physical aggression in public among Australian adults. An online survey was administered nationally in February 2026 to individuals aged 18 years and older via social media. The sample size was 569 (after removing surveys flagged as non-complete or potentially fraudulent). Participants had a median age of 34 years (IQR 27–42), and 52% identified as female. Binary logistic regression was conducted to identify factors associated with experiencing physical aggression in the previous 12 months. After adjusting for age and gender, two variables were significantly associated with experiencing physical aggression. The number of alcoholic drinks consumed on a typical day predicted increased likelihood of aggression ($p=0.04$), with each additional drink increasing the odds by 1.34 fold. Odds of experiencing physical aggression also increased 2.17 fold for those with a recent history of illicit drug use. These findings highlight the role of substance use patterns in shaping risk of physical aggression in public environments and underscore the need for targeted prevention strategies that go beyond alcohol policy.

Adolescent substance use: motivations and social context in a rural district of Lithuania *Aušra Pocienė, Vilnius university*

The issue of psychoactive substance use and its regulation remains a pertinent concern within society, particularly concerning the youth population—children and adolescents. Incidents related to drug use can incite public panic, often leading to demands for immediate, yet ineffective, solutions. This emotional response frequently overshadows critical analysis of the underlying causes of substance use, which is essential for developing effective prevention and control strategies. This presentation uses data from a 2025 quantitative survey of schoolchildren in one rural district of Lithuania. This research is distinctive in its approach, as existing quantitative studies, such as the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD) and the International Self-Report Delinquency Study (ISRD), primarily provide national data or focus on urban areas, lacking insights into specific regional issues. The study, conducted in a rural context, involved a representative sample of students aged 12 to 19 from 12 schools. Moreover, this research not only examines the prevalence and initiation of drug use among youth but also investigates the motivations

behind their engagement with psychoactive substances. It emphasizes the importance of contextual factors influencing these motivations, including the social environments at school and home, as well as young individuals' leisure activities. By addressing these factors, the study aims to enhance understanding of youth substance use in the context of the unique needs of the rural district in Lithuania.

157. Theoretical and empirical contributions to a better understanding of young people's experiences with crime

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Juvenile Crime (ISRD WG)

Paper Session

5:15 to 6:30 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.138

Chair:

Miriam Kiene, Criminological Research Institute of Lower Saxony

Participants:

An intersectional exploration of adolescent identity and hate crime victimization and offending in a multi-national sample *Renske Sanne van der Gaag, Assistant Professor Youth & Family, Child and Family Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands; Ineke Haen Marshall, Northeastern University*

In today's polarized society, many adolescents frequently experience or engage in online or physical hate crime. Hate crime involves identity-based crimes directed at visible or perceived aspects of one's identity (Andriessen et al., 2020). For instance, this may be related to an adolescent's ethnicity, migrant background, gender and/or sexual- and/or gender-orientation (McDevitt, Levin & Bennett, 2002). Experiencing discrimination and identity-based victimization has multiple detrimental effects on adolescent development. The purpose of our paper is to further explore the complex interrelationships between multiple aspects of the adolescent's identity, experienced discrimination, hate crime victimization, and hate crime perpetration. We used data from 35,905 pupils across 16 countries grouped in four country clusters – Anglo-Saxon, Scandinavian, Western/Southern European and Eastern European countries – that were collected during the fourth wave of the International Self-Report Delinquency study (ISRD) between 2020 and 2025. The International Self-Report Delinquency study (ISRD) is a large multi-national survey study of adolescents. We explored experiences with hate crime victimization and offending while considering intersectionality of identities using self-identified gender, race/ethnicity, migration status, religion, sexuality and gender-orientation, and indicators of poverty. We use Latent Class Analysis to empirically identify different subgroups and discuss the implications of our findings.

Revenge porn victim/offender overlap among Czech juveniles. Insights from ISRD 4. *Jiri Burianek, Katedra sociologie, Charles University Prague*

The paper focuses on the relationship between perpetration and victimization in the area of revenge porn using data from the ISRD 4 project (Czech Republic, 2023, N = 2125). The lifetime prevalence is higher for victims (8%) than for perpetration (4%), but for some offenders it is related to their own victimization. Perpetration of revenge porn is linked to an overall orientation towards delinquency, but the influence of some traditional predictors (such as self-control) tends to weaken. Models predicting the victim's experience also do not come out as strong, the risks associated with using social networks affect a large part of the studied population, so it is quite easy to become a victim. Neither revenge motives nor the fact that youth perceive most cybercrimes as violence play a major role in this. This also applies to the adult population attitudes in the Czech Republic. The moral factor also takes a back seat compared to the world of opportunities provided by the Internet.

Are highly religious adolescents more violent—and why? *Jan-Philip Steinmann, Criminological Research Institute of Lower Saxony; Miriam Kiene, Criminological Research Institute of Lower Saxony*

Religiosity has long been considered a protective factor against adolescents' involvement in violent behavior. More recent research, however, has begun to challenge this assumption and suggests that the relationship between religiosity and violence among adolescents may be more complex. Building on this emerging literature, we examine (a) whether highly religious adolescents exhibit higher levels of violent behavior and (b) the potential mechanisms that could explain such a relationship. We propose two theoretical explanations for elevated levels of violent offending among highly religious adolescents: the religious-ideology perspective, which underscores the role of fundamentalism, and the loss-of-privileges perspective, which emphasizes perceived disadvantage. Our analyses draw on data from the 2024 Lower Saxony Survey in Germany, a representative survey of students aged around 15 years. Empirical findings indicate that highly religious adolescents report the highest levels of violent offending. Moreover, fundamentalist attitudes account for a substantial share of this association, whereas perceived disadvantage does not appear to play a major role. Our findings challenge the common assumption that religious commitment uniformly serves as a protective factor and stress the importance of considering ideological dimensions of religiosity when investigating adolescent violence.

Secularity, religious diversity and juvenile delinquency in Germany: Do moral communities matter? *Miriam Kiene, Criminological Research Institute of Lower Saxony; Jan-Philip Steinmann, Criminological Research Institute of Lower Saxony*

Following decades of inconsistent findings on the relationship between religiosity and delinquency, the Moral Community Hypothesis (MCH) was proposed, arguing that the effect of individual religiosity on delinquency depends on the extent to which religious norms are collectively shared and enforced through social control. Most studies on the MCH have focused on Christians in the United States, with many conducted several decades ago. We extend this research to contemporary Germany for two primary motivations. First, secularization has weakened the

traditional normative dominance of Catholic and Protestant denominations, reducing both the social salience of religious norms and their capacity for social control. Second, immigration-induced denominational diversity has expanded the variety of religious communities and norms. As a result, adolescents in Germany increasingly grow up in secularized yet highly diverse religious contexts. To assess the MCH in the German context, we combine regional-level data on religious composition with individual-level survey data from a representative sample of approximately 15-year-olds from the 2024 Lower Saxony Survey. Multilevel analyses test whether the regional religious context moderates the effect of individual religiosity on juvenile delinquency. Compared to previous research on moral communities in the United States, we account for the greater religious complexity in contemporary Germany. In line with the MCH, preliminary results suggest that the religious context does generally matter. However, the effect of individual religiosity on juvenile delinquency varies little across regional religious contexts. Thus, compared to previous findings on Christians in the United States, moral communities appear to be of lesser importance in reinforcing individually held religious norms in Germany.

158. Rethinking Sexual Violence: From Victimization Risk to Social and Institutional Responses

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Sex Crimes, Sex Work and Sex Trafficking

Pre-arranged Panel

5:15 to 6:30 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.141

Sexual violence constitutes a major public health and societal issue, with far-reaching psychological, physical, and social consequences for victims. Survivors often experience long-term mental health problems while also facing significant barriers to reporting and accessing justice. These barriers are shaped not only by legal structures but also by societal attitudes, such as victim-blaming, gender stereotypes, and rape-related beliefs. Understanding sexual violence therefore requires a comprehensive approach that addresses both the risk of victimization and perpetration, as well as social and institutional responses to victims. This panel brings together four complementary studies that examine sexual violence through a multi-level lens, integrating individual attitudes, social perception mechanisms, and criminal justice outcomes. The first study investigates how victim sexual orientation influences victim-blame, perceived harm, and propensity for sexual aggression, highlighting biases against male sexual minority victims. The second study introduces a novel cognitive mechanism, demonstrating how assumptions about victim's sexual attraction shape blame attribution across gender and sexual orientation. The third study adopts a risk-protective framework, examining how hostile sexism and anti-rape attitudes predict rape proclivity among young men. Finally, the fourth study extends the focus to the macro level by analyzing attrition in sexual offense cases in, illustrating how societal narratives and victim-blaming discourses may influence reporting, prosecution, and case outcomes. Together, these contributions demonstrate that sexual violence cannot be understood solely as an individual or legal issue but must be conceptualized as a socio-psychological and systemic phenomenon. By linking attitudinal risk factors, cognitive biases, behavioral tendencies toward sexual aggression, and justice system processes, this panel offers a comprehensive framework for understanding both the risk of victimization and the responses that shape victims' experiences and case outcomes. The findings provide important implications for prevention strategies, policy development, and the design of more inclusive and effective responses to sexual violence.

Chair:

Seda Akdemir Ekizoglu, Ghent University

Participants:

Sexual Assault Perceptions and Propensity for Sexual Aggression Toward Male Sexual Minority Victims *Seda Akdemir Ekizoglu, Ghent University; Arne Roets, Department of Developmental, Personality & Social Psychology, Ghent University, Belgium; Christophe Vandeviver, Ghent University*

Research on sexual violence has predominantly focused on female victims, yielding extensive evidence on victim-blame and propensity to engage in sexual aggression (PSA). In contrast, male victims, particularly those from sexual minority groups, remain underrepresented. This gap is notable given evidence that men, especially sexual minority men, experience sexual violence but are less likely to report it due to concerns about blame, disbelief, and stigma surrounding male victimhood and sexuality. The present study examines how perceptions of sexual assault toward male victims vary as a function of victim sexual orientation (heterosexual, gay, bisexual). It also investigates the role of individual attitudes (i.e., homonegativity, binegativity, and rape myth acceptance) in shaping victim-blame, perceived harm, and PSA. Using a between-subjects experimental vignette design, participants evaluate a scenario involving a male victim and a male perpetrator and complete measures assessing both situational judgments and attitudinal factors. We hypothesize that victim-blame will be positively associated with PSA. Furthermore, sexual minority victims are expected to be blamed more than heterosexual victims. In addition, individual attitudes are hypothesized to significantly predict higher levels of victim-blame and perceived harm. By integrating experimental and individual difference approaches, this study provides insight into the mechanisms underlying biased evaluations of male victims. The findings will inform prevention efforts by identifying attitudinal risk factors linked to sexual aggression and will contribute to improving responses to male and sexual minority victims by clarifying patterns of blame and perceived harm. Enhancing recognition of male victimization may ultimately help reduce reporting barriers and support more inclusive sexual violence policies and services.

Perceived Sexual Attraction and Victim Blaming: A Cross-Gender and Sexual Orientation Analysis *Marie Eeckhout, Ghent University; Seda Akdemir Ekizoglu, Ghent University; Arne Roets, Department of Developmental, Personality & Social Psychology, Ghent University, Belgium; Christophe Vandeviver, Ghent University*

Victim blaming in sexual harassment is a complex

socio-psychological process where the responsibility for a perpetrator's actions is unjustly shared with or shifted toward the victim. A significant, yet under-researched, driver of this phenomenon is perceived sexual attraction: the observer's inference that the victim felt sexual interest in the offender. This perception acts as a biased cognitive filter; when attraction is assumed, observers are more likely to mitigate the perpetrator's culpability and increase the victim's perceived accountability. Despite its potential impact on social judgments, the role of perceived attraction has been largely overlooked in empirical literature, particularly regarding victims who do not fit the "ideal victim" stereotype, namely male and homosexual individuals. The present research addresses this theoretical gap by examining how perceived sexual attraction influences blame attribution and whether these effects are contingent upon the victim's gender and sexual orientation. Using an experimental 2×2 between-subjects design, participants are randomly assigned to read one of four vignettes involving a male perpetrator. The gender (male vs. female) and sexual orientation (heterosexual vs. homosexual) of the victim are systematically manipulated. Participants complete validated measures of perceived sexual attraction, perceived harm, and victim blame, while controlling for Rape Myth Acceptance (RMA), demographic variables, and personal experiences with sexual violence. We hypothesize that higher levels of perceived sexual attraction predict increased victim blaming and that these effects vary across victim types. By isolating this overlooked mechanism, this study provides a novel contribution to the understanding of social bias. The findings are expected to inform more inclusive theoretical models of harassment and highlight the necessity of addressing specific stereotypes in responses to sexual harassment.

Beyond Risk: Hostile Sexism and Anti-Rape Attitudes in Predicting Rape Proclivity *Silke De Ceulaer, Ghent University; Seda Akdemir Ekizoglu, Ghent University; Arne Roets, Department of Developmental, Personality & Social Psychology, Ghent University, Belgium; Christophe Vandeviver, Ghent University*

Sexual violence remains a persistent societal and public health issue, particularly among young adults. Existing research has predominantly focused on identifying attitudinal risk factors associated with sexual aggression, including hostile sexism. These factors have been shown to play an important role in explaining rape-related cognitions and behaviours, such as rape proclivity. However, the current knowledge base on attitudes that may function as protective factors against sexual violence remains limited. This highlights the need for a broader, more balanced approach that incorporates both risk and protective attitudinal constructs. Addressing this gap, the present study examines the role of anti-rape attitudes as a protective factor alongside hostile sexism as a risk factor in predicting rape proclivity. Using a quantitative cross-sectional design, data were collected through an online survey among Flemish heterosexual men aged 18 to 25. Rape proclivity was assessed using a vignette-based methodology, enabling the measurement of self-reported behavioural tendencies in a realistic social context. In line with previous findings, it is expected that hostile sexism will emerge as a strong positive predictor of rape proclivity, whereas anti-rape attitudes will show a strong negative association. Moreover, it is anticipated that including anti-rape attitudes alongside hostile sexism will improve the explanatory power of the model, highlighting the added value of protective factors beyond traditional risk-focused approaches. These findings contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of sexual aggression and provide relevant insights for improving risk assessment and developing more effective, strength-based prevention strategies.

Attrition in Sexual Offenses: A Multi-Dimensional Analysis in Türkiye *Selen Çakırhan, Istanbul University-Cerrahpaşa Institute of Forensic Sciences and Legal Medicine*

This research investigates the phenomenon of "attrition" within the Turkish criminal justice system, focusing specifically on sexual offenses. Attrition describes the process through which a vast majority of reported crimes are filtered out at various stages of the legal process from initial reporting and investigation to prosecution, resulting in a disproportionately low number of final convictions. The study employs a mixed-methods approach to identify the systemic and societal drivers of this attrition. First, it analyzes quantitative data from the Ministry of Justice to map the statistical drop-off points in sexual offense files. Second, it conducts a discursive analysis of traditional and social media platforms to examine how sexual violence is framed in the public sphere. By bridging official legal statistics with media narratives, the research seeks to uncover how societal myths, victim-blaming discourses, and sexual offense-related beliefs shape both judicial outcomes and reporting behaviors. We hypothesize that attrition rates in Türkiye are intensified by two primary factors: stringent evidentiary requirements in "he-said, she-said" scenarios and the prevalence of the dark and grey figures of crime. We expect the results will suggest that traditional media often sensationalizes cases while social media oscillates between victim advocacy and the reinforcement of harmful stereotypes. It is anticipated that these external narratives create a feedback loop that discourages victims from pursuing legal action and provides a cultural backdrop that may inadvertently favor the "presumption of innocence" to the point of systemic failure. Ultimately, this study aims to demonstrate that attrition is not merely a legal technicality but a socio-legal crisis shaped by the intersection of judicial practice and public discourse.

159. Punishment, Evidence and Inequality: From Neuroscience to Capital Sentencing

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Courts and Sentencing and Penal Decision Making (Sentencing and Penal Decisionmaking WG)

Paper Session

5:15 to 6:30 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 -

Room 1.147

Chair:

Antonia Küssner, Münster University

Participants:

Sentencing American Youth: The Influence of Biopsychosocial Factors on Punitive Attitudes Toward Emerging Adults *Victoria Rivera Laugalis, Loyola University New Orleans*

The United States continues to sentence youth to some of the most punitive punishments, such as life without the possibility of parole—often referred to as death by incarceration. In some states, almost 50% of individuals serving life without parole were sentenced before they were 26 years old. Over time, extreme sentences have been reduced for juveniles based on arguments noting evolving standards of decency and developmental science, but emerging adults (18-to-25-year-olds) still face extreme sentencing without the same United States Supreme Court protections afforded to juveniles. Although, several states have applied similar developmental arguments to the sentencing of emerging adults because maturation and the development of the prefrontal cortex—responsible for impulse control and decision-making capacities—continue past age 18. Generally, the public supports less punitive sentencing for juveniles, but public opinion of emerging adult sentencing is unclear. To further understand attitudes toward policy disproportionately sentencing youth to life, this study examines public punitiveness in sentencing emerging adults through mixed methods analyses of survey data collected from 500 respondents across the United States. The findings suggest biopsychosocial factors may influence the public's sentencing opinions. Key results and policy and practical implications are discussed.

The Failure of the 'Death Penalty Experiment' in the United States: A Systematic Review of the Effects of Race on Capital Sentencing *Cassia Spohn, Arizona State University*

Critics of capital punishment argue that the application of the death penalty in the United States is fraught with race- and class-based discrimination and that the procedural reforms enacted in the wake of the Furman v. Georgia decision have not—indeed, cannot—eliminate discrimination in death penalty decisions. We assess the validity of these criticisms by examining the results of a comprehensive and systematic review of five decades of methodologically sophisticated research on the capital sentencing process, focusing on the effects of the race of the defendant, the race of the victim, and the race of the defendant/victim dyad. The results of our systematic review convincingly demonstrate that the application of capital punishment in the United States is not equitable and that race plays an important role in determining the course of a capital case. The data provide compelling evidence that defendants in cases involving White victims—and especially defendants in cases involving Black defendants and White victims—are more likely to be tried on capital crimes and sentenced to death. These results challenge the foundational principles of equal protection and due process that are central to the American legal system. They suggest that the capital punishment process is fatally flawed and that, in Justice Blackmun's words, it is "time to concede that the death penalty experiment has failed."

War on Drugs in the Andean countries *SILVIO CUNEO, Universidad Central de Chile*

During the last four decades of the past century, the United States exported to Latin America and, in particular, to the Andean countries (Colombia, Peru' and Bolivia), a criminal policy devoid of guarantees of a rule of law, which took the form of a series of criminal regulations designed to strengthen the prosecution of coca crops, under emergency measures typical of a situation of constitutional exception where guarantees of due process are rendered more flexible, restricting the possibilities of defence and legitimising illegal evidence with little effect on the presumption of innocence during criminal proceedings (Díez Ripollés, 1988). While in the United States, laws passed contrasting the previous criminal policy of the War on Drugs would cause, in reality, mass imprisonment of Afro-Americans and Latino communities (Alexander, 2012), in Latin America, they would bring a progressive increase of prison population, particularly in the Andean countries where the selectivity of the system would be reflected in the incarceration of marginalised sectors of the population and, especially, of women who operate as drug carriers or mules (Cloutier, 2016). A new criminal policy focusing on the prevention of drug trafficking and the rehabilitation of law- breaking consumers, requires strategies aimed at overcoming militarisation (Wacquant, 2002) by allocating greater public resources to improve the living conditions of historically segregated and discriminated communities (MacCoun & Reuter, 2001) in the Andean countries, to which concrete measures must be added, aimed at eradicating the most visible consequence of the old criminal policy against drugs: mass imprisonment (Garland, 2001). Therefore, it is necessary to address the origin and subsequent materialisation of the U.S. criminal policy in the period known as the "war on drugs", its implementation in the Andean countries and its more visible consequences, while analysing the need for a new criminal policy respectful of Human Rights.

The Use and Effects of Neuroscientific Evidence in Court – a Systematic Literature Review *Antonia Küssner, Münster University*

As a response to research concerning the maturation process in adolescents' brains and a focus on a pedagogical juvenile justice system, the Netherlands has adopted the Act on Adolescent Criminal Law in 2014, permitting the application of juvenile sentences to adolescents. According to article 77c Wetboek van Strafrecht (Dutch Criminal Code), judges can now choose to apply juvenile criminal law to individuals up to the age of 23 years based on their personality or the circumstances of the committed crime. This is an example of how neuroscientific evidence can affect the law when considered appropriately. In order to acquire an overview of effects and uses of neuroscientific

evidence in court, this article intends to provide a systematic literature review on research in this field, establishing an overview over the so far conducted research. Combining not only law, psychology and criminology, but also examining practical implications for legal proceedings, this review will attempt to analyse in what kinds of cases neuroscientific evidence is presented and how it is presented, as well as how it is perceived, understood and considered on the side of the law. English as well as German publications from 2010 until 2025 will be included in the review. Findings will be analysed and discussed.

160. POLWG Panel 12: The Wellbeing of officers, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Policing

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)

Paper Session

5:15 to 6:30 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.152

Chair:

Jemma Tyson, University of Portsmouth

Participants:

Operational stress and suicidal ideation among Portuguese police officers during and after COVID-19 *Rute Pereira, Interdisciplinary Research Center on Justice (CIJ/FDUP); School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto; António Leitão da Silva, Police of Public Security & Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice, Faculty of Law, University of Porto; Sérgio Felgueiras, ICPOL – Police Research Center & Higher Institute of Police Sciences and Homeland Security, Lisbon; Cristina Queirós, Center of Psychology of the University of Porto & Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences of the University of Porto; Rui Mendes, Police of Public Security & Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice, Faculty of Law, University of Porto; Pedro Sousa, Interdisciplinary Research Center on Justice (CIJ/FDUP); School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto*

Research on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on occupational health has increasingly focused on police officers as a frontline group exposed to intensified job demands and evolving operational roles (Tehrani, 2022; Wu et al., 2023).The pandemic has also had a significant impact on mental health (Winter et al., 2026), exacerbating stress levels in an occupation such as policing, already characterised by high psychological strain (Sharratt & Roach, 2025). High job stress has been associated with both internalised outcomes, such as suicidal ideation and suicide, and externalised forms of aggressivity, including excessive use of force, potentially contributing to misconduct and reduced quality of police services (Pereira et al., 2023; Telavera-Velasco et al., 2024; Violanti, 2026). This study aimed to analyse operational stress, suicidal ideation, and external aggressivity among Portuguese police officers across two time points: during (2021) and after (2023/2024) the COVID-19 pandemic. Data was collected through a large-scale questionnaire administration, including the ASIQ-Adult Suicidal Ideation Questionnaire, PSQ-Police Stress Questionnaire (operational version), and AQ-Agression Questionnaire, with samples of 1,802 (2021) and 2,485 (2023/2024) participants. Results indicate a slight decrease in suicidal ideation (from 10.3% to 9.2%), while operational stress remained consistently high (71.9% vs. 71.5%), suggesting a sustained psychological burden beyond the acute phase of the pandemic. External aggressivity in 2023/2024 was reported at 16%, including 11.6% physical and 17.4% verbal aggression. Overall, findings highlight the importance of promoting mental health awareness, both for the well-being of police officers and for the broader functioning and safety of society. They reinforce the urgent need for targeted interventions addressing stress management and the reduction of stigma surrounding help-seeking within police culture. In fact, promoting mental health awareness is essential not only for officer well-being, but also for maintaining public safety and the effectiveness of policing systems.

Policing in a state of flux – wellbeing and the personal impact of senior leadership in a complex and uncertain world *Clare Simkin, University of Portsmouth, UK*

Policing in England and Wales has undergone substantial socio-economic, political, technological, and organisational changes in recent decades. The wellbeing implications of rising complexity in policing, declining public trust, and rapid shifts in crime and technology are increasingly well documented for frontline officers. Far less attention however, has been paid to how these same pressures personally affect those leading the organisation at chief officer level. This presentation, based on my PhD research, addresses that gap through in-depth qualitative interviews with 39 chief officers in British policing, offering a contemporary examination of executive-level policing leadership. The presentation will highlight how chief officers understand the evolving demands of their roles, the pressures associated with leading in a complex and scrutinised environment, and the personal and organisational challenges that accompany senior command: emotional strain, heightened risk environments, increased scrutiny and accountability and the burden of decision-making in a shifting and uncertain landscape. By examining the experiences of chief officers, and what they consider their successors will need to thrive in such environments, this presentation contributes to an understanding of leadership in contemporary policing and offers implications for the future of executive leadership within British policing.

"Getting it Right" For Trans People in Policing: Practical Responses to Transphobia and Workplace Discrimination *Ryan Peacey, Liverpool John Moores University*

Transgender people are increasingly under threat by targeted efforts to demonise their identities and rescind legislative protections. Wider political and social discourse synonymises transness with danger or risk of victimisation, sentiments that are increasingly enmeshed in public institutions. Consequently, trans people who occupy positions that centre on ensuring public safety and protecting vulnerable populations are increasingly vilified and targeted through coordinated

harassment campaigns and discrimination, both on and off the job. Informed by interviews with five transgender police officers and staff who transitioned while serving in forces across England and Wales, this paper presents a focused discussion on practical recommendations for forces to respond to and effectively support officers experiencing transphobia, from both the public and in the workplace. It details three specific case studies centring the experiences of trans women in the police, highlighting challenges, force responses, and recommendations to 'get it right' in future instances of targeted transphobia and harassment. Additionally, a case-study focus accounts for the daily harms incurred through these experiences, including impacts on well-being and physical safety. Importantly, this research highlights a need to establish formal support mechanisms for transgender officers who experience harassment and threats to safety within both workplace and community settings, and puts forth practical suggestions for supporting transgender officers during a period of significant hostility in current social and political climates.

What do police talk about when they talk about diversity? *Sarah Charman, University of Portsmouth; Geoff Newiss, University of Portsmouth, UK; Jemma Tyson, University of Portsmouth*

This paper advances a two-level conceptual framework for analysing and evaluating claims about diversity in policing, drawing on both existing literature and primary interview transcripts with police personnel in England and Wales. The framework treats diversity as a set of analytically separable claims linking particular traits to particular effects through distinct interpretive logics. At the trait-level, diversity claims comprise a) the type of trait, b) how difference is defined and measured, and c) the organisational unit (e.g. group, team, whole organisation) at which the trait is observed. A separate effect-level allows diversity claims to be differentiated by a) the frame through which diversity is expressed and interpreted, b) how its effects are evaluated, and c) the organisational unit at which the effect is understood to occur. By explicitly distinguishing trait-level 'inputs' from effect-level 'outputs', the framework provides a conceptual starting point for the systematic analysis of multiple and varied diversity claims and frequently divergent empirical and normative conclusions. Examples from the policing literature and interview data are used to develop this model and to demonstrate its potential for informing the design and reform of police diversity policies.

Inclusionary intent, exclusionary impact: Lived experiences of adjusted duties, reasonable adjustments and structural marginalisation in policing *Jemma Tyson, University of Portsmouth*

Police forces increasingly rely on "adjusted" or "restricted" duties to retain officers who have impairments or long-term health conditions. As of the end of March 2025, across 42/43 forces (excluding Avon and Somerset) there were 9,882 officers in England and Wales on adjusted duties, or 6.8% of officers within these forces. While these adjustments are framed as supportive measures, this paper argues that they can simultaneously function as mechanisms of organisational marginalisation. Drawing on the social model of disability and critical disability studies, the paper examines how adjusted duties and reasonable adjustments more broadly are experienced by disabled police officers within England and Wales and how they intersect with organisational cultures that emphasise physical capability, traditional working patterns, operational readiness, and the 'ideal police body'. Through qualitative interviews, the paper identifies tensions between formal inclusion policies and everyday organisational practices. Findings suggest that the use of adjusted duties and reasonable adjustments often lead to challenges with career progression and development, are negatively viewed by others in the service and adjustments themselves are often inflexible or applied inappropriately. Rather than challenging ableist assumptions embedded in policing, adjustments may reinforce them by positioning disabled officers as exceptions to the norm and creating structural marginalisation. The paper argues for a reconceptualisation of deployability and capability within policing, proposing a shift from a narrow operational model to a broader understanding of policing contribution. This has implications for workforce policy, leadership training, and the development of genuinely inclusive organisational cultures.

161. Police Reform: An Obituary

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)
Author meets critics
5:15 to 6:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.158

In this session, three critics review the book "Police Reform: An Obituary" (Routledge, 2026) by Nathan W. Pino. The book argues that police reform efforts around the world should be extirpated and replaced with locally developed and led non-carceral alternatives that can produce community safety, social justice, and quality of life over the long-term in the face of hostility from politicians, police, and academic allies and collaborators with police. The book introduces the concept of artificial insecurity, defined as a condition in societies under racial capitalism whereby the social structures that promote safe, secure communities are weakened or removed, and the survival strategies of individuals are criminalized, coercing people to seek protection from policing and other carceral institutions that are undemocratic, violent, and fail to provide security, thus maintaining coloniality and inequality. The book also provides alternative policies and practices to reduce crime and promote community safety that do not rely on criminal justice systems.

Critics:

Conor O'Reilly, University of Leeds
Anna Di Ronco, University of Bologna
Valeria E Vegh Weis, Konstanz University

Book Author:

Nathan W. Pino, Texas State University, USA

162. Supporting Victims of Sexual Violence and Exploitation: Rights and Realities

Topic 4: Victimology/Victims' rights (Victimology WG)

Paper Session
5:15 to 6:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.168
Chair:
Gabriela Vyoralová, Právnická fakulta Masarykovy univerzity v Brně, Česká republika
Participants:

Advancing victim support in Greece: Presentation of the project InSupport "Strengthening inter-agency support for victims of sexual violence". *Elli I. Anitsi, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens; Alexandros Arfaras, PhD, Ministry of Citizen Protection, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens; Maria Malapetsa, Ison Psychometrica; Stella Gerolymatou, Ison Psychometrica*

Sexual violence is a deeply disturbing social phenomenon, with serious and long-lasting effects on the lives of victims. Often, the complexity of the support system, the lack of coordination between the actors involved and the limited expertise of professionals lead to difficulties in access and quality of the assistance provided. The current paper presents the project InSupport "Strengthening inter-agency support for victims of sexual violence". The project was conducted in Greece aiming to fill these gaps by developing a model of cooperation and support that focuses on the needs of the victim. The project's basic purpose was to transform the way frontline services (police, health, social services, NGOs) work together and respond so that victims of sexual violence have access to holistic support, with respect, confidentiality and care, ensuring that any re-traumatisation is avoided. The project is implemented by a partnership of six actors (Symplexis, Research Centre for Gender Equality (KETHI), Center of Security Studies (KEMEA), Metropolitan College, Hellenic Police, Ison Psychometrica) and is represented by Ison Psychometrica. InSupport is funded by the European Union, ENHANCING INTERAGENCY SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE. Project Contract Number 101195372.Program: CERV-2024-DAPHNE.

From Statutory Mandate to Lived Reality: An Empirical Inquiry into The Implementation Crisis of Victim Compensation in Sexual Offences in India *AAYUSH TRIPATHI, Amity Law School, Amity University, Noida, India; HARLEEN KAUR, Senior Assistant Professor, Campus law Centre, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi, India*

Victim Compensation has gained significance in India over the last two decades due to the consistent efforts of the legislature and the judiciary to transform criminal law to be more victim-centric. Section 396 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, mandates compensation to victims irrespective of the accused's conviction and mandates every state to devise a victim compensation scheme. Moreover, the Supreme Court of India has consistently held that victim compensation is a part of the fundamental right to life and liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. It has been held that compensation is not just merely symbolic but an act of recognition of the harm caused and a means to facilitate recovery, especially in cases of sexual violence where there is deep psychological harm and trauma involved. However, findings reveal that the implementation on the ground seems severely lacking. This study is an empirical assessment of the implementation of the victim compensation scheme with respect to sexual offences in five districts of Uttar Pradesh, India's largest state. The Right to Information (RTI) findings reveal multiple lacunae, like the inability of trial courts to grant compensation, inadequate compensation, unawareness of the scheme, and interim compensation being seldom considered. Victim impact statements are not taken, and the quantum has no relation to the harm or loss of income of the victim. In the absence of individualised assessment and robust monitoring, such victim compensation in India is at risk of being reduced to a symbolic gesture rather than a substantive instrument of justice and rehabilitation. Therefore, the study highlights the need for a more robust victim compensation law in cases of sexual offences in India that moves beyond formal acknowledgement towards a more participatory framework, attuned to the lived realities of survivors, drawing inspiration from comparative jurisdictions where appropriate.

Victims' Rights in Human Trafficking: Balancing Criminal Prosecution and Protection Frameworks in the MENA Region *Hoda Mohammed Mohammed Ibrahim, Assistant Professor at Alasala Colleges*

Human trafficking remains one of the most severe violations of human dignity in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Despite growing international attention, victim-centered legal analysis of this region remains significantly underrepresented in comparative criminological scholarship. This paper examines the protection of victims' rights within this context, focusing on the structural tension between criminal prosecution imperatives and comprehensive victim protection frameworks. It argues that genuine justice for trafficking victims requires not only criminal accountability but also psychological rehabilitation, physical recovery, and meaningful social reintegration. Using a comparative legal approach, the study analyzes national frameworks across selected MENA jurisdictions against applicable international standards, including the Palermo Protocol. It identifies three core challenges: insufficient legal safeguards for victims, limited access to justice and support services, and weak institutional coordination between criminal justice agencies and victim assistance organizations. The paper contends that current criminal justice responses remain predominantly offender-oriented, systematically marginalizing victims' rights and undermining rehabilitation prospects. This structural bias prioritizes punitive outcomes over restorative and rehabilitative ones, leaving victims without adequate support. The study contributes to criminological literature by offering a regionally grounded analysis of victim protection in human trafficking cases, and by proposing practical reforms aimed at embedding protection, rehabilitation, and reintegration mechanisms within criminal justice frameworks across

the MENA region. Keywords: Victims' Rights, Human Trafficking, Victim Protection, Rehabilitation, Reintegration, Comparative Criminal Law, MENA Region

The Rights of Victims of Deepfake Pornography in the Czech Republic *Gabriela Vyoralová, Právnická fakulta Masarykovy univerzity v Brně, Česká republika*

In the current era of rapid development of information and communication technologies, these tools can be misused for innovative criminal activities. One of the new trends is the creation of deepfake pornography without any contact with the victim, which often has very serious consequences for them. The perpetrators can use this technology to create increasingly realistic videos or images known as deepfakes, as they are artificially generated and involve digitally "replacing" the face or voice of at least one of the participants with that of a completely different person who did not originally appear in the video or audio. The resulting photomontages or doctored videos can cause harm to the victim in personal, professional, social, and economic spheres. Victims of such attacks must cope not only with psychological consequences such as depression, anxiety, or distrust of the outside world, but often also with financial repercussions, as the perpetrator's actions are frequently exploited for economic gain, so that under the threat of publishing the photograph or video in question, the perpetrator demands financial compensation from the victim (money, investments, cryptocurrency payments). The online world ensures anonymity and accessibility, and provides a much easier way to both select and contact victims. This article will focus specifically on the issue of the rights of victims of deepfake pornography distributed via the internet.

163. Recognition, Reparation and Memory: How Institutions Respond to Victims

Topic 4: Victimology/Victims' rights (Victimology WG)
Paper Session
5:15 to 6:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.172

Chair:

Gema Varona, Senior researcher at the Basque Institute of Criminology (University of the Basque Country)

Participants:

Specialized courts in child abuse. The Spanish model as a pilot study and its international contrast *Beatriz Martínez Perpiñá, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya; Sílvia Pereira Puigvert, Universitat de Girona*

It is widely recognized that the criminal justice system is based on a structure that does not fully meet the needs of child and young victims, both because of the difficulties involved in detecting and prosecuting violence and because of the risk of secondary victimization. Given the clear need to adapt the work of the courts, judicial specialization stands out among the various proposals put forward to meet this unavoidable requirement. Since 2021, the year in which a reform was implemented to restructure the judicial organization, plans have been in place in Spain to establish Specialized Sections for Violence against Children and Adolescents across the country. However, despite the novelty of the reform, judicial specialization in the field of violence against children and adolescents already has its origins in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, where, in 2020, a pilot project was launched with the aim of centralizing the investigation and prosecution of criminal cases involving offences committed against persons under the age of 18 and ensuring effective judicial protection without exacerbating the impact of criminal proceedings on this group. We have examined the current state of specialized courts dealing with violence against children and addressing secondary victimization among underage victims. To this end, a dual methodological approach was adopted. The first, of a bibliographical nature, provides an international overview of the situation regarding judicial specialization. It also focuses on the specific case of the Spanish pilot project. The second approach, which is empirical, involves the analysis of 30 questionnaires sent to experts in 10 different countries, both European and Latin American, with the aim of identifying background information. The integration of both approaches ultimately allows for a critical evaluation of the proposal and the formulation of recommendations for action within the Spanish justice system.

Arbitrary Imprisonment and Motherhood in Türkiye: Experiences of Women and Children Political Prisoners in High-Security Prisons and Beyond *Fikret Demirçivi, Solidarity with Others / Ghent University; Julienne Weegels, University of Amsterdam; Ahsen Ayhan, Vrije Universiteit Brussel*

Democratic backsliding and state repression in Türkiye have swelled prison populations, precipitating severe overcrowding. Within this carceral landscape, pregnant women and mothers with children aged 0–6 survive as a specifically vulnerable demographic whose needs remain neglected by a security-focused penal regime. For members of dissenting social or political movements, the state actively interferes with the right to parent. By imprisoning mothers alongside their young children, the state effectively enacts reproductive oppression. This research explores the lived experiences of women who endured pregnancy or child-rearing in Turkish prisons, investigating how carceral conditions erode maternal health and foster attachment difficulties. Findings suggest that mothers and children inhabit bare life within high-security prison settings. Deprived of basic necessities and healthcare, they face traumatic environments that compromise maternal well-being and hinder secure attachment. While women forge coping strategies with the assistance of fellow political prisoners, they find adaptation to maximum-security life impossible. Children frequently experience a seismic shock upon release. As the state imposes labels of terrorist or criminal, these mothers face pervasive victim-blaming from the general public. In certain instances, this ostracization extends to their own families, who distance themselves through fear or shame. Participants describe this existence as social death. For victims who previously held respected roles as teachers or judges, this terrorist label functions as an ontological assault, representing a direct attack on their fundamental being.

Tense memory: challenges in commemorating victims-perpetrators in the context of political violence in the Basque Country *Luis Conde, Universidad del País Vasco - Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea*

This paper examines the theoretical, ethical, and political challenges surrounding the memorialization of individuals who have been both victims and perpetrators in the context of political violence in the Basque Country. It argues for the need to move beyond rigid binary frameworks that strictly separate these categories, proposing instead a more nuanced approach that recognizes complex life trajectories shaped by both experienced and inflicted violence. The analysis highlights the importance of developing public memory policies grounded in rigorous contextualization, broad consensus, and the active participation of victims, while avoiding processes of invisibilization, particularly in cases related to state violence. It also warns against the emergence of competitive victimhood dynamics within institutional and policy-making frameworks, as these may hinder the reconstruction of the social fabric and obstruct the creation of spaces for dialogue and shared understanding. Finally, the paper advances an interdisciplinary approach to address these complexities, including the promotion of transformative educational initiatives and the potential establishment of a truth commission. Such measures are essential for fostering a restorative democratic memory that avoids hierarchies and simplifications, and contribute to the consolidation of a sustainable coexistence based on mutual recognition and positive peace.

Competitive victimhood versus expansive solidarity: when society, organisations and institutions provoke further harm *Gema Varona, Senior researcher at the Basque Institute of Criminology (University of the Basque Country)*

Victimhood is never a neutral social category. Its recognition — or denial — is deeply embedded in political, institutional, and cultural processes that determine whose suffering is deemed legitimate, whose claims merit attention an to what extent, and whose voices are systematically silenced. This paper interrogates the phenomenon of competitive victimhood: the dynamic through which hierarchies of suffering are constructed and reproduced by opposing (political or partisan) identities, placing victims in adversarial relation to one another and foreclosing the possibility of collective solidarity. Drawing on critical victimology and the sociology of harm, we argue that competitive victimhood is not merely an interpersonal or psychological phenomenon but a structurally produced condition. Societies, organisations, and institutions actively generate and sustain it through legislative frameworks that privilege certain victim identities, policy architectures that distribute recognition and resources unevenly, and public discourses that render some forms of harm invisible or unworthy of acknowledgment. Far from providing understanding and reparation, these mechanisms risk constituting a form of secondary — and in some cases tertiary — victimization. This contribution develops this argument through the analysis of case studies drawn from diverse victimization contexts in Spain, including gender-based violence, terrorism-related victimhood, environmental harm, and institutional abuse. Examining the corresponding legislative frameworks and victim policies — among them the 4/2015 o the Statute of the Victim and sectoral legislation governing specific victim categories —, an exploration on how the architecture of formal recognition can entrench hierarchical distinctions, generate resentment between victim groups, and undermine the broader social legitimacy of victim-sensitive justice is presented. The concept of expansive solidarity is proposed as an alternative normative and practical horizon: one that resists zero-sum logics, acknowledges intersecting abuses of power, and reorients institutional responses toward structural transformation rather than competitive allocation of just deserts to victims.

164. Beyond the victimization event: Psychological, behavioral, and institutional responses to interpersonal victimization

Topic 4: Victimology/Consequences of Victimization (Victimology WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

5:15 to 6:30 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.510

Interpersonal victimization—through violence, abuse, or harassment—can have profound consequences for victims and societies. This panel explores the diverse ways victims respond to such experiences, spanning psychological, behavioral, and institutional dimensions. Two papers investigate how pre-existing perceptions of vulnerability and avoidance behaviors shape the psychological effects of victimization. Another paper focuses on bias-motivated victimization, testing whether harassment or threats leave particularly deep psychosocial scars when targeting people based on group identity. The final paper shifts to institutional responses, challenging assumptions about victim withdrawal from rape investigations and highlighting the role of justice motivations over police treatment.

Chair:

Florian Kaiser, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law

Participants:

Unforeseen shock: How perceived vulnerability shapes the psychological impact of interpersonal victimization *Florian Kaiser, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law; Jonathan Jackson, LSE; Dietrich Oberwittler, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law; Björn Huss, German Centre for Higher Education Research and Science Studies (DZHW)*

Despite the need to identify victims who are particularly affected by the crime event, longitudinal research on the heterogeneous consequences of victimization is scarce. The current study adresses this gap by testing whether baseline perceived vulnerability moderates changes in subjective well-being following interpersonal victimization, adjudicating between an expectation-violation account (predicting larger impact

when pre-victimization vulnerability is low) and a stress-sensitization account (predicting larger impact when pre-victimization vulnerability is high). Our analysis is based on two-wave panel data from 2,932 adults in Cologne and Essen, Germany (2020–2021). To study effect heterogeneity, we stratified participants first by their level of perceived vulnerability and then applied, within strata, Energy weighting, weighted panel models, and g-computation to obtain stratum-specific effect estimates. Our results indicate that interpersonal victimization had only modest average effects on subjective well-being. However, unexpected victimization, that is, victimization among those with low pre-victimization perceived risk, was more emotionally disruptive, supporting the expectation-violation account.

When precautions fail: Prior avoidance behaviour and change in worry after victimisation *Jonathan Jackson, LSE; Florian Kaiser, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law; Dietrich Oberwittler, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law*

When the same individuals are followed over time, victimisation does not increase fear of crime uniformly. Existing work explains this heterogeneity mainly in terms of who victims are, where they live and how vulnerable they feel, but says less about what they were already doing to manage perceived risk before victimisation occurred. We examine whether prior avoidance behaviour conditions within-person change in worry about crime following interpersonal victimisation. Using two independent two-wave panel cohorts from Cologne (2014, n ≈ 3,400) and Essen (2020/21, n ≈ 2,900), we measure avoidance at wave 1 and victimisation between waves, adjusting for baseline worry. In both cohorts, victimisation is associated with larger increases in worry among respondents reporting higher prior avoidance. Among previously victimised respondents with high avoidance who are not re-victimised, worry declines over time; among those who are re-victimised, worry remains elevated or increases further. Similar, though less consistent, patterns appear for feelings of neighbourhood unsafety. We interpret these findings as more consistent with a coping perspective than with vulnerability accounts alone: avoidance may function not only as a marker of vulnerability, but also as an effort to manage threat and restore control. Re-victimisation may therefore disrupt not just perceived safety, but the behavioural strategy adopted to contain fear.

The psychosocial consequences of bias-motivated victimisation *Joachim Häfele, Police Academy of Lower Saxony/Institute for Crime and Security Research; Eva Maria Groß, Hochschule Polizei Hamburg; Florian Kaiser, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law; Antonia Helena Hock, Max-Planck-Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law; Dietrich Oberwittler, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law*

Bias-motivated offences, often referred to as 'hate crimes' or 'bias crimes', are directed against individuals on the basis of their actual or perceived group affiliation. As 'statement crimes', they convey intimidation beyond the immediate victim and have a collective signalling effect. In Europe, the number of officially recorded cases has risen significantly in recent years, although it is assumed that many cases go unreported. Despite their high social relevance, few longitudinal studies have examined the psychosocial consequences of bias-motivated victimisation, particularly in German-speaking countries. Addressing this research gap, the present study examines short-term changes following prejudice-motivated threat victimisation in two German cities (Essen and Cologne). Theoretically, the study draws on minority stress theory, general stress theory and approaches to collective and social identity threat. Using a longitudinal design with two panel waves (T1 = 2020; T2 = 2021), changes in emotional and financial stress, subjective well-being, beliefs about control, inter-ethnic orientation, fear of crime and avoidance behaviour are analysed over time. Methodologically, weighting procedures are combined with panel models to identify pre-existing differences and potential selection processes, and to subsequently control for these under explicit model assumptions so as to make approximate causal effect estimates possible. The results suggest, among other things, that victims of prejudice-motivated threats, compared to victims without a prejudice motive, are exposed to cumulative stress or structural violence prior to experiencing victimisation.

165. International Handbook of Juvenile Justice, 3rd Edition

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Juvenile Justice and Children's Rights (Juvenile Justice WG)
Roundtable
5:15 to 6:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.511

This roundtable presents the forthcoming International Handbook of Juvenile Justice (3rd edition), a comprehensive, comparative volume examining juvenile justice systems across 24 countries spanning Africa, Asia, Australasia, North and South America, Western and Eastern Europe, and the Middle East. The handbook provides a globally coordinated framework for understanding how different jurisdictions conceptualize, regulate, and respond to youth offending in rapidly changing social, legal, and technological contexts. Each chapter follows a shared structure to enable systematic comparison. Core themes include the legal status of juveniles and age thresholds, state engagement with international human rights standards, as well as policing practices, court processes, and custodial regimes. The volume also examines alternative sanctions such as restorative justice and diversion, and highlights differential treatment based on gender and other social identities. New to this edition are focused discussions on juvenile justice in times of crisis (including COVID-19, conflict, and natural disasters), the challenges posed by digital environments, and the experiences of especially vulnerable groups, including LGBTQ and indigenous youth. These additions reflect evolving global concerns and emerging areas of scholarly and policy attention. The roundtable will bring together contributing authors to engage in a comparative discussion of key cross-national issues, with particular attention to variations in the age of

criminal responsibility and the balance between welfare and punitive approaches. Rather than presenting individual papers, participants will act as discussants, fostering an interactive exchange on similarities, divergences, and future directions in juvenile justice research and reform.

Chairs:

Nerea Marteache, California State University San Bernardino

Alex Trinidad, Department of Sociology and Social Psychology, University of Cologne

Discussants:

Catalina Droppelmann, Pontificia Universidad Catolica Chile

Karin Bruckmüller, Sigmund Freud Private University

Maria Kopeć, University of Warsaw

Anette Storgaard, University of Aarhus, Denmark

Mojca M. Plesničar, Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law Ljubljana

166. EUROC Panel 5. Environmental and State-Corporate Crimes

Topic 2: Types of Offending/White collar Crime, Organizational Crime, Corporate Crime, Financial Crime (EUROC)

Paper Session

5:15 to 6:30 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.516

Chair:

Lea Marike Sitkin, University of Westminster

Participants:

Beached by Design: Organizing End-of-Life Harm in Shipbreaking *Lieselot Bisschop, Erasmus University Rotterdam; Karin van Wingerde, Erasmus University Rotterdam*

As seagoing vessels reach the end of their operational lifespan, they become waste that must be responsibly managed. Although international legal frameworks prescribe safe and environmentally sound recycling, many end of life vessels end up on shipbreaking beaches — tidal zones in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan where ships are run aground and dismantled. These sites lack adequate infrastructure for waste management and expose workers to toxic materials such as asbestos and heavy metals, while the pollution contributes to long term soil, (ground)water and marine pollution. Although an extensive legal framework regulates the transboundary movement of hazardous waste and the appropriate recycling of ships, numerous reports by NGOs, international organizations, and investigative journalists as well as court rulings reveal that vessels with European ownership or involvement continue to be dismantled on these beaches. This raises questions about how – and by whom - this practice is organized and enabled. Drawing on signal cases involving ships with European ownership or involvements, and on interviews with experts in law enforcement and civil society, this paper examines illegal shipbreaking as a process rather than a single event. We trace the organizational and legal steps that precede the shipbreaking by beaching. Our analysis identifies common patterns between the cases that allow circumventing or exploiting regulatory regimes, thereby displacing environmental and labor harms. It makes visible the broader structural conditions that – by design - enable harm in global supply chains.

Export Credit Agencies as Instruments of Regimes of Permission: Regulatory Gaps and the State-Corporate Facilitation of Harms *Annika van Baar, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; Floor Elize Knoote, Dimes Consultancy*

Export Credit Agencies (ECAs) provide billions of dollars in government-backed financing for international trade, yet they largely operate outside the anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing (AML-CFT) frameworks (and related due diligence practices) that govern other financial institutions. This article examines how ECAs can be understood as instruments of 'regimes of permission' (Whyte, 2014): the regulatory arrangements through which states enable corporate activity while limiting accountability for resulting harms. Drawing on qualitative research—including a comparative legal analysis of four ECAs (Netherlands, Italy, Australia, United Kingdom), 20 semi-structured interviews with compliance professionals, policymakers and civil society actors, and documentary analysis—supplemented by historical analysis of ECA development since the post-World War I era, the article traces how ECAs acquired and maintained their exceptional regulatory status. The Mozambique LNG case, involving Dutch ECA Atradius DSB and dredging company Van Oord, serves as a case study of how regimes of permission operate in practice: ECA-backed operations continued in a region affected by terrorist attacks, with due diligence structured towards approval rather than critical risk assessment. In France, TotalEnergies (as the main actor in this project) is accused at a criminal court for complicity in war crimes, torture and enforced disappearances, showing how financial crime risks link to atrocities and human rights violations. The article argues that existing regulatory gaps are not oversight but reflect deliberate policy choices and developments that position ECAs as key instruments of capital accumulation. The article contributes to criminological understanding of state-corporate facilitation of harm and calls for reconceptualising ECAs as gatekeepers within crime prevention frameworks.

Profiting from London's Homeless *Lea Marike Sitkin, University of Westminster*

Homelessness is a serious and growing problem in London, driven by ever-rising house- and rental- prices, and the loss of social housing. Today, one in 50 households is homeless across the capital. The epicentre of the homelessness crisis is Newham, East London, where 1 in 20 households, and 1 in 11 children, are homeless. Using the case study of Donald Hunter House within Newham, East London the article discusses the temporary accommodation sector, through which individuals and families are housed while they await more permanent housing solutions. It reveals a new way of profiting from London's housing crisis - the economic management of the homeless. Temporary accommodation has become a highly lucrative market, for local housing management companies contracting with local authorities, as well as

for the multinational real-estate corporations and investors who own the buildings and capture profit from rising land values driven largely by government investment. Meanwhile, families are housed in substandard – even dangerous – conditions, and the local authority is on the brink of bankruptcy. These dynamics are enabled by a policy regime that produces homelessness while simultaneously facilitating profit extraction by local and transnational corporate actors. While recent regulatory reforms have successfully modernised the mechanisms of extraction through better reporting and tax capture, it simultaneously preserves the core logic of a harmful system that profits from a state-induced housing crisis. This constitutes a sophisticated form of state-facilitated corporate crime-as-harm, where the "crude" evasion of the past has been replaced by an institutionalised, transparent, but still exploitative global circuit of capital.

167. Corruption (EUROC)

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Corruption (EUROC)
Paper Session
5:15 to 6:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.517
Chair:
Ruben Timmerman, Erasmus University Rotterdam
Participants:

Mapping Structural Corruption Risk in the EU: Conflict of Interest and Undue Influence *Phillip William Screen, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore / Transcrime; Michele Riccardi, Transcrime - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore; Clara Rondani, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore; Gabriele Pironato, Universita Cattolica del Sacro Cuore / Transcrime*

Corruption is frequently examined through a narrow lens focused on illicit exchanges involving money, favours, or other tangible benefits. This study adopts a broader perspective, treating corruption as an umbrella concept that also encompasses structural conditions capable of generating risk without necessarily involving illegal acts. Two such conditions are examined: conflict of interest and undue influence. Conflict of interest is operationalised as overlaps between politically exposed persons (PEPs) and corporate ownership, while undue influence is captured through foreign ownership originating from selected jurisdictions of interest. By shifting attention from detected offences to underlying structural configurations, the study assesses how patterns of political and foreign ownership may signal corruption risk. The analysis relies on a quantitative, indicator-based approach using firm-level ownership data for 2023. Information is drawn primarily from Orbis, complemented by LexisNexis data to identify PEPs and ownership structures. Firms are flagged as potentially exposed to conflict of interest when linked to at least one PEP, and to undue influence when ownership originates from predefined foreign jurisdictions. Indicators are aggregated across EU Member States and disaggregated by NUTS regions and NACE sectors, allowing spatial and sectoral mapping of structural vulnerabilities. Preliminary findings suggest that PEP-linked ownership is relatively uncommon but concentrated in specific sectors and territories. Higher exposure appears in regulated and politically sensitive sectors, including gambling, energy, and finance, particularly in economically central regions. These patterns suggest clustering rather than random distribution. Overall, the study demonstrates how conflict of interest and undue influence can be measured as structural risk conditions, offering scalable indicators for monitoring corruption vulnerabilities and informing EU Rule of Law policy.

The role of AID systems in the fight against organised crime: a preliminary analysis *Beatrice Rigon, School of International Studies, University of Trento | Centre of Security and Crime Sciences, University of Trento and University of Verona; Gabriele Baratto, Faculty of Law, University of Trento | Centre of Security and Crime Sciences, University of Trento and University of Verona; Andrea Di Nicola, Associate professor of criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Trento, and director of the Centre of Security and Crime Sciences (University of Trento and University of Verona); Bianca Donati, Centre of Security and Crime Sciences, University of Trento and University of Verona; Beatrice Pattaro, University of Trento, Faculty of Law | Centre of Security and Crime Sciences, University of Trento and University of Verona*

In recent years, asset and interest disclosure (AID) systems have emerged as one of the most popular multi-purpose tools to prevent corruption. Indeed, their implementation is strongly recommended by international and European sources, including the most recent proposal for a EU Directive and its subsequent modifications. Leveraging their close interconnectedness, effective anti-corruption also serves as a crucial contributor in the fight against organised crime. Nevertheless, it remains unclear whether AID systems currently implemented in Europe are adequately structured to prevent the corruption of public officials by organised crime. The paper aims to determine whether the emerging trends and modi operandi of criminal organisations in this field are addressed by the features of existing AID systems. The analysis will draw from a systematic and in-depth mapping of the state of implementation of AID systems across Europe, based on the results of an online survey conducted in 19 Member and Candidate States, to strengthen their potential as preventive measures in the fight against organised crime.

Negotiating Governance, Corruption, and Impotence in the Amazonian Goldmines of Colombia and Suriname *Esmée Hubbard van den Driest, Utrecht University; Valentina Esconjauregui Caro, Utrecht University*

South American states are facing a legitimacy crisis stemming from persistent failures in addressing issues such as the ever-evolving underground economies, systemic corruption, and the criminalization of marginalized groups. States investing in punitive, militarized policies, rather than in prevention mechanisms and social services fosters innovation in underground economies. A punitive approach, while politically expedient is both indefensible and counterproductive as it departs from the inherent rights

of citizenship and territoriality of local communities. The post-COVID gold rush in the Amazonian region illustrates how an increase in revenue from gold mining can be accompanied by significant legitimacy concerns across the board. Colombia and Suriname reflect two sides of the same coin: weak government regulation, criminalization of small-scale, artisanal gold mining, and a growing presence of foreign actors extracting precious metal from indigenous lands. This results in the depletion of natural resources while maintaining a system that ignores environmental and health hazards at the local level. While Colombia faces corruption at all levels of the mining industry, Suriname is stuck in an impotent loop, where regulation and control are largely absent. Building on the concept of state-organised crime, this article examines the role of the state as a harbinger of harm through a new typology of state crime. Two case studies contrast and explore different punitive security policies in Colombian and Surinamese mining regions, illustrating 'corrupt and 'impotent' states. This paper discusses the implications of power, governance through negotiated citizenship, and state-making in remote regions of the world's largest tropical rainforest.

The Connection between Grand Corruption and International Armed Conflict: the Case of Ukraine *Helena Maria Habraken, PhD Student*

This research explores how grand corruption impacts on (inter)national security, within the context of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It shows the role played by grand corruption in its critical form of state capture in influencing and shaping economic, political and security relationships between these countries and how this may have contributed to and sustained conflict. Furthermore, the research studies efforts to achieve accountability for this economic crime through examining domestic and extraterritorial proceedings. This way the research will hopefully contribute to (re)conceptualising the connection between grand corruption and conflict. It will also more broadly describe and assess investigational and prosecutorial approaches towards addressing these crimes, which are being perpetrated in a climate of pervasive impunity for those with senior responsibility for conflict-related crimes - both international and economic crimes. The research is grounded in the critical criminology framework in order to examine this connection and uses case studies to build explanations for the phenomenon of grand corruption and how this erodes state structures and more importantly state security and sovereignty. While the first case study examines how state capture contributed to and facilitated the annexation of the Crimea, the second one focuses on grand corruption as a factor in sustaining the occupation of a Southeastern Region of Kherson. The research will apply thematic and network analysis in identifying and interpreting multiple sources of data, including current and contemporaneous court documentation and semi-structured interviews of experts and investigative practitioners. The contribution will present and discuss my research, currently in its second year, highlighting findings from both desk research and the initial data collection process, which is currently being carried out in Ukraine.

'I don't trust anyone anymore': Work, corruption, and drug trafficking in the Port of Rotterdam *Ruben Timmerman, Erasmus University Rotterdam*

The Port of Rotterdam serves as a central gateway for the flow of both licit and illicit goods into Europe. As one of the world's largest seaports and a major logistical hub, it functions as an important economic engine and a significant source of employment. At the same time, it also serves as a major point of entry for the cocaine trade into Europe. In this setting, port workers play a key role in providing information and access to port areas and infrastructure used for drug trafficking. Due to the increasing securitisation of the port in recent decades, workers have come to play an increasingly indispensable role in the movement of illicit goods through the port. This research examines the role of port workers in drug trafficking through the Port of Rotterdam. Drawing on interviews with private companies and workers across a range of port-based industries, combined with observational data and analysis of criminal investigation files, it explores how cocaine trafficking is embedded in ordinary working conditions, labour processes, and (social) relations of production in the port. It further analyses how port workers perceive and experience the risks and opportunities associated with crime, as well as the strategies used by criminal actors to exploit or infiltrate ordinary workplaces. The study situates these findings within broader labour market and political-economic processes, including evolving working conditions, technological transformation, and industrial relations.

168. Understanding Green Harms: Integrating Theory, Culture, and Experience

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Environmental/Green Criminology

Paper Session

5:15 to 6:30 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.610

Chair:

Holly Austin, Deakin University

Participants:

The Nemo Effect: Animated Films and Their Impact on the Illegal Wildlife Trade *Monica Pons-Hernandez, University of Bergen*

Biodiversity loss is accelerating worldwide, with wildlife trade and trafficking constituting a significant contributing factor. While mass media are often regarded as potential allies in conservation efforts, portrayals of wildlife in popular films may also generate unintended consequences by increasing demand for certain species. This presentation examines the role of animated films in shaping public perceptions of wildlife and their subsequent implications for conservation and unsustainable trade. Through the case studies of Finding Nemo, Rio, and Zootopia, the article analyses how cinematic representations can educate the public on biodiversity conservation and animal welfare, but also can inadvertently stimulate wildlife trafficking and unsustainable trade. By highlighting the complex relationship between conservation, popular culture, and

consumer behaviour, this study contributes to a more nuanced understanding of the media's role in wildlife trafficking and conservation.

Mass tourism from an eco-criminological perspective *Aleksandra Nowak, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn; Wiesław Pływaczewski, Uniwersytet Warmińsko Mazurski w Olsztynie; Monika Kotowska, Uniwersytet Warmińko-Mazurski w Olsztynie; Natalia Dąbkowska, Uniwersytet Warmińsko-Mazurski w Olsztynie*

Mass tourism is one of the most distinctive features of modern civilisation, reflecting growing prosperity and changing human needs. The tourism industry is one of the most important and fastest-growing sectors of the global economy, and also serves as evidence of deepening globalisation processes. Demand for tourism services is growing, and people are seeking increasingly extreme experiences. Tourism has already reached outer space and the depths of the sea, yet the uniqueness of modern tourist destinations is not the most characteristic feature of the tourism industry. The most distinctive feature of modern tourism is its mass nature. Due to such large-scale tourism, the large concentration of tourists in one place and at one time, and the intensive exploitation of the natural environment, the phenomenon of mass tourism and its impact on the emergence of various types of conflict and environmental strain should be subjected to criminological analysis. In recent decades, negative phenomena such as tourist crime and vandalism against cultural and natural heritage have also intensified, which is also linked to the dynamic development of tourism. Mass tourism therefore causes not only direct environmental damage, but also indirect damage resulting from the degradation of natural capital and pressure on water resources, air and habitats. The aim of this presentation is to provide a comprehensive overview of tourism as a complex aspect of social life, in the context of various threats, including those that are the subject of eco-criminological research.

Causal Mechanisms and Theoretical Integration in the Study of Illicit E-Waste Trade *Amélie Jeanneret, Université de Lausanne, Ecole des Sciences criminelles; Stefano Caneppele, University of Lausanne*

The illicit trade of electronic and electrical waste (e-waste) has emerged as a significant transnational environmental crime, embedded in global commodity chains and shaped by regulatory asymmetries, economic incentives, and uneven enforcement capacities. Despite its clear relevance for criminology, existing research remains fragmented across disciplines and often lacks systematic theoretical integration. This paper addresses this gap through a scoping review that examines how illicit e-waste trade has been conceptually explained within the literature. Following PRISMA-ScR guidelines, the review synthesizes 58 studies identified through a systematic search across major academic databases and grey literature sources. A structured coding matrix was developed to analyze theoretical grounding and explanatory orientation, distinguishing between explicit and implicit theoretical frameworks, as well as descriptive, exploratory, and explanatory contributions. Particular attention is given to the causal mechanisms identified across studies. The findings suggest that explicit criminological theorization remains limited. Where explanatory frameworks are present, studies draw on a diverse set of perspectives, including green criminology, organized crime theory, routine activity theory, rational choice approaches, state-corporate crime frameworks, and regulatory criminology. Yet, a small number of dominant frameworks account for a substantial share of explanatory efforts, while others remain marginal or only sporadically applied. Additionally, they point to a convergence of interrelated drivers, however often addressed in isolation rather than integrated into cumulative explanatory models. The literature further reveals a tendency toward descriptive analyses, with relatively few studies systematically examining causal relationships or testing theoretical propositions. By mapping the explanatory logics underpinning existing research, this study contributes to environmental criminology and the broader study of illicit markets by clarifying the current state of theoretical development. It highlights the need for more explicit, integrated, and empirically grounded frameworks capable of capturing the complexity of illicit e-waste trade as a socially organized and adaptive market phenomenon.

Temporal Solastalgia *Holly Austin, Deakin University*

Contemporary criminological and environmental discourses increasingly recognise the affective dimensions of ecological degradation; however, appropriate language to capture these experiences in regions of water insecurity remains limited. While solastalgia has been widely used to describe place-based emotional distress, it is often conceptualised as a static or event-bound condition. This article introduces a new framework that reconceptualises solastalgia as a temporal and recursive process of grief. Drawing on and extending existing distinctions between anticipatory and anticipated forms of solastalgia, the framework positions ecological distress as unfolding across time through cycles of loss, partial recovery, and renewed degradation. Situated within a hydro-political lens, the article draws on case studies from the Murray–Darling Basin in Australia, demonstrating how governance structures, unequal water distribution and climate change contribute to experiences of water insecurity and ecological harm. In advancing this temporal model of solastalgia, the article contributes an understanding of ecological grief as dynamic, cyclical, and politically mediated, offering new insights into solastalgia, water justice and environmental harm.

169. Community Sanctions 5: Youth, Gender and Community Sanctions

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Community Sanctions (Community Sanctions WG)

Paper Session

5:15 to 6:30 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.611

Chair:

Hannah Katie Shackleton, University of Leeds

Participants:

Beyond recidivism risk: Identifying profiles of youth on

probation based on patterns of risk and protective factors *Ashley Parren, GGzE, De Catamaran (Hospital for Youth Forensic Psychiatry and Orthopsychiatry), the Netherlands; PhD Candidate, Tilburg University, (Tranzo).; Ilja Bongers, Mental Health Care Institute Eindhoven & Tilburg University; André van der Laan, WODC (Research and Data Centre), the Netherlands / Leiden Law School, University of Leiden, the Netherlands; Chijs Van Nieuwenhuizen, Tilburg University & GGzE, Mental Health Care Institute Eindhoven*

Adolescents under youth probation are typically assessed and managed based on structured estimates of recidivism risk. However, adolescents with similar risk levels may differ in their psychosocial functioning, needs, and life circumstances. As a result, relying on aggregated risk scores alone may obscure important differences that are critical for effective supervision and intervention. This study therefore aims to identify distinct profiles of adolescents under probation by examining how risk and protective factors cluster within individuals. Data were used from 3,224 adolescents aged 12 to 18 years (M = 15.55, SD = 1.27) who received a youth probation measure in the Netherlands between 2020 and 2021. Profiles were derived using a risk-assessment instrument (Ritax). A latent class analysis was conducted on 21 risk and protective factors. Four distinct profiles were identified: (1) a moderate risk profile with mixed contextual and behavioural characteristics (34%), (2) a high-risk profile characterized by pervasive antisocial behaviour, limited parental control, and emotional dysregulation (29%), (3) a low-risk, highly protected profile with strong parental control, limited school problems, and predominantly prosocial functioning (22%), and (4) a profile marked by emotional vulnerability and adverse experiences (16%). Importantly, the profiles differed not only in overall risk levels, but also in offense severity, prior justice system involvement, contact with support services, and rates of out-of-home placement and child protection involvement. Notably, adolescents in the low-risk profile were more often involved in serious and sexual offenses, indicating that offense severity does not necessarily align with assessed psychosocial risk. These findings suggest that adolescents under probation differ in ways that are not fully captured by aggregate risk levels alone. Identifying profiles based on patterns of risk and protective factors provides a more nuanced understanding of this population and may support more tailored probation practices

Carrying the Cognitive Load: Women's Experiences on Probation in Maryland *Rachel Ellis, University of Maryland*

Probation is the most prevalent form of punishment in the United States and is increasingly viewed as a driver of inequality. However, existing scholarship on the harms of probation has not paid sufficient attention to its cognitive dimensions. Drawing on 50 original interviews with women currently on probation in Baltimore City, Maryland, USA, this paper illuminates a novel mechanism of inequality brought about by probation: the cognitive labor of being surveilled. Women seeking to successfully navigate probation conditions describe the costly mental toll of anticipating negative encounters with their probation officers. In an unexpected role reversal, many women on probation described having to "track down" their probation officer, monitor their own progress, and create a "paper trail" to document their compliance. In an emerging era of mass surveillance, the theoretical contribution of this paper places probation within the larger context of neoliberal poverty governance to shine new light on gendered, racialized, and class-based implications for cognitive inequality stemming from criminal justice contact.

Community-Based Sanctions and Measures for Youth in the Netherlands: Development and Gender Differences *Charis van der Pligt, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR); Evelien Hoeben, NSCR & Utrecht University; Maria Berghuis, Research and Data Centre (WODC); André van der Laan, WODC (Research and Data Centre), the Netherlands / Leiden Law School, University of Leiden, the Netherlands; Beate Volker, NSCR*

In line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), there has been a shift in recent decades in juvenile justice systems across Western countries away from more formal prosecution and custodial sanctions towards more community-based sanctions and diversion measures. In the current research, the diversion measure Halt and community sanctions in the Netherlands are examined to understand their developments and the intended and unintended consequences. This is part of a large longitudinal research program in the Netherlands (SANCTION study, 2024-2029) which collects survey and register data on a cohort of youths (and their parents/caregivers) and a cohort of adults who received a community-based sanction or measure. The development of community-based sanctions and measures for youth is researched through a literature review of academic papers, evaluation reports, parliamentary documents, policy papers, and reports from the enforcement organisations. We identified three overarching consequences of these developments: (1) the increasing bureaucratisation and standardisation of sanctions may hamper possibilities to tailor to individual needs; (2) net-widening of sanctions and corresponding expanded stigmatisation; and (3) despite the explicit resocialisation and pedagogical aims of these sanctions and measures, these are hardly ever included in evaluations, undermining efforts to assess whether these aims are met and hampering evidence-based policy. Further, through analysis of register data, the different groups of youth who are assigned the diversion measure Halt or community sanctions are examined. We examine potential disparities in sanction allocation, investigating whether demographic characteristics like gender shape youth trajectories through the system. This analysis investigates a potentially unintended consequence of these sanctions and interventions, namely reinforcing existing social inequalities.

Through the Eyes of Justice-Involved Youth: Insights into the Community Sanction Order and Diversion Measure in the Netherlands *Anke Ramakers, The Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law enforcement; Maria Berghuis, Research and Data Centre (WODC)*

Community sanctions and measures are an increasingly important sentencing instrument in many countries, both in adult- and juvenile criminal justice systems. The appeal of non-custodial alternatives lies in their potential to produce fewer adverse effects than sanctions imposed in carceral settings. They are expected to be less intrusive, less stigmatizing and more likely to promote reintegration. Yet, especially for youth, such fundamental questions remain unanswered as research is scarce, fragmented and rarely reflects young people's own perspectives. This study explores the views of a large group of youths who recently started a community service order or diversion measure (Halt) in the Netherlands. It examines how they engage with their sanction, by using survey data on their motivation to carry out the sanction, their understanding of its underlying punishment goals, and the extent to which they are open about their criminal record. The survey data come from a large longitudinal research program in the Netherlands (SANCTION study, 2024-2029). In this program, a cohort of youths (and their parents/caregivers) and a cohort of adults are followed over time to gain insight into the decision-making, implementation, and consequences of various community sanctions and measures. Preliminary findings on youths' views of their sanction and policy implications will be presented, followed by a discussion of future research directions and potential collaborations.

Probation and Partnership-Working: Experiences of Desistance from Crime in CFO Activity Hubs *Hannah Katie Shackleton, University of Leeds*

The probation service in England and Wales has undergone profound transformation, shifting from its welfare oriented ethos of "advise, assist, befriend" to a system increasingly dominated by managerialism, risk governance, and performance metrics. This transformation has produced a model of mass supervision where compliance often overshadows relational, rehabilitative work. Structural pressures intensified following the failed part privatisation of probation in 2014 and reunification in 2021, contributing to staff shortages, excessive workloads and ethical stress (HMI Probation, 2019). In response, national attention has turned toward localism, with the Chief Inspector of Probation advocating, stronger relationships between 'local authority housing and social service departments; local mental health trusts; and local drug and alcohol services' (HMIP, 2023:8). Within this context, CFO Activity Hubs have emerged as community based initiatives designed to support social inclusion, skills development, and inter agency collaboration. As voluntary spaces, they are seemingly positioned both to alleviate some of the operational strain on probation services and to reintroduce more rehabilitative, partnership led approaches. These developments intersect directly with desistance theory. Research indicates that hub style environments can offer the social inclusion, prosocial relationships, routine, and sense of belonging that underpin desistance processes (Phillips et al., 2020; Albertson et al., 2020; Phillips et al., 2024). Yet probation practice has often framed needs as individual deficits, giving less attention to the role of community partners as enablers of change (Albertson et al., 2020). Although research on Activity Hubs remains limited, their strengths based ethos, voluntary engagement, and emphasis on building social capital align closely with evidence on what supports long term desistance (McNeill, 2012). This presentation brings these threads together, drawing on early findings from a five month ethnographic fieldwork, situating Activity Hubs within probation's broader organisational crisis and examining their potential to foster more desistance led practice.

170. Assessment, Treatment and Confinement in Forensic Settings

Topic 3: Crime Correlates/Mental Health
Paper Session
5:15 to 6:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.617
Chair:
Lucia Fernandez Fernandez, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Participants:

Exploring Concordance and Divergences Between Clinical and Forensic Psychiatric Diagnoses: An Italian Retrospective Observational Study *Emma Flutti, Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele; Michele Prato, Università Vita Salute San Raffaele; Giulia Moretti, Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele; Guido Travaini, Vita-Salute S. Raffaele University*

Forensic psychiatric evaluations are an important part of judicial processes, yet concerns remain about how reliable and consistent diagnostic assessments are when carried out in different contexts. In this study we examined the overlap and differences between psychiatric diagnoses assigned during routine clinical practice and those reported in forensic evaluations of offenders in Italy. We conducted a retrospective observational study including individuals with mental disorders who had committed criminal acts and for whom both clinical documentation and forensic reports were available. Clinical diagnoses were systematically compared with the forensic conclusions, and we also explored whether socio-demographic or clinical features were associated with discrepancies. Concordance was evaluated using standard measures of agreement, while regression models were applied to test potential predictors of divergent outcomes. The rationale of this study is to address a gap in the literature, since only few studies have systematically explored the degree of concordance between clinical and forensic psychiatric diagnoses, in order to provide preliminary evidence that could guide future research and help address methodological and ethical challenges in forensic psychiatric practice.

AI-Enabled Mental Health Screening in Forensic Settings: A Feasibility Study *Dion Glass, University of Portsmouth*

The identification and assessment of mental health needs within custodial environments remains a persistent challenge across criminal justice systems. Existing screening practices are often constrained by time, resource limitations, and variability in administration, raising concerns about consistency, accuracy, and scalability. These limitations have significant implications for offender wellbeing, risk management, and the effective delivery of intervention pathways. This paper presents a feasibility study for an AI-driven mental health screening tool designed for use in forensic and prison settings. The system employs a structured, storyboard-based assessment framework aligned with DSM-5-TR and ICD-11 diagnostic criteria. Rather than relying solely on conventional questionnaire formats, the tool guides users through adaptive, scenario-based pathways that capture behavioural, cognitive, and emotional response patterns. This design enables a more dynamic and standardised approach to screening across diverse custodial populations. The paper outlines the conceptual architecture of the system, including its decision-tree logic, adaptive branching mechanisms, and integration of clinically recognised diagnostic indicators. It further situates the tool within contemporary developments in digital mental health and forensic assessment, highlighting its potential to enhance early identification of psychological vulnerabilities and support more consistent triage processes within prison environments. Key ethical and operational considerations are addressed, including data governance, algorithmic transparency, user consent, and the necessity of maintaining clinical oversight in AI-supported assessment processes. The study also reflects on implementation challenges within custodial contexts, including issues of accessibility, trust, and institutional integration. By combining behavioural science with artificial intelligence, this research contributes to emerging discussions and the role of technology in reshaping mental health assessment and support within the criminal justice system. The findings offer a foundation for future empirical validation and the development of scalable, ethically grounded screening solutions.

International Adaptation of Problem-Solving Skills (IAPPS trial) training for people in custody with severe mental illness in Poland:an open multicentred, parallel group, feasibility randomised controlled trial *MAJA ZAWADZKA, University of Justice*

The mental health of people incarcerated in prison is recognized as a worldwide public health concern. People residing in prison experience a disproportionate level of mental health problems, (particularly major depression self-harm and anti-social violent behaviour) than in the general population. Isolation and boredom within prisons are linked to poor mental health and can lead to an increased likelihood of problems becoming exacerbated. Internationally over the last five years, prisons have reported an unprecedented rise in the incidence of violent assaults and suicidal behaviours, and the co-morbidity between these elements are well documented. Mental health problems are more common among prison population,so that is really important to undertake professional actions.The link between use of problem-solving skills and symptoms of depression, self-harm and/or violent behaviour is acknowledged in the literature as many cite the immediate cause of such behaviour as a problem or recognised problems in prisoners lives. For these reasons, the simplicity of the skills, and the brief nature of the delivery mode of delivery lends itself to supporting people in custody where they experience complex problems and resources for individualised therapy are scarce. This is the first feasibility RCT to examine the recruitment,follow-up, and completion of measures to a brief training for adult males with mental health problems in two Polish prisons.Results showed promising recruitment rates and retention to the intervention delivery.

When time drags: Exploring indefinite sanctions from below, between resignation and resistance. *Valentin Refondini, Université de Lausanne - Ecole des sciences criminelles*

Our contribution aims to discuss the initial reflections and analytical perspectives emerging from an ethnographic study conducted within an open establishment in Switzerland specialized in the treatment of mental disorders for inmates placed under the special regime of institutional therapeutic measures. Through the critical lens of the researcher and the use of observational narratives, this study seeks to capture and convey the perspectives of both those who live within the institution and those who sustain its daily operations. This institution serves a highly specific transitional role, bridging the gap between closed environments and placements in facilities less focused on penal measures. A key focus of our inquiry is how time is experienced and made sense of within the institution, exploring how residents navigate the passage of time between forms of resignation and resistance. This intervention calls for a broader understanding of confinement, which is frequently equated with incarceration, and sheds light on an institution implementing penal measures in an open setting. It aims to render visible a population that remains largely rendered invisible and perceived as outside the system due to their placement beyond prison walls, yet still deeply embedded within the structures of the criminal justice system.

What Works? A Systematic Review of Interventions Aimed at Reducing Patient-Perpetrated Aggression in Healthcare Settings *Lucia Fernandez Fernandez, Vrije Universiteit Brussel; Iris Steenhout, Vrije Universiteit Brussel; Ronald Buyl, Vrije Universiteit Brussel*

Introduction and aim Aggression in healthcare settings remains a persistent problem and can lead to negative consequences for healthcare workers, including burnout, reduced self-esteem, and psychological trauma. Various interventions have been developed to reduce or prevent aggression toward healthcare personnel but the problem persists. This systematic review aims to identify and synthesize interventions designed to reduce or prevent aggression perpetrated by patients or their relatives (Type II workplace violence) toward healthcare staff. Methode A systematic

literature search was conducted in PubMed, Web of Science, PsycINFO, and the Cochrane Library. Studies were eligible if they evaluated an intervention aimed at reducing aggression perpetrated by patients or their relatives in healthcare settings. The inclusion criteria were intentionally broad to capture a wide range of interventions. To keep it as relevant as possible all articles older than 5 years were excluded. Systematic reviews and studies examining other types of workplace aggression were excluded. In total, 3567 articles were retrieved and screened, resulting in 18 studies meeting the inclusion criteria. Results Data extraction and analysis are currently ongoing and should be finalised in July. Preliminary observations suggest that the majority of identified interventions focus on de-escalation training for healthcare staff and the use of violence risk assessment tools. Additionally, most studies appear to be conducted within hospital settings. Conclusion This systematic review will provide an overview of interventions aimed at reducing aggression toward healthcare personnel. The findings are expected to contribute to a better understanding of existing preventive strategies and inform future research for a effective implementation in healthcare settings.

171. WG-PLACE 3 - Crime prevention, guardianship, and governance of risky places

Topic 3: Crime Correlates/Neighborhoods and Crime (WG on Space and Crime)
Paper Session
5:15 to 6:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.012
Chair:
Jon Bannister, Manchester Metropolitan University
Participants:

Under surveillance in Krakow – to what extent does CCTV deter offenders? *Agnieszka Polończyk-Sudoł, Institute of Security Studies and Computer Sciences, University of the National Education Commission, Krakow*

The objective of this study was to assess the impact of video surveillance on the spatial distribution and intensity of crime in the city of Krakow. The analysis encompassed the entire urban area, with particular focus on a selected district equipped with 44 CCTV cameras. Crimes committed in public spaces and recorded by the police in this district between 2021 and 2025 were examined. The study began with a quantitative overview of crime in the analyzed area. Subsequently, kernel density estimation was employed to investigate changes in the spatial distribution of criminal activity within the district over the study period. The findings indicated a noticeable decline in crime shortly after the installation of surveillance cameras, followed by a gradual return to levels close to those observed prior to their implementation. Additionally, the study provided insights into the spatial range within which surveillance cameras may influence potential offenders. The results were interpreted in relation to established criminological theories.

Sacred but Vulnerable: Routine Activities and Situational Risks in Religious Spaces *Marco Dugato, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore - Transcrime; Alessandro Corti, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore; Chiara Corini, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore*

This study advances an environmental criminology perspective on the security of places of worship by moving beyond the dominant focus on extremism and hate crime. Religious sites are considered as everyday activity nodes where routine opportunity structures shape exposure to non-ideological offences. Drawing on situational crime prevention and Routine Activity Theory, the analysis examines how patterns of guardianship, accessibility, and spatial organisation influence victimisation risks. Empirically, the study combines a media-based dataset of about 1000 incidents affecting places of worship in Italy (2020–2025) with qualitative insights from religious leaders, practitioners, and public authorities involved in the EU-funded PARTESS-COM project. Findings indicate that most incidents are opportunistic and low-skill, with theft and vandalism predominating. These events cluster around recurring situational vulnerabilities, including limited supervision, ambiguous access control, and weak territorial definition. The study highlights the potential of situational and community-based prevention measures as scalable, cost-effective strategies.

The Ethics of Police Resource Allocation: Spatial–Temporal Inequalities, Prioritisation, and Legitimacy (WG-Place) *Jon Bannister, Manchester Metropolitan University; Monsuru Adepeju, Manchester Metropolitan University, M15 6BH, United Kingdom*

Policing operates under persistent resource constraints, making equal responses to all incidents unattainable. Yet public confidence in policing is fundamentally shaped by the perceived equality and consistency of responses to calls-for-service. Contemporary prioritisation frameworks, such as Threat–Harm–Risk (THR) models, are designed to guide decision-making under constraint, but may generate unintended inequalities in police response across space and time. These inequalities risk reinforcing uneven exposure to crime and differential service provision, with important implications for public trust, confidence, and satisfaction. This paper develops a conceptual framework for the ethics of policing under resource scarcity, explicitly linking spatial–temporal patterns of crime and demand to the legitimacy foundations of policing by consent. We argue that ethical decision-making in policing requires explicit consideration of how resource allocation across places and times shapes both outcomes and public perceptions. Drawing on empirical illustrations using policing demand and crime data, we demonstrate how alternative allocation strategies — based on harm, volume, or risk — can produce divergent patterns of response and, consequently, different implications for legitimacy. The paper highlights the need for ethically informed allocation frameworks that better balance efficiency, equity, and public confidence.

172. Social Media, Deepfakes and Digital Evidence

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Cybercrime (Cybercrime WG)

Paper Session
5:15 to 6:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.110
Chair:
Kristoffer Aagesen, University of Copenhagen
Participants:

Deepfake – new level of social media danger for society and possibility to controlling it *Janusz Bojarski, Nicolaus Copernicus Uniwersity, Department of Criminal Law*

The development of generative AI models and the widespread availability of this technology mean that using such tools no longer requires advanced technical skills or knowledge, and the scale of potential risks has increased. Because these tools can generate images and voices that are strikingly similar to the real thing, fake news is becoming more credible. Much of it is disseminated via social media. This is the second tool on this list that is widely available and requires no advanced knowledge or skills. Therefore, the argument that this leads to a multiplication of opportunities for criminal behavior seems well-founded. An analysis of the types of crimes identified in the relevant literature and by the institutions concerned reveals a wide variety of offenses, ranging from child pornography to "sextortion," accusing someone of conduct or characteristics that could humiliate them in the public eye or expose them to a loss of trust necessary for a given position, profession, or type of activity, and extending to fraud. A report by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) states that spreading false information about the activities of first responders leads to hostile and aggressive behavior toward them. In turn, this aggression can result in crimes against life or health. Importantly, research indicates that the formation of false opinions in society does not stem from a large number of sources of false information, but rather from the mechanisms by which their reach is amplified. In most cases, social media is used to disseminate this type of information. Since deepfakes are an easy tool for committing crimes, or at least for inciting them, how should their harmfulness be limited? It seems that civil or administrative law is insufficient, and that the criminal justice system must take action.

From Screenshots to Forensic Soundness: Bridging Legal Practice and Digital Forensics in the Use of Social Media Evidence *Piotr Lewulis, University of Warsaw; Paweł Waszkiewicz, University of Warsaw, Faculty of Law and Administration*

Social media content is routinely introduced as evidence in criminal and civil proceedings, yet everyday courtroom practice often oscillates between two unsatisfactory poles: technically rigorous but costly forensic acquisition, and inexpensive but potentially manipulable screenshots and printouts. This paper presents the research problem, conceptual framework, and methodological design of an ongoing NCN SONATA project (2024/55/D/HS5/00635) examining how legally relevant online content can be collected and presented in ways that preserve forensic integrity while remaining feasible in routine judicial practice. Rather than proposing a universal procedural model or engaging in comparative legal analysis, the project seeks to develop high-level interdisciplinary principles by identifying, comparing, and gradually harmonising the perspectives of legal practitioners and digital forensic experts. Its central question is how these communities can align their approaches to collecting, analysing, and presenting social media evidence in court. The research is organised in two phases. Phase I consists of semi-structured individual in-depth interviews with legal practitioners and digital forensic specialists, conducted sequentially in order to capture expectations, current practices, perceived constraints, and recommended standards. Phase II uses a Delphi design to transform these qualitative insights into a structured consensus-building process. The presentation outlines the project's conceptual and methodological assumptions and discusses preliminary insights from the first, partly completed phase of expert interviews. It argues that the routine use of social media evidence raises not only technical questions of authenticity and integrity, but also broader criminological questions concerning evidentiary practice, institutional pragmatism, and the administration of justice in digitally saturated societies.

Young People, Social Media and Crime: Prevalence, Platforms and Perpetrators *Michelle Butler, Queen's University Belfast; Dirk Schubotz, Queen's University Belfast*

Increasingly, governments are concerned about young people's exposure to illegal and/or harmful behaviour on social media. These concerns led Australia to ban access to several social media platforms for under-16s, with other countries considering adopting similar measures. Drawing on the experience of Northern Ireland, this paper explores the prevalence of illegal and/or harmful behaviours experienced by 16-year-olds on social media, as well as their views regarding the platform features that may facilitate such behaviours and who the perpetrators of these behaviours tend to be. The Young Life and Times (YLT) 2025 survey was used to gather data on young people's use of social media, experiences of illegal and/or harmful behaviour on social media, as well as their views about the platforms and perpetrators associated with this behaviour. The YLT survey is an annual representative survey of 16-year-olds in Northern Ireland, and the sample size of the 2025 survey consisted of 2,129 16-year-olds. Statistical analysis of the survey responses are presented, as well as a qualitative analysis of the free text survey responses which focus on young people's views about the platforms and perpetrators. These findings are intended to enhance our understanding of young people's exposure to illegal and/or harmful behaviour on social media, as well as inform policy-making and practice in this area.

Social Media Ecologies of Crime – Algorithmic Convergence Spaces and Criminogenic Opportunity Structures Online *Kristoffer Aagesen, University of Copenhagen*

Social media houses markets for diverse types of crime, ranging from illicit drugs, stolen goods, and weapons

to markets for crime-as-a-service and scams. These social media spaces collapse different criminal contexts and crime types into offender convergence spaces where access and opportunity structures are heavily influenced by platform algorithms. Borrowing from the field of ecological psychology, I argue for treating social media spaces, not as objects but as entire ecologies containing multiple, structured objects, areas and other actors. Moreover, these ecological structures are constantly shifting and being restructured by algorithms, which logics are only partially knowable to actors. The structure of these ecologies, and which other agents are encounterable in the space, heavily influence how digitally mediated spaces afford opportunity for crime. Analyzing data from digital ethnography into crime-as-a-service markets on Danish social media, I develop the concept of crime ecologies with the aim of better capturing how social media spaces and affordances shape modern criminal interaction orders. I then discuss these findings and their implications for current understandings on digital drift and criminogenic affordances online.

173. JCJE Sponsored Panel: Research to Response: Academic and Practitioner Perspectives on Today's Cybercrime Challenges

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Cybercrime (Cybercrime WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
5:15 to 6:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.116

This roundtable features a collection of cybercrime experts, practitioner and academic, to discuss the challenges associated with teaching and researching cybercrime. This roundtable is sponsored by the Journal of Criminal Justice Education and based on the upcoming special issue on cybercrime.

Chair:

Catherine Marcum, Appalachian State University

Participants:

Preparing local police units for an intensified approach to online crime: Exploring perceptions, practices, and preconditions *Jurjen Jansen, NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences; Remco Spithoven, Saxion University of Applied Sciences; Nick van der Klok, Saxion University of Applied Sciences; Saskia Westers, NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences; Julia Klopman, Saxion UOAS*

As online crime increasingly affects local communities, police organisations face growing pressure to strengthen their frontline response. While national cyber units have become more established, less is known about the preparedness of local police units; the teams responsible for translating broad cyber strategies into everyday policing practice. This study addresses that gap by examining how local police units in the Netherlands can effectively prepare their personnel for an intensified, locally grounded approach to online crime. The central research question guiding this project is: How can local police units best prepare their officers for a strengthened local approach to online crime? To answer this, we explore two dimensions in this conference contribution. First, we quantitatively analyse how frontline officers currently address online crime in practice, including task allocation, investigative routines, and perceived barriers. Second, we qualitatively examine how future interventions aimed at improving preparedness could potentially be designed and implemented at scale across local police units. Empirically, the study draws on a national survey of community police officers (N = 275), and expert interviews with specialists inside and outside the Netherlands police organisation (N = 10). In this contribution, we will present insights from the ongoing analysis, highlight emerging patterns in frontline needs and practices, and discuss the implications for designing and implementing effective capacity-building interventions within local policing.

Does influence policing reach the right audience? Quasi-experimental evidence on targeting precision in online ad campaigns against phishing *Asier Moneva, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR); The Hague University of Applied Sciences; Joeri Loggen, The Hague University of Applied Sciences; Rutger Leukfeldt, NSCR*

Over the past decade, law enforcement agencies have expanded their use of online influence operations. A well-known strategy involves deploying targeted advertising campaigns on social media platforms and search engines such as Google to deter or divert potential cybercrime offenders. These interventions rest on a fundamental premise: effectiveness depends on reaching the intended audience. Despite the growing use of such prevention strategies, empirical research on targeting effectiveness in influence policing remains scarce. This could result not only in inefficient allocation of public resources but also the design of overly broad or intrusive campaigns that reach unintended audiences. Here we report findings from three consecutive online field experiments assessing whether different keyword-targeting strategies in text-based search engine advertising (broad match, phrase match, and exact match)effectively reach their intended audience. By analyzing ad interaction metrics and the search queries that triggered ad delivery, we show that targeting strategies vary substantially in their precision and that misaligned targeting appears to reach unintended audiences. We discuss how careful targeting can improve both the proportionality and strategic effectiveness of online ad campaigns against cybercrime.

A student-law enforcement model for practical education in digital forensics *Cassandra Dodge, Indiana State University*

As digital devices increasingly proliferate various aspects of life, so too does the need for specialized skills in digital forensics investigation. In this presentation, the Vigo County High Tech Crime Unit serves as a case study for student investigative internships in collaboration with the Vigo County, Indiana Prosecutor's Office.

Policing cybercrime: The underlying politics of multi-agency cybersecurity networks *Marie-Pier Villeneuve-Dubuc, University of Montreal; Chad Whelan, Deakin University; Benoît Dupont, University of Montreal*

Cybercrime policing has increasingly shifted from a

state-centric model to a complex system of multi-agency networks involving law enforcement, private industry, NGOs and transnational organizations. Yet, we still lack empirically grounded understandings of how these networks operate in practice and how political dynamics shape their functioning. This paper examines the structure and dynamics of cybersecurity policing networks through empirical insights from Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the European Union. Building on existing typologies of security networks, it revisits and extends Whelan and Dupont's framework by focusing on collaboration practices, including intelligence sharing, public-private partnerships, and informal exchanges. The presentation highlights that network effectiveness depends on relational factors (e.g., trust, prior ties) and structural constraints (e.g., legal frameworks, access to data). We argue that these networks are inherently political: conflicts between public and private interests, legal restrictions, and asymmetries of power shape information flows, participation, and decision-making. This presentation contributes to ongoing debates by proposing refinements to existing models of cyber-policing networks and outlining a research agenda for comparative, evidence-based studies of multi-agency cybersecurity governance.

Does Organizational Context Matter? An Assessment of Juvenile Probation Officers' Perceptions and Monitoring Practices of Youths' Online Behavior *Julie Krupa, Michigan State University; Thomas J. Holt, Michigan State University; Mackenzi Moran, Michigan State University*

Probation has consistently been the most common disposition for youth referred to juvenile court in the United States (U.S.) and remains a frequent outcome for non-adjudicated youth. Probation allows youth to remain in the community and be connected to constructive or therapeutic activities. At the same time, probation can function as a gateway to confinement if youth fail to comply with the conditions of supervision. The increasing role of technology in youths' lives has significant implications for the supervision of justice-involved youth. Juvenile probation officers are responsible for monitoring youths' compliance with probation conditions, which may include direct restrictions on online activities or indirectly encompass online behavior. Little research has explored how probation staff approach the monitoring of youth's online behavior. Understanding these practices is a critical precursor to identifying best practices and ensuring that supervision aligns with principles of positive youth development. This study examines how organizational factors shape juvenile probation officers' knowledge of and responses to cyber-related behaviors among justice-involved youth. Drawing on survey data from U.S. juvenile justice professionals, the current study assesses the extent to which agency-level characteristics (e.g., policy, training, supervisor support) impact staff perceptions of cyber risk, self-reported knowledge, and the use of online monitoring strategies. Findings aim to identify organizational conditions that support technologically informed supervision practices for justice-involved youth.

174. Synthetic drugs production, organized crime, and violence

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Organized Crime (Organized Crime WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

5:15 to 6:30 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.130

This panel brings together drugs and organized crime scholars from the Netherlands, Sweden, and the US to discuss four highly relevant topics: a crime script analysis of the production of synthetic drugs, the question what caused the decline in fentanyl overdoses in the US, trends in synthetic drugs versus crop-based drug prices in the US, and drug-related homicides in the EU.

Chair:

Edward Kleemans, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Participants:

A crime script analysis of synthetic drug production *Anne Nagtegaal, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; Jasper J. van der Kemp, VU School of Criminology; Edward Kleemans, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; Christianne De Poot, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*

Synthetic drug production remains a persistent challenge for law enforcement and policy makers across Europe and beyond. The criminal networks involved continuously adapt their practices in response to enforcement pressure and market developments. While these characteristics are widely acknowledged, systematic empirical insight into the modus operandi of synthetic drug production remains limited. This presentation discusses a crime script analysis of 189 Dutch court rulings related to the production, processing, and preparation of methamphetamine, amphetamine, and MDMA/XTC. The crime script consists of seven key acts – from arranging location(s) to distribution – and 18 distinct roles, with each act divided in scenes structured across four phases: preparation, pre-activity, activity, and post-activity. Beyond mapping activities and roles, the crime script functions as an analytical framework for exploring the dynamics and organization of synthetic drug production. The findings show that synthetic drug production is a highly interconnected and fluid process, marked by continuous movement of products between locations, significant diversity in production and storage locations, and the frequent processing of multiple drug types at one location. This study provides a comprehensive overview of the crime commission process and offers a foundation for understanding the organization, adaptation, and resilience of the criminal networks involved in synthetic drug crime.

What caused the decline in US fentanyl overdoses? *Peter Reuter, University of Maryland*

Authors: Kasey Vangelov, Keith Humphreys, Jonathan Caulkins, Harold Pollack, Bryce Pardo & Peter Reuter This study examines whether the sharp decline in fentanyl-related overdose deaths in the United States beginning in mid-2023 can be substantially explained by a disruption in illicit drug supply. Drawing on multiple data sources—including drug purity and seizures, as well as social media discussions on

Reddit—we assess evidence for a supply shock in fentanyl markets. Fentanyl purity and overdose death rates declined concurrently after peaking in mid-2023, while law enforcement seizure data also suggest reduced availability. Complementary analysis of Reddit posts reveals a marked increase in discussions of a fentanyl "drought," aligning temporally with these shifts. Cross-national comparisons indicate similar downturns in Canada, whose fentanyl market is supplied by precursors from China and domestic refining. This supports the hypothesis of a shared upstream disruption, potentially linked to controls on precursor chemicals originating in China. While other factors, such as increased access to buprenorphine and to naloxone, may have played an important role. the convergence of indicators across countries and data types is consistent with a significant supply constraint. The findings highlight the potential impact of international precursor regulation. They are not an endorsement of tougher domestic enforcement against drug sellers.

Trends in synthetic versus crop-based drug prices in the U.S. over a 20-year span *Jonathan Caulkins, Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College*

Synthetic as opposed to crop-based illegal drugs are accounting for a larger share of drug-related deaths and other harms. One hypothesis is that synthetic drugs can be cheaper to produce, putting downward pressure on retail prices. Design: Secondary analysis of law enforcement data on U.S. prices for methamphetamine, fentanyl, heroin, cocaine, crack and cannabis. Current prices are based on roughly 10,000 observations reported to the National Drug Price Portal (NDPP), while earlier prices come from National Drug Intelligence Center price reports for 2006, 2008, and 2009-2010. Preliminary Findings: The log-linear model fits well (quantity discounts behave as observed in other analyses). Preliminary analysis finds large price declines for all the major drugs, even before adjusting for inflation, with the largest declines for synthetic drugs. For example, methamphetamine prices per gram fell between 2010 and 2025 by approximately 90% at the wholesale level (from $37 to $4 per gram) and 55% at the retail level (from $100 to $45 per gram). Conclusions: Synthetic drug price declines could help explain greater prevalence and intensity of use. They also fell relative to crop-based drugs, but less dramatically because crop-based drugs' prices also fell substantially. The data here do not permit distinguishing between the possibilities that competition from synthetic drugs caused declines in crop-based drugs' prices, vs. common factors accounting for declines in prices of both types of drugs.

Drug-related homicides in the EU *Kim Moeller, Aalborg University; Marieke Liem, Leiden University; Teodora Groshkova, European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA)*

Drug-related homicides in the EU have increased, particularly around major distribution centers and open drug scenes. The strength of the relationship between drugs and violence varies with location, drug types, and socio-cultural context. Homicides are the most severe manifestation of violence, but other forms of violence are driven by similar underlying mechanisms. This presentation provides an overview of drug-related homicides in seven European Union countries, plus the UK and Switzerland. We collected data through National Focal Points, expert interviews, and published reports, and used Goldstein's tripartite framework to categorise homicides. From the homicide counts and categorisations we identified three country clusters with similar homicide characteristics. Cluster 1 (Estonia, Switzerland) had very low homicide rates and very few drug-related cases, mostly psychopharmacological. Cluster 2 (Netherlands, Sweden, France, UK) had higher homicide rates with a large share of cases classified as systemic violence. In the Netherlands, 37% of drug-related homicides were systemic; in France, 47% (232 of 463 cases); and in the UK, 13% of homicides were categorised as systemic. Cluster 3 (Denmark, Finland, Hungary) have moderate levels of drug-related homicides, primarily involving psychopharmacological violence tied to interpersonal conflicts. Economic-compulsive homicides were rare in all contexts. The upward trend in drug-related homicides underscores the need for harmonized data European countries to inform targeted prevention and policy responses.

175. PWG Panel 9: Reentry, Transitional Institutions and Post-Release Supervision

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Imprisonment, Prisons, Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment (Prisons WG)
Paper Session
5:15 to 6:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.156

Chair:
Marcin Józef Kryński, University of Bialystok

Participants:

Curfews during post-release supervision in the Netherlands: a within-person analysis of recidivism (PWG) *Suzan Verweij, WODC; Hilde Wermink, Criminology, Leiden University, the Netherlands; Karin Beijersbergen, WODC; Arjan Blokland, NSCR*

This study investigated the effect of curfews - with and without electronic monitoring - during post-release supervision on registered recidivism among 1,711 adults in the Netherlands. Using longitudinal administrative data and hybrid random-effects models, we compared the probability of recidivism during periods with and without active curfew restrictions for the same individuals. The findings demonstrated that the probability of recidivism is significantly lower during active curfew periods, an effect most pronounced among emerging adults (18–25 years old). Notably, the addition of electronic monitoring did not further reduce recidivism beyond the effect of the curfew. Furthermore, the curfew's effect was not mediated by increased participation in employment or education. The results advocate for a targeted, time-limited application of curfews while raising critical questions regarding the added value of electronic monitoring. Furthermore, because recidivism reduction appears limited to the period in which the curfew is active, the findings underscore that traditional

rehabilitation efforts in areas like housing and employment remain essential for establishing a sustainable foundation for desistance.

PWG: Optimistic, Vulnerable, Surviving: re-integration pathways of (formerly) imprisoned individuals in the Netherlands. *Jennifer Doekhie, Leiden University; Anouk den Besten, Leiden University; Rosa Koenraadt, Criminology, Leiden University, the Netherlands*

Reintegration is not just about reducing reoffending, but also about rebuilding a person's identity, social ties, and place in society. Re-integration challenges for individuals in prison returning to society are well-known and widely documented. Successful reintegration depends on both structural conditions (e.g., opportunities, support) and the individual's capacity to engage with change. From theory, we know that various forms (or dimensions) of reintegration together shape how people move back into society after punishment. Yet, research that captures the lived experiences of various forms of reintegration of people going through the process of transitioning to society is comparatively limited. Little is known about how the reintegration process of (formerly) imprisoned individuals unfolds after release and how different forms of reintegration interact in people's everyday lives. Based on multiple interviews pre- and post-release with 69 men and women serving various sentences, we examine the experiences in the reintegration process. The interviews with these individuals illustrate what life is like after release, which obstacles they face when re-entering society, and what types of support they encounter. Based on this largescale, longitudinal study, three re-integration pathways were constructed: the optimistic pathway, the vulnerable pathway, and the survival pathway. The similarities and differences among individuals following the three pathways offer insights into current approaches aimed at reducing recidivism and promoting reintegration.

The needs of former prisoners and how to address them: effective post-penitentiary aid system according to Polish practitioners *Karolina Bloch, Institute of Justice in Warsaw*

Polish prisons currently have nearly 70,000 inmates, making it the second-largest prison population in the European Union (after France). Around 90,000 people are released from Polish prisons each year. Beyond the imposition of punishment and eventual rehabilitation measures, it is important to prepare these individuals as well as possible for life on the outside. That is the purpose of the post-penitentiary aid system. In Poland it is based on the Justice Fund, which is the primary source of financing support provided by the Prison Service, probation officers and non-governmental organizations. Each of them operates within its own specific organizational framework but the assistance they provide overlaps in many aspects. The paper is based on 20 semi-structured expert interviews conducted in 2025 with representatives of the aforementioned entities providing post-penitentiary aid. Following a brief overview of the purposes and principles of the post-penitentiary aid system in Poland, I will present the needs of individuals leaving penitentiary units identified by practitioners, as well as the main challenges they face. In this context, respondents highlighted the family, housing, financial, and health-related issues of their clients. In the second part, I will outline conclusions regarding how, in the respondents' view, the system should function in order to be considered effective. They emphasized the importance of cooperation between institutions beginning already during the period of incarceration and individual assessment of each case. They also pointed to the challenges they encounter in their work, including the limited possibilities of evaluation of the assistance provided, which leads to a lack of knowledge regarding its actual outcomes.

Halfway Houses in the Norwegian Penal System: An Empirical Study and Its Implications for Poland *Marcin Józef Kryński, University of Bialystok*

This presentation examines halfway houses in the Norwegian penal system as an institutional mechanism supporting the transition from imprisonment to full liberty. The aim of the paper is to analyse the Norwegian halfway house model and assess its potential relevance for the Polish penal system. The study combines doctrinal analysis with an empirical approach. In the doctrinal dimension, the analysis covers the current legal regulations concerning halfway houses in Poland and Norway, as well as document templates used by staff in Norwegian halfway houses. The empirical material is based on the author's field research conducted in Norway, including observations and interviews with staff members and residents in halfway houses in Oslo and Halden. This is complemented by research conducted in Poland, including interviews with prison directors, as well as a review of the relevant academic literature. The analysis focuses on the role of halfway houses in supporting reintegration processes, including access to employment and rebuilding social ties. It also examines the underlying values and core principles of the Norwegian system, as well as the treatment of convicts and their living conditions within these institutions. The findings indicate that Norwegian halfway houses represent an effective and transferable model of reintegration and may serve as an empirically grounded inspiration for the Polish penal system, including emerging experimental halfway houses in Poland.

176. PWG Panel 4: Prison Staff, Professional Roles and Organisational Life

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Imprisonment, Prisons, Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment (Prisons WG)
Paper Session
5:15 to 6:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.158

Chair:
Janique Kroese, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Participants:

"I feel like I'm taking away her authority": How prison officers understand and manage unwanted sexual attention from prisoners *kristine vaadal, University College of Norwegian Correctional Service; Mette*

Irmgard Snertingdal, University College of Norwegian Correctional Service

Research on prison officers has shown that male and female officers experience different expectations from both prisoners and colleagues. This may influence how prison officers negotiate authority, care, control and professional rapport in important ways. In this article, which is part on an ongoing project exploring the gendered dimensions of prison officer work in Norway, we assess how prison officers understand and manage unwanted sexual attention from prisoners. We draw on 19 interviews with male and female prison officers working in high-security prisons and investigate how understandings of gender and professionalism among prison officers shape how they manage unwanted sexual attention. Despite a high degree of gender parity among Norwegian prison officers, our findings suggest that managing unwanted sexual attention from male prisoner was considered a central aspect of female officers' professional authority. Thus, these situations created a dilemma for male officers between providing professional support and interfering with female officers' professional authority. For male officers, unwanted sexual attention from female prisoners was associated with fear of having their motives, and thus professionalism, distrusted by their colleagues, and hence their ability to form professional rapport. As a result, gender influenced both interaction between prison officers, as well as their understandings of professional conduct. These findings underscore the need to further explore the implications of gender on understandings of professionalism among prison officers, as well as how gender influence authority and rapport when doing prison work.

Justice for all? Exploring Prison Officers Lived Experiences of Organisational Justice. *Sinead Meade, IADT*

Despite the emphasis on fairness in prisons (e.g. United Nations, 2015; Council of Europe, 2019; IPS, 2022), little is known about prison officers' lived experiences of organisational justice, particularly how fairly they perceive the organisation treats them. This is an important gap given growing quantitative evidence that organisational justice has important implications for prison officers, people in detention, and the broader functioning of the organisation. This qualitative study addresses this gap in two ways. First, it explores how prison officers' lived experiences of organisational justice, particularly interactional justice, may affect their perceptions of organisational fairness. Second, it examines whether emotional labour associated with organisational justice may shape how officers treat people in detention and the moral climate in prisons. Drawing on semi-structured interviews (n=24) conducted in five prisons in the Irish Prison Service, the findings indicate that distributive and procedural justice can affect officers' treatment of people in detention as well as their work commitment, absenteeism, and wellbeing. Additionally, interactional justice was the primary mechanism shaping officers' perceptions of distributive and procedural justice. Further, the findings suggest that emotional labour associated with organisational justice can have a spillover effect on staff-detained persons' interactions and the moral climate of prisons. These findings highlight that improving organisational justice could support officers' wellbeing, improve people's experience of detention, and strengthen the organisation.

The impact of a training module on the knowledge and skills of staff in women's prisons *Janique Kroese, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; Anne-Marie Slotboom, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*

In response to recent problems in correctional institutions for women, a training module was developed for staff working with female detainees. All personnel employed in women's correctional facilities participate in this three-day training program, Working with Incarcerated Women. Using a combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods, this study examines the impact of the training module on participants' knowledge and skills related to working with female detainees, as well as the extent to which the acquired knowledge and skills are applied in daily practice. Quantitative data were collected through a questionnaire completed by 198 participants. In addition, qualitative data were obtained through interviews with staff and supervisors, as well as the trainers delivering the program. The questionnaire results indicate that, following the training, participants report increased awareness of mental health issues among female detainees. They also report greater confidence in how to respond if a female detainee expresses feelings of unsafety within the unit. However, overall satisfaction with the training varied considerably among participants. The interview findings corroborate this mixed picture. Participants indicate that the training contributes to reflection and awareness in specific situations involving female detainees. At the same time, they note that the broader and more structural impact of the training on everyday professional behavior remains limited.

177. Theorising freedom within constraint

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Imprisonment, Prisons, Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment (Prisons WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
5:15 to 6:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.164

Despite being framed as a central, fundamental, and 'painful' facet of punishment in both custody and the community, the deprivation of liberty has received little direct attention from sociologists of punishment (Drake, 2018). Yet two things are clear: first, that the kind and degree of liberty deprivation differs across penal settings, and second, that the relationship between the 'objective' degree of liberty deprivation and the 'subjective' experience of freedom is not straightforward nor linear. For example, prisons with high levels of security and control can contain 'pockets of relative freedom' (Crewe, 2021: 337), prisoners can report feeling free – or even freer than in the community – despite their physical confinement (Duncan, 1996), and the increased 'freedom' of open conditions (Shammas, 2014) or community supervision (Bjørneboe et al., 2025) can be experienced as ambiguous or painful. This panel brings together empirical and theoretical perspectives on what

the deprivation of liberty means and looks like across different penal contexts, and how 'freedom' is differently imagined and negotiated by those subject to state punishment within and beyond prison. Drawing on research across different penal settings (e.g. closed and open prisons, the community) and with different populations (e.g. men and women, long-term and short-term prisoners), the panel considers how individual, relational, institutional, and structural factors shape people's orientations to and experiences of 'freedom within constraint'. In doing so, the panel seeks to consolidate and expand on what it means to be deprived of liberty – or to reclaim, regain, relinquish, or reject it when it comes with penal terms and conditions.

Chair:

Daria Przybylska, University of Cambridge

Participants:

The changing depth of life imprisonment *Ben Crewe, University of Cambridge*

Broadly speaking, the 'depth' of imprisonment refers to the relationship and polarity between the prison and the outside world (see Downes 1988; Crewe 2021, 2025). It encompasses material forms of control and restriction, but also the feeling of being embedded within or consumed by the prison system, at distance from where 'real life' is located. In essence, then, it is concerned with various dimensions of freedom and its loss. Drawing on a longitudinal study of men and women serving long life sentences in England & Wales, this paper explores four aspects of depth: first, the ways these life-sentenced prisoners sought to exist simultaneously in prison and in the community over the course of their sentence; second, their changing sense of where real life was located; third, the phases, episodes and institutional locations when they felt furthest from the free world; and, fourth, their shifting perceptions of what freedom meant and where it could be found. Overall, then, the paper seeks to give a sense of the impact of being deprived of one's liberty for many years, and of how this impact is subjectively experienced over time.

The density of imprisonment *Daria Przybylska, University of Cambridge*

This paper introduces the metaphor of the 'density' of imprisonment to conceptualise the experiences of 'freedom within constraint' in open prisons. Consistently, open imprisonment has been found to generate distinct feelings of ambivalence and ambiguity (Nyvoll, 2026; Shammas, 2014) yet explanations are currently lacking. Drawing on data from a semi-ethnographic study of women's open prisons in England & Wales, this paper provides a granular account of the mechanisms through which this ambiguity and ambivalence emerge, distinguishing between its two sources: first, the open prison itself, and second, the practice of Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) and prisoners' consequent exposure to 'freedom' in the community. In both cases, the paper considers how 'freedom' is mediated by prisoners' exposure to 'carcerality' (i.e. carceral properties) within the prison environment and through their access to the outside world via ROTL. The paper proposes that this can be usefully conceptualised through the metaphor of 'density', which has two corresponding dimensions. The first conveys the concentration of carcerality in a penal setting, and the second captures differences in individual prisoners' exposure to carcerality, which is directly shaped by their access to ROTL. Thus, open prisons are sparse, first because they exhibit a relatively low concentration of carcerality. Second, the experience of open imprisonment is sparser or denser depending on individuals' exposure to 'freedom' via ROTL and, in turn, their exposure to carcerality (simply put, the less time they spend in prison the lower their overall exposure). The paper concludes that this conceptualisation lays bare that, while open prisons may be relatively 'shallow' and 'light' (Nyvoll, 2025) they 'are still very much experienced as "prisons"' (Mjåland et al., 2021: 19), making more explicit how and why 'freedom' in open prisons is experienced 'within constraint'.

'I'm out but I'm not free. I'm far from free': Negotiating conceptions of freedom through indeterminate sentences and life licencing *Ailie Rennie, University of Nottingham*

This presentation explores 'freedom within constraint' through the lens of indeterminate sentences and post-custodial licencing. In England & Wales, most individuals who are sentenced to indeterminate sentences will eventually be released from custody and returned to their community. However, release does not mark the end of their punishment; rather, it inaugurates a distinct form of regulated 'freedom'. Drawing on insights from two in-depth, qualitative studies with people serving indeterminate sentences, this presentation explores how 'freedom' is understood, experienced, and negotiated upon release from custody when they remain under penal supervision and on licence. Licence conditions – such as exclusion zones, non-association requirements, curfews, electronic monitoring, and mandatory disclosure – produce a form of conditional citizenship. Individuals are 'free' to live in the community, yet that freedom is contingent, surveilled, and perpetually revocable. Recall to custody operates as a latent constraint, rendering freedom fragile and compliance central to remaining in the outside world. This presentations situates freedom within the legal and structural frameworks of a licence but also within the moral, existential, and relational constraints on an individual's personhood which it invokes: as a 'dangerous violent' offender in need of indefinite monitoring. At the same time, it foregrounds agency by highlighting how people on licence develop strategies of negotiation, resistance, and self-regulation that reveal how constrained subjects craft liveable lives. Freedom here is neither illusory nor complete; it is practiced, precarious, and relational. By conceptualising life licencing as a site where continued punishment and the potential for freedom converge, this presentation contributes to interdisciplinary discussions of governance, risk, and belonging. It asks what it means to be free when one's liberty is permanently conditional, and what this reveals about how contemporary penal power has reconfigured freedom itself.

The fragility of freedom: Prison recall, re-entry shock and

the 'breadth' of imprisonment *Kate Gooch, University of Bath*

Despite the extant scholarly work on the depth, weight and tightness of imprisonment (e.g. Downes, 1988, King and McDermott, 1995; Crewe, 2011, 2021, 2025), the 'breadth' of imprisonment has been relatively under-explored. Originally, Downes (1988) coined the term to describe the way penal control extends into the community and serves to lengthen the experience of imprisonment. For Downes, prison recall was a quintessential example of the 'breadth of imprisonment.' However, there is a paucity of research exploring the phenomenon. Over 30 years, the number of recalled prisoners increased from 150 to more than 12,000 (Ministry of Justice, 2026). Currently, as many as one in seven prisoners are recalled prisoners, but the majority (74%) are recalled for non-compliance rather than further offences or charges (ibid). Notably, fluctuations in the use of recall correspond with crises within the Probation Service, legislative change, and impoverished public services, i.e. structural and organisational problems. Drawing on mixed methods research in English and Welsh prisons, this paper considers how prisoners experience the uniquely frustrating combination of exacting license conditions, limited support, and poor or inconsistent relationships with probation officers. The exercise of penal control can appear to lack integrity, fairness and rationality in ways that produce a sense of illegitimacy, injustice and misrecognition. Whilst freedom without liberty can be painful in open prisons (Gooch & Dempsey, in progress), it is liberty without freedom (and justice) that is burdensome on release. Secondly it considers how 're-entry shock' and penal uncertainty contributes to hopelessness, suicide ideation and self-harm on re-imprisonment. This paper concludes by analysing how the 'breadth' of imprisonment contributes to a greater sense of 'depth' once re-imprisoned, even when held in medium security or open conditions.

178. Evaluating crime prevention interventions through Situational Action Theory Framework

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Development and Life Course Perspectives (Development and Life Course Criminology WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

5:15 to 6:30 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.170

This panel presents four papers applying Situational Action Theory's Developmental Ecological Action (DEA) model to crime prevention. Each paper examines the relevance and implications of different theorized psychoecological and socioecological processes for intervention practices. Each paper presents a systematic review of evidence relating to relevant interventions and explores how framing these in light of proposed mechanisms may contribute to understanding, refining and developing effective crime prevention.

Chair:

Kyle Treiber, University of Cambridge

Participants:

Nurturing Moral Minds: Evaluating Cognitive Training for Crime Prevention through the Situational Action Theory Framework *Giulia Spaeth, University of Cambridge; Kyle Treiber, University of Cambridge; Rhianna Dunkley, University of Cambridge; Katie Tu, University of Cambridge; Beth Hardie, University of Cambridge; Gabriela D Roman, University of Cambridge*

Early involvement in crime is often linked to difficulties in self-control and impulsivity, which are key cognitive skills that dictate an individual's ability to follow moral rules, thus are central to managing moral conflict. Situational Action Theory (SAT) explains crime as a form of moral rule-breaking that arises from how individuals perceive and interpret situations, and how they exercise self-control when facing temptations or provocations. Within this framework, cognitive nurturing is examined as a preventive tool aimed at enhancing self-control, defined as the capacity to manage internal moral conflicts and regulate behavioral impulses. Cognitive training is a cognitive nurturing intervention used to strengthen cognitive skills such as self-control and impulse regulation to influence one's ability to understand and follow rules of conduct (Wikström, Treiber, & Roman, 2024). This review (1) evaluates existing intervention practices that seek to foster self-control and self-regulation in young people, and (2) uses SAT as a guiding framework to assess how, and under what conditions, these cognitive nurturing interventions can effectively shift moral decision-making toward lawful, prosocial behavior and inform future crime-prevention strategies.

Intervening in School Moral Contexts: Applying Situational Action Theory to Moral Education Interventions *Katie Tu, University of Cambridge; Beth Hardie, University of Cambridge; Giulia Spaeth, University of Cambridge; Rhianna Dunkley, University of Cambridge; Gabriela D Roman, University of Cambridge; Kyle Treiber, University of Cambridge*

Juvenile delinquency and youth crime remain central concerns within criminology, with increasing attention directed towards schools as one of the key institutions for shaping young people's moral rules and decision-making (Hardie & Trivedi-Bateman, 2024). In some Western education systems, school moral education approaches have begun to resemble those more commonly used in East Asian contexts, reflected in the expansion of stricter behavioural regulation and disciplinary control. This includes zero-tolerance approaches and expanded disciplinary codes such as recent mobile-phone bans in the United Kingdom. These developments reflect growing expectations that schools should bear greater responsibility for preventing youth offending through tighter behavioural control. Building on this context, the paper presents a meta-review of school-based moral education interventions and policies using Situational Action Theory (Wikström, Treiber & Roman, 2024) as an analytical lens. By applying core concepts of SAT, the review systematically examines how existing interventions conceptualise and seek to foster adolescents' personal moral rules and evaluate their effectiveness in preventing crime involvement. This paper contributes to criminology and education by

clarifying how school moral education shape adolescents' moral development and influence pathways to offending.

Shaping Morality at Home: Evaluating moral education interventions through the lens of Situational Action Theory for crime prevention. *Rhianna Dunkley, University of Cambridge; Gabriela D Roman, University of Cambridge; Katie Tu, University of Cambridge; Giulia Spaeth, University of Cambridge; Kyle Treiber, University of Cambridge; Beth Hardie, University of Cambridge*

Moral education is one of the key psychoecological influencers that shape personal morality. It is an active moral process which allows the individual to experience, assess and adapt moral content into personal rules of conduct about what is the right or wrong thing to do or not to do. Specifically, an individual's home environment has been shown to play a pivotal role in shaping morality from a young age with much research investigating the socialisation of moral development through parental influence or potential risk factors in the home for youth offending. Although moral education has been a long standing topic within criminology, moral education interventions for crime prevention exhibit varying success. This paper will present the current meta-review which aims to systematically review the available literature to better understand the efficacy of current intervention practices targeting moral education in the home and how it can be used to improve crime prevention. Findings will be analysed through the analytic lens of Situational Action Theory (SAT) to allow for deeper discussion as to the applicability of SAT's theory-based framework and to provide further insight into the processes of such interventions within families.

Intervening in criminogenic exposure: An application of Situational Action Theory to understanding and enhancing current approaches *Kyle Treiber, University of Cambridge; Beth Hardie, University of Cambridge; Rhianna Dunkley, University of Cambridge; Katie Tu, University of Cambridge; Giulia Spaeth, University of Cambridge; Gabriela D Roman, University of Cambridge*

Situational action theory (SAT; e.g., Wikstrom et al. 2024) has drawn criminological attention to the crime event, and particularly the person x environment interaction. Tests of SAT across populations, countries and crime types consistently support the interactive importance of crime propensities and criminogenic exposure in explaining crime involvement. This indicates that effective crime prevention can be achieved through interventions that target people and places. This paper presents the findings from a systematic review of interventions that focus on places. SAT argues that key socioecological processes that shape criminogenic exposure are (1) emergent processes that strengthen or weaken moral contexts by shaping their moral norms and enforcement, and (2) selection processes that shape people's differential exposure to criminogenic contexts. Together, these processes will shape the kinds of person x environment interactions that occur in a population in a particular jurisdiction, and consequently rates of crime. In reviewing current intervention practices that target social environments, this paper will assess the relevance of these socioecological processes to their efficacy and the implications for informing, refining and developing innovative and effective crime prevention.

179. Sexual Violence, Harassment and Situational Contexts

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Sex Crimes, Sex Work and Sex Trafficking

Paper Session

5:15 to 6:30 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.015

Chair:

Barbara Moretti, University of Milan-Bicocca

Participants:

Same-sex sexual violence in Finland *Tarja Koskela, University of Eastern Finland; Anu Puustinen, University on Eastern Finland*

This article examines the heteronormative foundations of the rape in the Finnish Criminal Code across its full historical trajectory. When Finland's first Criminal Code entered into force in 1894, homosexual acts were criminalised as fornication, applicable to both men and women. At the same time, the statutory definition of rape applied exclusively to acts committee against women. This inevitably raises the question of whether a rape committed between men would have constituted an offence at all, because the act itself was forbidden. Moreover, could a woman who had been the victim of a rape committed by another woman have herself been subjected to criminal liability for fornication? This underscores the strong heteronormative premise embedded in the regulation of sexual offences. The decriminalisation of homosexuality in 1971 did not resolve these inconsistencies. Despite the removal of sanctions for consensual homosexual acts, the rape provision still did not extend to sexual violence against men or to female perpetrated violence against women. Sexual acts involving violence or coercion between persons of the same sex was punishable only as the lesser offence of fornication infringing personal liberty, thereby maintaining a legislative structure that privileged heterosexuality and marginalised same-sex victims. A significant shift occurred only with the legislative amendment entering into force in 1999, which extended the rape provision to acts committed between persons of the same sex, provided that the act involved sexual penetration as defined by law. Subsequent reforms, including the comprehensive sexual offence law revision enacted in 2023, broadened the definition of sexual intercourse to include genital or oral contact with another person's genitals or anus. Only with this most recent reform can the legal framework be considered free from its historically heteronormative underpinnings. This article demonstrates how assumptions about gender and sexuality shaped the legal recognition of same-sex sexual violence in Finland.

Street sexual harassment and predatory behaviours in public spaces: Evidence for proactive policing initiatives and a

new conceptual frameworks of harmful behaviours *Ioana Crivatu, University of Birmingham*

Sexual harassment is the normalised building block of sexual violence; 70% of it takes place in public. Predatory behaviours, acting as precursors to street sexual harassment (SSH) and further sexual violence, are also common. Given their implications in sex offending patterns, there is recent academic, policy, and investigative interest in them. Yet, it is unclear what exactly SSH and predatory behaviours are, how they interact—what, who, when, why, how, against whom—the role the environment, situation, and context play in them, and how both can be disrupted. In collaboration with a large police force using Project Vigilant—a proactive policing initiative in England where behaviourally trained officers patrol nighttime economy (NTE) hotspots—this project aimed to: (a) map and understand individual and group-level SSH and predatory behaviours in NTEs and other public spaces; (b) build an evidence base for behaviourally informed early prevention, disruption, and increased public safety; and (c) advance a conceptual framework of SSH and public predatory behaviours. A mixed-method design combined five data streams: (1) interviews with Vigilant officers; (2) Vigilant post-patrol logs; (3) observations of the public in NTEs and adjacent spaces; (4) national survey of lived experiences; and (5) safety-assessments focused questionnaire with the public. People employed a combination of predatory and SSH behaviours. Behavioural complexity, motivations, patterns, and severity escalations (e.g., from non-contact to contact) were influenced by dynamic changes in the type and number of potential victims, environmental structures, dyadic interactions between potential offenders and victims, and situational characteristics. SSH and predatory acts are interconnected but distinct behaviours on a continuum of risk, harm, and escalation. Predatory behaviours are diverse, situationally informed, and need not be sexual in nature to be indicate risk. Behavioural research is key to tackling the continually relevant societal challenge of SSH and sexual violence in public. Practice and research in this space must be environmentally situated and contextualised, and investigative attention to harmful public behavioural patterns must be done holistically. Implications for theory and proactive prevention are discussed.

The role of situational and environmental factors in sexual crime lethal outcome: an integrated probabilistic framework *Raphaële Arlettaz, Lausanne University; Julien Chopin, Université de Lausanne; Eric Beauregard, Simon Fraser University; Marcelo F. Aebi, University of Lausanne*

This study investigates the factors influencing lethal outcomes in sexual assaults, with a particular focus on situational and environmental factors. Using a sample of 182 extrafamilial sexual homicide cases and a control group of 400 sexual assault cases, the research aims to identify key elements that differentiate lethal from non-lethal sexual crimes. Bivariate analyses, sequential binary logistic regression, and artificial neural network were conducted to examine the predictive power of situational and environmental factors related to the sexual homicide offenders and victim. Results highlight significant distinctions between lethal and non-lethal cases, particularly concerning weapon presence, evidence destruction, and the choice of a familiar setting for the perpetrator. These findings support the integration of situational and environmental factors into theoretical models, offering a more comprehensive framework for understanding the escalation to lethal outcomes in sexual violence. These findings have practical implications for investigations, helping refine suspect profiles, prioritise leads based on situational and environmental risk indicators, and improve the identification of high-risk cases.

Obsessive Crimes: Stalking and Sexual Harassment in North Macedonia – Patterns, Impact, and Legal Challenges *Julija Jurtoska, Faculty of Law, UKLO Bitola*

In recent years, North Macedonia has witnessed a troubling rise in obsessive crimes such as stalking and sexual harassment, particularly through digital platforms. While the country has made significant steps in addressing gender-based violence through legal reforms— including the 2023 amendments to the Criminal Code that criminalized stalking and online sexual harassment—there remains a glaring gap between legislative progress and its practical enforcement. This research aims to analyze the patterns of these crimes, their impact on victims, and the legal challenges. Research Objectives The primary goal of this research is to explore the criminological characteristics of stalking and sexual harassment in North Macedonia, with a particular focus on how these crimes are facilitated by technology. Specifically, the study seeks to identify patterns of perpetration, evaluate the effectiveness of recent legal reforms, and uncover institutional barriers that limit enforcement. Background and Rationale Obsessive crimes like stalking and sexual harassment are deeply intertwined with social norms, technological advancements, and institutional practices. In North Macedonia, patriarchal cultural norms often normalize harassment, leaving victims reluctant to report incidents. For example, a UNDP study revealed that 60% of women in North Macedonia have experienced online violence, yet only 3.8% reported these incidents to authorities. This underreporting is result of factors such as victim-blaming and limited trust in law enforcement. The infamous "Public Room" scandal—a Telegram group where explicit photos of women were shared without their consent—exposed systemic failures in addressing cyber-enabled sexual harassment. Despite public outrage and legal action against some perpetrators, many victims were left unsupported by institutions. Significance of Study By identifying gaps in the current legal framework and its implementation, this study will offer concrete recommendations for improving legislation and enforcement mechanisms. The findings will guide capacity-building efforts for law enforcement agencies.

The result of a sexual harassment victim survey in a

nonprofit volunteer association in Milan: looking for a preventing approach. *Barbara Moretti, University of Milan-Bicocca; Erica Pellizzoni, ANPAS Lombardy*

Croce Verde Baggio (CVB) is a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to providing first aid, emergency and urgent care, as well as other activities for the benefit of the community. It is part of ANPAS (National Association of Public Assistance Organizations) which brings together all public assistance organizations that provide emergency healthcare services, support practices of participatory democracy and develop a culture of solidarity. CVB was founded in a working-class neighborhood in Milan, where both social solidarity organizations and public housing projects characterized by social marginalization, poverty and deviance behaviors coexist. The Association has always been a point of reference for the neighborhood's residents and has been active in initiatives aimed at raising awareness of violence and gender inequality. It was one of the first organization to paint a red bench in the square in front of its headquarters and to install a dedicated mailbox for reports sexual violence or harassment. As part of these awareness-raising initiatives, the Association investigated gender relations between volunteers and employees. Under the supervision of ANPAS and University of Milan Bicocca, volunteers re-wrote the SEQ, the Questionnaire on Sexual Experiences. Originally developed within the workplace (SEQ-W), was adapted and used in other social settings; a specific victimization survey was reformulated to assess the possible presence of gender-based harassment, unwanted sexual attention and sexual coercion within the Association. An anonymous questionnaire was distributed to 230 volunteers. The presentation will illustrate the results of the survey, highlighting how sexually inappropriate behaviors can also exist within associations whose goals include promoting collective well-being among citizens. The victimization survey, however, was the starting point for the creation of a working group on the issues of gender inequality and sexual harassment, which organized several initiatives for create a safe environment based on an integrated approaches than engage all members of the community.

180. Restorative Responses to Community, Corporate and Environmental Harm

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Restorative Justice (Restorative Justice WG)

Paper Session

5:15 to 6:30 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.025

Chair:

Thomas Akoensi, University of Kent

Participants:

Assessing Restorative Justice in Large-Scale Socio-Environmental Conflicts: A Dialectical Analytical Matrix Applied to the Brumadinho Dam Collapse in Brazil *Gabriela Pinheiro, N/A; Cristina Rego Oliveira, Universidade Presbiteriana Mackenzie*

This research proposes a framework for assessing restorative justice in large-scale socio-environmental conflicts, presenting a dialectical analytical matrix as a tool for analysing restorative practices through an articulation between justice theory and conflict resolution methodology. The matrix is grounded in a dialogue between Nancy Fraser's conception of justice as participatory parity (2008) and the perspective on Dispute System Design (DSD) developed by Amsler, Martinez, and Smith (2020). Fraser's concept emerges from her understanding of redistribution, recognition, and representation as interrelated dimensions of justice. In parallel, the DSD perspective developed by Amsler, Martinez, and Smith offers an analytical structure for evaluating dispute resolution systems. The matrix was developed in the context of a master's dissertation based on documentary analysis of reports produced by the Center for Advisory Services to Communities Affected by Dams (Nacab) in relation to the Brumadinho dam collapse in Brazil. Drawing on qualitative analysis, the articulation between theory and empirical material resulted in a dialectical analytical matrix capable of examining the what, the who, and the how: the affected communities' perceptions of justice, objectives, and successful restoration; the identification of who is affected and their social and cultural conditions; and how conflicts were structured. Applied to the Brumadinho disaster-crime as a case study, the matrix showed that affected communities were excluded from core decision-making spaces in the reparation process and limited to peripheral forms of engagement shaped by popular mobilization in the face of corporate and institutional pressure. As a result, both the materialization of participatory parity and the potential of restorative responses in large-scale socio-environmental conflicts were limited. These findings indicate that the proposed matrix offers a useful framework for analysing restorative justice in large-scale socio-environmental conflicts when restorative justice is understood as a mechanism for enabling participatory parity.

The challenges of restorative justice in the Global South: a case study on corporate environmental crimes committed by Braskem S.A. in Brazil. *Cristina Rego Oliveira, Universidade Presbiteriana Mackenzie*

This research analyses the limits and potential of restorative justice (RJ) as an emancipatory framework for addressing environmental corporate crimes applied by Global South countries. The methodologies adopted were a qualitative literature review based on the work of decolonial scholars such as Leff, Quijano, and Saad-Diniz, and a case study of a local complex conflict in Brazil. The case examined the damage caused by Braskem S.A. during its rock salt exploration activities in the subsoil of Maceió city, which affected multiple stakeholders (communities, nature, and the state) and resulted in the company's lack of responsibility. Braskem is the sixth-largest petrochemical company in the world. In the territory explored by the company, mine collapses have been occurring for more than ten years, forming underground craters and causing the soil to sink. This has forced 70.000 people to abandon the city and become environmental refugees. However, no criminal proceedings have investigated Braskem's criminal responsibility. At the level of civil jurisdiction,

a Compensation Agreement was reached within the judiciary power, public prosecutors, corporation, and public attorneys, but Braskem did not accept legal liability and the victims remained silent throughout the process, as their needs were not considered in the negotiations. The Braskem Victims' Unified Movement highlighted the complexity of the multiple economic and non-economic damages caused by salt exploitation, but they did not play a leading role in negotiations with the authorities during the traditional civil process. In this scenario, the research discusses whether RJ could be an emancipatory instrument for promoting justice based on non-violent dialogue, and the possibility of victims communally being empowered through its practices aimed at restoration. Drawing on the narratives of local people affected by crime and their representations of participatory Justice, the presentation explores the limitations and risks of RJ, as well as its positive local impact.

Access to justice in an informal urban settlement in Accra, Ghana *Thomas Akoensi, University of Kent; Amy Nivette, Utrecht University*

Informal social justice—a process whereby people seek justice beyond the formal criminal justice system—is an important concept in the social sciences. Whilst informal justice, such as traditional (e.g., chiefs) and religious authorities (e.g., imams), has the potential to improve justice in both urban and rural settings in developing countries due to limited opportunities to access the criminal justice system, informal social justice has received limited attention in the criminological discourse. Our main aim in this study is to identify the users of informal justice mechanisms in a major slum in Ghana's capital, Accra, where both formal and informal justice systems coexist. Using semi-structured interviews with 92 traditional justice actors—providers, users and witnesses—we identify slum residents' access to informal justice and a broad range of experiences associated with the use of traditional justice, such as satisfaction with the processes and outcomes, and the legitimacy conferred on such institutions. We further discuss the implications of these findings for conflict resolution, gender empowerment, and the criminal justice system.

181. Victimization Within Borders: Homicide, Police Reporting, and the Sense of Security

Topic 4: Victimology/Patterns and trends in Victimization (Victimology WG)
Paper Session
5:15 to 6:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.110
Chair:
Jan van Dijk, NSCR
Participants:

A Socio-Ecological Analysis of Homicide Victimization Among Blacks in England and Wales *janice JOSEPH, Stockton University*

Homicide victimization rates are disproportionately high among Blacks in England and Wales in comparison to other ethnic groups. In the three-year period ending (YE) March 2025, the homicide victimization rate of Blacks (36.8 per million population) was four times higher than the national rate (8.6 per million population), over four times higher than that of Whites (7.7per million population), and over three times higher than for Asians (10.6 per million population). Young Black males (aged 16–24) were disproportionately affected by homicide in comparison to their ethnic counterparts. To better understand this issue and preventive strategies to address it, this presentation will critically examine the high rates of homicide victimization among Blacks in England and Wales by using the socio-ecological model (SEM) of violence. SEM is used by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to illustrate how risk factors across the four overlapping levels of the model, at the individual, relationship, community, and societal, interact to influence violence, such as homicide. SEM emphasizes that risk factors at one level affect risk factors at another level. It also stipulates that for prevention strategies to be effective and sustainable, they must address multiple risk factors simultaneously. This presentation will highlight the socio-ecological risk factors related to homicide victimization of Blacks in England and Wales, and identity comprehensive prevention approaches aimed at preventing homicide within the Black communities in England and Wales.

Reporting of violence victimisation to the police in England and Wales *Polina Obolenskaya, City University (London); Annie Bunce, City University (London)*

Who reports violence to the police, and under what circumstances, remains a critical but under examined question in England and Wales. Although national victimisation surveys consistently show that more than half of violent incidents never come to the attention of police, existing research is fragmented, often focused on single forms of violence (e.g., intimate partner or sexual violence), based on small studies or non-UK contexts. This paper provides a comprehensive incident level analysis of police reporting behaviours using the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), pooling data from 2002–2020. We examine which incidents of violence are self reported to the police, which are reported by third parties, and which remain entirely unknown. We assess how reporting varies across socio demographic groups, incident characteristics, victim–perpetrator relationships, and neighbourhood contexts. Our findings show clear and consistent patterns: incident level factors such as severity, perceived criminality, injury, and emotional impact have strong association with reporting behaviours, while individual characteristics have more modest associations. By mapping multiple routes through which violence does or does not come to the attention of the criminal justice system, this study advances understanding of the "justice gap" and offers evidence with implications for policy, prevention, and victim survivor support.

The German population's subjective sense of security *Sebastian Kost, North Rhine-Westphalian State Office of Criminal Investigation*

The North Rhine-Westphalian State Office of Criminal Investigation is participating in the nationwide study

"Safety and Crime in Germany", which is co-funded by the International Security Fund of the European Union. In its second wave 2024, more than 180.000 German citizens were asked about their experiences with crime, their reporting behaviour, their subjective sense of security and their experiences with and attitudes towards the police. About 40.000 of those citizens were living in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany's most populous state. In North Rhine-Westphalia, the questionnaire was supplemented with a module that deals with the citizen's civil courage and their emergency call behaviour. The individual fear of becoming a victim of particular crime, a risk assessment about crime and avoidance behaviour were also requested. The talk will refer the initial findings of the survey and compare them with the results from the first wave of the survey. Keywords: victim survey, sense of security, civil courage, trends in victimization

Trends in victimisation by theft and violence across the world during 2006 up to 2025 with a special focus on the impact of lockdown measures *Jan van Dijk, NSCR; Paul Nieuwbeerta, Leiden University*

In this paper we will present new results on victimization by theft and violence in over 160 countries from 2006 up to 2025 derived from the Gallup World Poll, conducted annually among representative samples of 1.000 persons or more per country. Earlier work has demonstrated that GWP results on crime victimization correlate moderately strongly with results from fully fledged victimization surveys such as the International Crime Victims Survey and can therefore be reliably used for analyses of global, regional and national crime trends around the world (Van Dijk, Nieuwbeerta & Larsen, 2022). The results suggest that in all regions of the world except in Africa victimization by common crime has trended downwards steadily over the past twenty years, confirming a near universal, international drop of crime. A special focus of the analysis was whether trends in offline crime victimization have in 2020 and 2021 been exacerbated by the implementation of largescale lockdown measures as supposed by various authors (Nivette et al., 2023). Our results suggests that the impact of lockdown measures on criminal victimization has been much more limited than assumed by authors using data from police administrations, probably because the latter have been compromised by reduced reporting and recording. This finding suggests that the international crime drop is propelled by fundamental and sustained reductions in causes and/or opportunities of crime unaffected by temporary circumstances.

182. Mapping New and Changing Forms of Victimisation in Europe: Current challenges of National Victimisation Surveys in Europe.

Topic 8: Methodologies in Criminology/Advances in Quantitative Methods (Qantitative Methods WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
5:15 to 6:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.120

Across Europe, new and changing forms of victimisation – from online fraud and technology-facilitated violence to hate crime – pose substantial challenges for research, policy, and practice. Victimisation surveys play a key role in capturing these dynamics, yet they face increasing difficulties: declining response rates, selectivity in participation (e.g. among migrants and other hard-to-reach groups), and the need to measure emerging crime types in a comparable way across countries and over time. This pre-arranged panel brings together national victimisation surveys from Europe to discuss current challenges and opportunities. The panel has three main aims: (1) to present recent empirical findings on patterns and trends of victimisation in different European contexts; (2) to discuss key methodological challenges, including sampling and non-response, modes of participation and issues of comparability; and (3) to identify opportunities for stronger coordination and collaboration between surveys and research teams. Each contribution will briefly introduce its survey design and main results before reflecting on conceptual and methodological issues, such as the operationalisation of "vulnerability", the integration of new crime phenomena into established instruments, or strategies to improve survey participation among underrepresented populations. The panel speaks directly to current debates on the future of crime measurement in Europe and aims to foster a sustained network of researchers working with victimisation data on vulnerable groups and new forms of crime. The panel consists of four talks and an extensive discssion on challenges and opportunities: 1. The National Victimisation Survey Poland 2. The Swedish Crime Survey 3. The National Crime Survey Switzerland 4. The German Victim Studies

Chairs:
Julia Rüdel, Federal Criminal Police Office
Laura-Romina Goede, Federal Criminal Police Office

Participants:

The Swedish Crime Survey – design, main results and strategies to improve survey participation. *Sanna Wallin, The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention*

The Swedish Crime Survey (SCS) has been conducted since 2006 by instruction from the Swedish government. The survey examines the population's exposure to crime, worry about crime, and confidence in the justice system. The SCS is conducted annually by web- and postal questionnaires to a sample of 200 000 people aged between 16 and 84. Young people are oversampled. Overall, 20 percent of the population state that they were exposed to at least one offence in 2024. The proportion has remained relatively stable around this level since 2020. Men are generally more exposed, except for sexual offences and harassment. The gap is largest for sexual offences — women are far more often victimised. Over the past ten years, there has been a clear increase in the proportion of people who are concerned about crime in society, with more than half of the population (54 percent) reporting this in 2025. At the same time about one in four people (25 percent of the population) report feeling unsafe outdoors at night, or that they avoid going out due to feelings of unsafety. There was a clear increase in 2016, followed by stable levels, but since 2021 the proportion has decreased somewhat. In SCS 2025, the response rate was 36 percent. When analysing the material, cases are weighted both to account for the sample design and

also to adjust for differences in levels of non-response among different groups within the sample. In SCS 2026 some strategies to improve survey participation have been tested. A test group among the youngest have received a targeted cover letter instead of the ordinary cover letter. Also, we have tested different senders (The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention vs Statistics Sweden) in the digital mailbox in different groups.

Beyond traditional victimisation: new crime risks and public attitudes in Poland *Paweł Ostaszewski, Institute of Justice, Poland and University of Warsaw; Joanna Klimczak, Institute of Justice, Poland and University of Warsaw; Justyna Włodarczyk-Madejska, Institute of Justice, Poland and Institute of Law Studies Polish Academy of Sciences*

We present findings from two waves of the Polish National Victimisation Survey (PNVS – 2020, 2024), alongside earlier studies conducted at the Polish Institute of Justice, including the International Crime Victim Survey (ICVS – 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004) and the Polish Crime Survey (PBP – 2007, 2008, 2009, 2014). Building on the classical victimisation framework developed within the ICVS, the PNVS broadens the analytical scope by incorporating emerging forms of crime, such as online fraud, theft of funds from bank accounts or payment cards, identity theft, unauthorised access to digital accounts (email, social media, auction platforms), and stalking. In addition to victimisation indicators, the study examines fear of crime, public evaluations of police and judical performance, and punitive attitudes. The most recent wave (PNVS 2024) was conducted using computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) on a representative random–quota sample of 5,000 adults in Poland. The previous wave employed a mixed-mode CAWI/CATI design, whereas earlier ICVS and PBP studies were conducted face-to-face. Successive waves provide a unique opportunity to test different methodological approaches and to introduce new questionnaire items, including measures of emerging victimisation risks, punitive orientations, and conspiratorial thinking. At the same time, retaining the core ICVS items ensures longitudinal comparability and facilitates robust cross-national analyses.

National Crime Victimisation Surveys in Switzerland: Recent findings and new methodological challenges *Lorenz Biberstein, Zurich University of Applied Sciences ZHAW; Dirk Baier, University of Zurich/Zurich University of Applied Sciences; Nora Markwalder, University of St. Gallen*

This contribution focuses on recent crime victimisation surveys in Switzerland, conducted in 2022 and 2025. We will first outline the survey design of the waves with a focus on conceptual and methodological challenges like declining participation rates, sampling issues and incorporating emerging new forms of crime into the survey. Secondly, we will present empirical findings from these two survey waves to illustrate developments in prevalence rates of different offences as well as in reporting rates and additional offence related characteristics like perpetrator information. Lastly, some thoughts on the future of victimisation surveys are presented against the backdrop of various methodological challenges.

German Victimisation Surveys - Experiences and Methodological Challenges *Julia Rüdel, Federal Criminal Police Office; Laura-Romina Goede, Federal Criminal Police Office; Ina Bieber, Federal Criminal Police Office; Christoph Birkel, Federal Criminal Police Office; Almut Schumann, Federal Criminal Police Office*

Victimisation surveys are a core tool for capturing the actual extent of crime and providing incidence and prevalence estimates for a country that complement administrative police statistics and enable comparative research on crime, insecurity, and fear of crime. In Germany, the Federal Criminal Police Office is conducting two large scale and nationally representative victimization surveys: the German victimisation study SKiD (Sicherheit und Kriminalität in Deutschland) and LeSuBiA ("Life Situation, Safety and Strain in Everyday Life"). SKiD was developed as a nationwide, methodologically robust survey designed to capture a wide spectrum of victimisation experiences, insecurity, and crime-related attitudes in the resident population. As a periodic survey, SKiD has been providing new data every two years since 2020. Methodologically, SKiD faces challenges in on the one hand adapting to new forms of crime while maintaining a comparability across waves and on the other hand keeping the questionnaire design consistent in light of the rapid technological changes. LeSuBiA is a nationwide survey with a focus on gender-based violence, in particular intimate partner violence, sexualised violence and of violence in the digital space and reached over 15,000 respondents across all genders. The design of a questionnaire on specific and new forms of violence, as well as the conduct of a survey on a sensitive topic, present a wide range of conceptual and methodological challenges. These challenges can also compromise the comparability of the results with those of other studies. This presentation gives insight into the conceptual foundations and design of both surveys, situate SKiD and LeSuBiA within the European survey landscape and discuss their potential contributions to current debates on methodological and current challenges in victimisation research.

183. Researching homicide: data from Spanish Courts

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Homicide and Violent Crime (Homicide Research WG and European Violence Monitor WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
5:15 to 6:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.128

Empirical research on homicides has so far been very limited in Spain, largely due to the difficulty of accessing data. Judicial sentencing databases provide an opportunity to understand relevant aspects of the phenomenology of homicides, their various forms, and the response of the criminal justice system, with the possibility of examining the legal and extra-legal factors that influence judicial decisions. The panel will present different studies on general aspects of homicides from 2018 to 2024, based on a database of more than 3,000 cases, including

the characteristics of victims and perpetrators, filicides, homicides of people engaged in sex work, and gender-related factors that influence judicial decisions.

Chair:

Josep Tamarit, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Participants:

Homicide in Spain: A Comprehensive Analysis of Court Sentences Over the Last Decades *Marina Bartolomé, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya*

This study provides a comprehensive analysis of homicide in Spain using a large dataset of court sentences (N = 3,047). It examines the main characteristics of homicide cases, variations across offender–victim gender composition and relationship types, as well as temporal trends and seasonal patterns. Case-level data were compiled ensuring one observation per incident, and temporal variables (month, weekday, and holidays) were derived from offense dates while accounting for regional variation. Analyses were conducted in Python. The results show that homicide in Spain follows non-uniform temporal patterns, with a higher incidence during summer months and on weekends and festive days. Differences are also observed across offender–victim dynamics, indicating variability in homicide characteristics depending on relational and gender configurations. Overall, the findings provide a large-scale empirical overview of homicide in Spain and highlight the relevance of temporal and situational factors, contributing to both criminological research and evidence-based prevention strategies.

When Gender Matters Twice: Judges, Victims, and Homicide *Laura Arantegui Arràez, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya; Alba Marsol, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya*

The judiciary, traditionally a male-dominated world, has incorporated a substantial number of women over the past decades. As a result, research on judicial decision-making has been enriched by the inclusion of a new factor: the judge's sex, or the gender composition of the court. This is an extralegal factor, insofar as no law determines its influence on sentencing outcomes; nonetheless, it carries undeniable relevance given the well-recognised historical differences in the social roles of men and women. These roles may shape meaningfully different perspectives and lead to divergent judicial decisions. This study draws on a quantitative analysis of homicide and murder judgments issued by the Spanish Provincial Courts. As a major finding, sentence severity is systematically higher in cases with female victims, but the magnitude of this increase depends on who is judging. Both male and female judges were more punitive when the victim was a woman, but male judges were more so. In jury trials, male presidents amplified this gap while female presidents reduced it, and in collegial courts the trend even partially reversed in all-female panels. The results highlight the importance of examining the influence of judges' sex on sentencing across different types of offences, particularly from a broader perspective that incorporates the dyad formed by the sex of judges and that of victims.

Filicide and other Child Homicides: Comparing victim, offender, crime characteristics, and judicial outcomes *Josep Tamarit, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya; Noemí Pereda, Universitat de Barcelona; Alba Marsol, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya*

Filicide is a relatively rare phenomenon whose empirical study has developed comparatively late. Filicide constitutes a distinct form of homicide characterized by the intimate relationship between victim and perpetrator, and is therefore conceptualized primarily as an intrafamilial phenomenon, commonly defined as the purposeful killing of one or more children by a parent, stepparent, or other parental figure. Research on child homicide consistently shows that the majority of cases are perpetrated by parents, whereas extrafamilial victimization is rare when victims are very young. The study provides a systematic description of filicide cases adjudicated in Spain and compares them with other cases of child homicide. By examining differences in victim, offender, and offense characteristics, it contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of filicide within the broader spectrum of lethal violence against children. Regarding filicide, cases involving 116 victims were analyzed: 59 boys and 57 girls. The perpetrators (n = 128) were mothers (or equivalent figures) in 63.3% of cases and fathers (or equivalent figures) in 36.7%. In the other homicides (n = 83), 59% of the victims were boys and 41% were girls. Among the perpetrators (n = 109), 58% were men; 36.7% were family members, and another 36.7% were acquaintances of the victim. The likelihood of a conviction was found to be lower in cases of filicide, mainly due to the more frequent application of the exempting circumstance of mental disorder or impairment. Prison sentences imposed were more severe in cases of filicide than in other homicides of minors; in these cases, the sentences handed down to fathers were significantly longer than those imposed on mothers.

Homicides of women involved in paid sex in Spain: an analysis with data from judicial rulings *Antonia Linde Garcia, Open University of Catalonia; Laura Arantegui Arràez, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya*

This study analyzes the homicides of women engaged in paid sexual services in Spain through a systematic examination of judicial rulings. The aim is to identify the main criminological characteristics of these cases, as well as the situational, motivational, and vulnerability factors associated with this form of lethal violence. A mixed methodology was used, based on the analysis of 67 cases drawn from rulings issued by Spanish Provincial Courts between 2001 and 2025, complemented by a quantitative comparison with 888 cases of homicide and murder of women in the general population. The results show that clients are the main perpetrators, with a notable proportion being regular clients. Most incidents occurred in private spaces linked either to the victim's activity or to the offender's environment. A higher presence of victims under the influence of alcohol or drugs was observed compared to the general population, as well as a notable frequency

of strangulation, suffocation, and particularly brutal forms of violence. The qualitative analysis reveals heterogeneous motivations, often diffuse, intertwined with situational conflicts, rejection of sexual or relational demands, economic disputes, and dynamics of domination, misogyny, and dehumanization. Likewise, stigma and social vulnerability emerge as relevant contextual factors.

184. WG EXTREME PANEL 6. Preventing and Countering Radicalization: Policies, Programmes and Reintegration

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Terrorism and Terrorism Financing, Radicalization, Extremism (Radicalization, Extremism, Terrorism WG)

Paper Session

5:15 to 6:30 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.132

Chair:

Sara Afonso, University Rey Juan Carlos

Participants:

Beyond reactive policing: Intelligence-led approaches to radicalization prevention in European security governance *Caterina Vergano, Jagiellonian University*

Intelligence-led policing (ILP) has originated within Anglo-Saxon policing traditions as a strategic shift from reactive law enforcement toward proactive, intelligence-driven approaches. Although not developed within the European Union's traditionally fragmented and sovereignty-sensitive security architecture, the logic of ILP has become increasingly relevant in the European context, particularly in response to transnational terrorism and violent extremism. The need to identify early warning signals, anticipate threats, and integrate dispersed intelligence has reinforced interest in intelligence-led approaches to prevention. At the supranational level, the European Union has significantly expanded its intelligence and information-exchange capabilities. Europol, as the EU's central hub for police cooperation, plays a growing role in facilitating cross-border intelligence sharing and coordinating counter-terrorism efforts. However, the extent to which these collective capabilities translate into proactive and preventive policing practices at the national level remains uneven. This research examines intelligence-led policing as a method for preventing radicalization, using a framework that links European security governance with domestic law enforcement practices. Through a comparative analysis of France, Germany, Italy, and Spain - drawing on policy documents, institutional reports, and expert interviews - the study explores how ILP is structured and operationalized within different legal and institutional contexts. The research demonstrates that European counter-terrorism governance balances strong intelligence-exchange mechanisms with limited convergence in preventive methodologies, while revealing how ILP enables law enforcement to better integrate fragmented intelligence signals in addressing radicalization. These findings are grounded in Western European core states, and future research could examine how peripheral EU members, including Central and Eastern European countries, adapt or diverge from these patterns.

Protective factors and psychosocial prevention programs against extremism and violent radicalization: Evaluations of evidence *Friedrich Lösel, Cambridge University & University of Erlangen-Nuremberg*

Politically, religiously and otherwise motivated forms of extremism, radicalization and terrorism are high priority topics in many countries that led to numerous prevention programs. In addition to repressive measures, psychosocial preventions programs are frequently implemented. However, international experts agree that knowledge gaps about the effectiveness are most challenging (e. g. Wolfowicz et al., 2022). Against this background, the presentation contains a condensed overview of our research projects on protective factors, international practice, and systematic outcome evaluation. It highlights the moderately positive findings reported in our forthcoming book: Lösel, Jugl-Kuntzsch, King, & Bender, Extremism, radicalization, and terrorism across contexts: Protective factors, prevention practice and program evaluation (published in 2006 by Springer, NY).

The reintegration of extremist and terrorist individuals: Purposefully overlooked or accidentally undervalued? *Sara Afonso, University Rey Juan Carlos*

Reintegration is a well-known approach in the crime-prevention field that is key to reducing recidivism and curbing the proliferation of anti-social behaviour at the community level. In the counterterrorism area, it is a key measure within tertiary prevention that supports extremist and terrorist individuals to distance themselves from violence and, in some cases, extremist ideologies. Despite not having been a central focus during the 'war on terror' era, reintegration has received considerable attention, particularly after 2015 when EU Member States were suddenly faced with the aftermath challenges of the return of the so-called 'foreign terrorist fighters' (FTFs). Showcasing the relevance of reintegration, the recent ProtectEU Agenda outlines the need for a "stronger coordination and tailored reintegration measures" (p. 7) when working with individuals in prisons who might be radicalised or who are serving a sentence for terrorism, including FTFs. Nonetheless, despite the recognised importance of reintegration, gaps and difficulties still arise. As the focus on securitised measures prevails, reintegration is seen as a secondary objective and is neglected in terms of funding and resources. Besides, changes in radicalisation and extremism pose challenges for reintegration, as new profiles with intricate specificities and needs complexify the work in the field. However, reintegration's neglect can be costly in an increasingly multifaceted P/CVE scope. Hence, research is required to better understand current difficulties and highlight the importance of reintegration at the policymaking level. This paper will be based on 50 interviews with practitioners, researchers, and policymakers in Germany, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom working in the P/CVE field. As such, it will contextualise the reality of reintegration efforts across different contexts, identify

needs and gaps at the research, practice, and policy levels, and put forward recommendations for the development and implementation of more effective reintegration policies.

185. Rural Criminology at the Crossroads: New Research and Theory from the Archives of Criminology (Archiwum Kryminologii) Special Issue

Topic 3: Crime Correlates/Rural Criminology (Rural Criminology WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
5:15 to 6:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.142

This panel brings together selected contributions from a special issue of Archiwum Kryminologii devoted to rural criminology, highlighting the field's dynamic development at the intersection of theory, empirical research, and international collaboration. It represents only a subset of authors involved in the special issue. The session reflects the growing recognition that rural contexts are not peripheral but central to understanding contemporary crime, safety, and social order. The presentations offer complementary perspectives, including analyses of the social construction of crime and safety in rural communities, the role of place and spatial diversity, the internationalisation of rural criminology, and the historical development of the field. The panel also incorporates critical approaches that address exclusion, inequality, and emerging forms of hostility in rural settings. Taken together, the contributions demonstrate the value of linking local, place-based insights with broader structural and global processes. They also highlight key theoretical and methodological challenges, as well as opportunities for further development of comparative and internationally oriented research. By bringing these perspectives into dialogue, the panel positions rural criminology at a "crossroads," emphasising both consolidation and innovation within the field, and outlining directions for future research and collaboration.

Chair:

Joseph Donnermeyer, The Ohio State University

Participants:

A Brief History of Rural Criminology's Development *Joseph Donnermeyer, The Ohio State University*

As a field of scholarship within criminology, rural criminology's development has progressed through four stages. These can be summarized as "before the 21 st century – scattered, theory-less, with little synthesis" to "21 st century – more theoretically diverse, more critical, more international, and a more cohesive network." The purpose of this presentation is to describe each of the four states of rural criminology's development and how they form the basis for the status of its scholarship in the decade of the 2020s.

Rural criminology – diverse place and space perspectives *Gorazd Meško, University of Maribor*

Recent scholarship in rural criminology emphasises the fundamental importance of space and place in understanding crime beyond traditionally urban-focused frameworks. Contemporary research shows that rural areas are highly diverse, shaped by unique historical, cultural, economic, and environmental conditions that influence crime patterns and community responses. Donnermeyer (2026) highlights the central role of place as the key analytical unit in rural criminological studies, stressing that rural crime cannot be generalised across different contexts. A major trend identified by Bowden (2026) is the need to integrate rural studies into broader analyses of modernity, globalisation, and glocalisation, since global economic and technological changes increasingly affect rural communities. This includes examining how global forces—such as labour mobility, technological expansion, and historical legacies, such as colonisation—reshape rural crime dynamics. International comparative work has expanded significantly. A key publication covering 19 countries provides insights into victimisation, policing, fear of crime, and safety across diverse rural settings, underscoring the importance of intersectional and culturally informed approaches (Ceccato & Harkness, 2025). Overall, current rural criminology blends local place-based analysis with global contextual understanding, forming a rapidly evolving international field.

Challenges and Opportunities for International Rural Criminology *Walter S. DeKeseredy, West Virginia University*

This presentation demonstrates that rural criminology is characterized by theoretical and methodological innovation, comparative international research, and growing institutional recognition within professional associations and scholarly journals. At the same time, important challenges remain, and there are still major research gaps to be filled, some of which are identified in this presentation.

Local Context Matters: How Rural Community Characteristics Shape Perceptions of Crime *Emilia Jurgielewicz-Delegacz, Faculty of Law, University of Bialystok*

The aim of this presentation is to explore how crime in rural areas becomes an object of collective definition, negotiation, and reinterpretation within local communities. Drawing on quantitative survey data from rural residents and qualitative material (including in-depth interviews and narratives about local incidents), I reconstruct patterns of perceived threats and the ways in which they are justified. The analysis demonstrates that the "rural map of threats" largely emerges from accumulated indirect experiences, selective memory of past incidents, and established modes of information circulation within dense neighbourly networks. I discuss how residents talk about crime, which categories of events they consider particularly troubling, and how they link these concerns to broader social and economic changes. I also show that the social construction of rural crime has tangible consequences for subjective safety, neighbourly monitoring, and expectations toward the police and other local institutions.

Hostility, Rurality, and Belonging: 2SLGBTQIA+ Experiences in Francophone Minority Contexts in New Brunswick *Kim Dubé, University of Moncton; Marie-Lou Blanchard, University of Moncton; Marie-Pier Rivest, University of Moncton*

This presentation examines the contemporary

production of hostility toward 2SLGBTQIA+ communities in rural New Brunswick, with particular attention to Francophone minority contexts. Situated at the intersection of rurality, language, and sexual and gender diversity, it mobilizes queer criminology, moral panic theory, and intersectional feminist approaches to conceptualize hate as a multi-scalar phenomenon shaped by political, media, and institutional processes. Focusing on the socio-political context surrounding the 2023–2024 revision of Policy 713, the analysis explores how gender-diverse youth were constructed as threats to parental authority and social order. These dynamics contributed to the normalization of hostility and the intensification of exclusionary climates, particularly within rural settings characterized by social proximity, limited services, and heightened visibility of difference. Drawing on a qualitative analysis of media coverage and the broader socio-political context, as well as qualitative research with Francophone 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals and community actors, the presentation examines how these broader dynamics are lived and negotiated. It highlights the cumulative impacts of hostility on safety and mental health, while underscoring how linguistic minority status shapes both vulnerability and access to support. By bridging structural, social, and experiential dimensions, this presentation advances a critical rural criminological perspective on hate. It argues that anti-2SLGBTQIA+ hostility must be understood as embedded within broader struggles over normativity, governance, and belonging, while foregrounding the forms of resistance and collective care emerging within Franco-queer communities.

186. Regulating Harm: Criminalisation, AI and Penal Policy

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Criminal Justice Policy (Crime, Science and Politics WG)

Paper Session

5:15 to 6:30 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.146

Chair:

Grzegorz Skowronek, Uniwersytet Jana Kochanowskiego w Kielcach

Participants:

Criminalising Femicide: A Comparative Analysis of Legal Frameworks in 32 Countries *Ditte Bjerregaard, IT University of Copenhagen*

Femicide, the gender-related killing of women, remains a persistent form of lethal violence despite declining rates of other homicides in many countries. Globally, an estimated 83,000 women and girls were killed in 2024, often following patterns of intimate partner violence, stalking or coercive control. Yet many legal systems continue to treat these killings as gender-neutral homicides, obscuring the structural dynamics of gender-based violence. This paper examines how femicide is recognised and criminalised across 32 national jurisdictions in Europe, Latin America and African countries. Drawing on comparative legal analysis, the study maps different legislative approaches, including autonomous femicide offences, aggravated homicide provisions and procedural frameworks that recognise gender-based motives. The analysis highlights how Latin American countries have pioneered explicit femicide legislation, while European states more commonly address gender-related killings through aggravating circumstances or enhanced sentencing. The findings indicate that the effects of femicide criminalisation are context dependent. In several jurisdictions, legal recognition has been associated with improvements in data collection, investigative practices and institutional responses to gender-related killings. In other settings, however, the impact of criminalisation appears limited, particularly where broader political instability or institutional crises constrain the implementation of prevention policies. Case examples from Spain, Argentina and Georgia illustrate how legal frameworks interact with risk-assessment systems, monitoring mechanisms and international human-rights obligations such as the Istanbul Convention. The paper contributes to criminological debates on criminalisation and gender-based violence by analysing whether distinct femicide provisions enhance visibility, accountability and prevention. It concludes by discussing the implications for countries currently debating legal reform, including Denmark, where femicides remain embedded within gender-neutral homicide statistics.

Ethical Governance of AI in Criminal Justice: A Code of Conduct for Legal Professionals Developed under the FAIR-PReSONS Project *Emmanouil Technitis, Democritus University of Thrace, Scientific Collaborator of the Center for the Study of Crime (GR), Metropolitan College tutor (GR); Nikolaos Manos, Ph.D. in Law cand., Department of Law, Democritus University of Thrace; Konstantinos Kosmatos, Associate Professor, Department of Law, Democritus University of Thrace*

The growing use of artificial intelligence systems in the criminal justice system, particularly in risk assessment, recidivism prediction, and decision-making support, highlights the need not only for compliance with the existing legal framework but also for more specific ethical guidance for legal professionals. This presentation introduces the Code of Conduct for Legal Professionals developed under the *FAIR-PReSONS project, as a professionally oriented framework for ethical governance regarding the use of AI in criminal justice. The Code is specifically addressed to judges, prosecutors, attorneys, and legal advisors, regardless of whether they are end users of such technologies or involved in their design, evaluation, implementation, or oversight. The central argument of this presentation is that legal framework, while necessary, is not sufficient on its own to ensure the reliable, fair, and institutionally legitimate integration of TN into criminal proceedings. The Code of Conduct does not seek to replace existing legislation or binding professional rules. Rather, it serves as a complement, synthesizing existing European and international legal and ethical principles into a more specific framework for criminal justice. In this sense, it seeks to bridge the gap between general regulatory principles and everyday legal practice, with an emphasis on transparency, non-discrimination, accountability, technical safety, and, above all, meaningful human control. The central argument of the

presentation is that AI should function as a supportive tool and not as a substitute for human legal judgment or judicial responsibility. This research was conducted in the context of FAIR-PReSONS EU project (https://fair-presons.aegean.gr/) no. 101160473, funded within e-JUSTICE program (JUST-2023-JACC-EJUSTICE).

Method or Madness? A Quantitative Analysis of Sentencing Scales and Punitive Increments in the Spanish Criminal Code *Dyango Bonsignore, University of Alicante*

Traditional legal analysis often focuses on the qualitative definition of crimes. However, the internal consistency of a legal system relies heavily on the principle of proportionality, which dictates that the severity of the penalty should correspond to the gravity of the offense. This study employs a quantitative approach to map the sentencing structures within the Spanish Criminal Code. By analyzing the "punitive steps" (increments) between basic types of crimes and their various aggravating circumstances, we calculated the ratios of increase across different "families" of offenses (e.g., property crimes vs. violent crimes). The data reveals significant systemic inconsistencies. While one might expect a uniform logic for aggravating factors, the results show a fragmented landscape. Some sections of the Code follow a linear progression, more abrupt or erratic jumps in sentencing that lack a clear criminological or dogmatic justification. These disparities suggest that the legislative process often prioritizes ad hoc reforms over a coherent, cross-Code punitive logic. The lack of an apparent pattern in these increments raises a fundamental question: is the current sentencing framework a product of a deliberate method, or a chaotic madness driven by legislative fragmentation? This talk tries to rethink the structural proportionality of penal systems by measuring what is often taken for granted.

Results of the APRIMES+ Project: Towards a More Comprehensive Analysis of Social Exclusion Through the Criminal Justice System in the Global North *Anabel Cerezo Domínguez, University of Malaga; Pablo Rando, University of Sevilla*

In this paper, we present the results of applying the RIMES instrument to a new sample of the most populous countries in the so-called Global North. The RIMES instrument was developed to compare the level of social exclusion resulting from the operation of criminal justice systems. In recent years, the instrument was applied to a significant sample of Western jurisdictions: California, New York, England and Wales, Germany, Italy, Spain, and Poland. In this new wave of the instrument, new jurisdictions are added to the analysis: Texas, Florida, France, Romania, Portugal, and Finland. This provides a more representative and comprehensive view of the degree of social exclusion caused by criminal justice systems, while also discussing possible hypotheses that explain the differences among the jurisdictions studied.

The Influence of the Gambling Industry on the Formation of Legal Regulations – A Comparative Analysis of Poland and North Macedonia *Grzegorz Skowronek, Uniwersytet Jana Kochanowskiego w Kielcach*

The paper presents the results of research on the influence of the gambling industry on the formation of legal regulations in Poland and North Macedonia in a comparative perspective, with particular emphasis on social perception and public debate concerning the gambling market. The research hypothesis assumes that the gambling industry exerts a significant, yet context-dependent influence on legal regulations, with social perception and public discourse playing a key role in mediating this effect. The study includes an analysis of legal provisions, public discourse in both countries, and a survey conducted among respondents in North Macedonia. Two research questions were posed: how does the gambling industry affect the formation of legal regulations in Poland and North Macedonia, and how do social perception and public discourse influence the process of shaping regulations concerning gambling? The survey covered three areas: perception of the gambling industry, perception of legal regulations, and risks and social effects of gambling. Respondents assessed the transparency of legal operators, the impact of gambling advertising, the availability of gambling points, and knowledge of regulations and location restrictions. The third section addressed the risk of addiction, awareness of the symptoms of problematic gambling, and the impact of gambling on social and family life. The survey was complemented by an analysis of public discourse in Poland and North Macedonia, including press materials and media reports regarding the functioning of the gambling industry and debates around regulatory changes. The results indicate that the gambling industry influences legal regulations in diverse ways, both through public debate and participation in legislative processes. Differences in social awareness and institutional contexts in the studied countries translate into varying directions and intensity of regulatory policies toward the gambling sector.

187. Current challenges of International & Transitional Justice (sponsored by The European Criminology Group on Atrocity Crimes and Transitional Justice)

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Transitional Justice (Atrocity Crimes and Transitional Justice WG)
Paper Session
5:15 to 6:30 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.150

Chair:
Andy Aydın-Aitchison, University of Edinburgh

Participants:

From Abduction to Acquisition: The criminology of the digital desk-perpetrator and the sys-tematic criminal conduct against Ukrainian children *Eike Fesefeldt, Federal University of Applied Administrative Sciences*

The systematic abduction and forced cultural assimilation of Ukrainian children is a recognized violation of international law, codified as the war crime of unlawful transfer in international law and many national jurisdictions. The International Criminal Court (ICC) underscored the gravity of these acts through the March 2023 arrest warrants for Vladimir Putin and Maria Lvova-Belova. However, a critical

criminological gap remains. The criminal conduct did not terminate at the moment of physical abduction. Instead, it evolved into a sophisticated, technologically-mediated process of identity destruction. This paper analyzes the transition of forced transfers into a system of permanent digital deletion. Central to this phenomenon is the emergence of Digital Marketplaces for Adoption, centralized state databases that already are nicknamed "Catalogues of Shame". These platforms utilize e-commerce logic to categorize abducted children, allowing prospective parents to query the database for specific physical traits. This study argues that such technological interfaces do not merely facilitate a crime; they dehumanize the victim by transforming a grave international violation into a standardized administrative transaction. Furthermore, the paper examines the interconnected mechanism of automated identity liquidation. Through the integration of expedited citizenship software and centralized biometric registries, the Russian state systematically overwrites the Ukrainian legal persona of abducted minors. This creates a high barrier to repatriation, as the digital origin of the children is deleted or altered at the state level. The paper concludes that modern atrocities like the war crime of unlawful transfer are increasingly facilitated by automated systems. It calls for a shift in focus toward the individual responsibility of IT-specialists and bureaucrats who manage these digital tools. It is important to ensure that the banality of digital evil remains a pillar of international criminal accountability.

Mobilizing Memory: Collective Memory, Genocide Denial, and the Justification of Violence Evidence from Russian Discourse on the Holodomor *Anneliese Schenk-Day, Ohio State University; Jack GR Wippell, The Ohio State University*

Prior work on collective memory shows that citizens of a nation which has been responsible for past atrocities often shift their perceptions of the past to a more positive frame in the wake of current conflict. By rooting our study at the intersection of collective memory and genocide denial, we uncover the nuanced ways in which Russians today are framing the countries current actions in Ukraine, by recalling the past events of the Holodomor. Earlier studies on denial of the Holodomor have focused on the historical analysis of political elites' actions, as well as nation state's memory politics. While such work is vital to combating denial of the Holodomor as it documents the crimes committed against the Ukrainian people, it does not explore the impacts Russian media narratives have on everyday members of the public, nor how current conflicts impact Russian's perceptions of the Holodomor. For this reason, we look at (1) the collective memory of the Holodomor as it exists in the citizenry of the perpetrating state, through online discourse, (2) how its salience and framing changes around key exogenous events, and (3) how different types of users may engage in similar or divergent ways. Specifically, we analyze how individuals on the Russian social media site, VKontakte (VK), are discussing the Holodomor. By analyzing over 24,000 unique posts concerning the Holodomor made between 2014 and January 2026 we find that external events (primarily Russia's invasion of Crimea in 2014 and the start of the 2022 war) changed (a) the amount of discourse about the Holodomor by Russians online and (b) the types of discourse, with the denial/dismissal of the Holodomor increasing. We likewise see demographic variation among how persons on VK discuss the Holodomor, particularly among different sexes and geographic regions, understudied variables in genocide denial research.

"The abduction of Ukrainian children during the war in Ukraine as an international crime *Barbara Anna Błońska, University of Warsaw, Institute of Social Prevention and Resocialisation*

According to estimates cited by international bodies and Ukrainian authorities, thousands of children have been unlawfully transferred from occupied territories of Ukraine to the Russian Federation or areas under its control. Ukrainian sources indicate that over 20,000 children have been identified as deported or forcibly transferred, while only a small proportion— about two thousands — have been successfully returned to Ukraine. This paper examines the patterns and mechanisms underlying these acts. It will analyze the circumstances in which children are taken, including during so-called "filtration" procedures, evacuations from orphanages and care institutions, and the separation of children from parents in conflict zones. It will also describe the profiles of the victims, who include orphans, children deprived of parental care, and those from vulnerable or occupied regions, making them especially susceptible to unlawful transfer and adoption. The legal dimension of these acts has already been recognized at the international level. Prosecutors of the International Criminal Court have issued arrest warrants against Maria Lvova-Belova and Vladimir Putin, alleging responsibility for the unlawful deportation and transfer of Ukrainian children. These charges classify the conduct as war crimes under international law. Finally, the paper addresses why the International Criminal Court has prioritized these crimes. It seems that the relative clarity of evidence, the particucar chain of command, which creates regular pattern and the strong symbolic and humanitarian significance of crimes against children make these cases particularly suitable for early prosecution.

Violence in detention camps through the Prlić et al and Tuta & Štela cases at the ICTY *Andy Aydın-Aitchison, University of Edinburgh*

From 1993 to 1994, the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatian Defence Council engaged in hostilities against each other in parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina while maintaining their co-operation and alliance in others. In Herzegovina, specifically in Mostar and surrounding municipalities, these hostilities were accompanied by large scale detention of combatants and civilians in existing prisons, in military facilities, and in improvised sites lasting sometimes only a few days. By using two of the main ICTY cases in which related crimes were prosecuted, this paper will explore the forms of violence inflicted on detainees, and its distribution across different sites, different

perpetrators and different victims with a view to better understanding the functioning of a system for detention and its purpose.

188. Poster Session

ESC

Poster Session

6:30 to 7:45 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 0 - Room 0.141 - Poster session

Participants:

P001. Adverse and Positive Childhood Experiences and Emotional Processing in Incarcerated Women: The Explanatory Role of Executive Functioning Controlling for Psychopathic Traits *Marina Leonor Pinheiro, University of Minho, Braga, Portugal; Rui Abrunhosa Gonçalves, RISE-HEALTH@UPT, Portucalense University- Portugal; Olga Cunha, University of Minho*

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) have consistently been linked to long-term impairments in emotional regulation and executive functioning. However, less is known about how adverse and positive early experiences influence emotional processing in incarcerated women. This study aims to examine how ACEs and Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs), measured by the Benevolent Childhood Experiences Scale, affect emotional processing, specifically the evaluation of pleasant, unpleasant, and neutral images in terms of valence, arousal, and dominance. It also explores whether executive functioning may account for these associations while controlling for psychopathic traits and social desirability. The sample comprises 164 incarcerated women aged between 18 and 81 years (M = 38.75; SD = 11.99). Participants completed self-report measures of ACEs, PCEs, and psychopathic traits using the Self-Report Psychopathy Scale – Short Form. Executive functioning was assessed using the Frontal Assessment Battery. Emotional processing was measured using the Self-Assessment Manikin following exposure to 30 images (10 pleasant, 10 unpleasant, and 10 neutral) from the International Affective Picture System. Analyses will examine the associations between ACEs, PCEs, and emotional processing, as well as the explanatory role of executive functioning. Psychopathic traits and social desirability will be included as control variables. It is expected that higher ACEs will be associated with more dysregulated emotional responses, reflected in increased arousal and reduced dominance when evaluating unpleasant and neutral stimuli. Higher PCEs are expected to be associated with more adaptive emotional responses, including greater perceived control. Higher ACEs and lower PCEs are anticipated to be associated with poorer executive functioning, which helps explain variability in emotional processing patterns. Specific ACEs are expected to show differential associations with executive functioning and emotional processing profiles. This study contributes to a developmental understanding of emotional functioning in forensic women by integrating risk and protective early experiences, cognitive regulation, and psychopathic traits within a framework.

P002. A Framework for Individual Cybersecurity Vulnerabilities *Joris Van Ouytsel, Arizona State University; Mateusz Czarnecki, Independent Researcher*

Background While cybersecurity frameworks have been developed to understand risks at legal, technical, or organizational levels, few assess the diverse factors that can affect the vulnerability of individuals when confronted with cybercrime risks. To address this gap in literature, we are in the process of developing a a conceptual model based on a literature review. Method We have chosen to submit this paper as a poster presentation to engage in discussions with conference participants at a criminology conference about how to further enhance and expand the framework. Initially, we conducted a systematic search for relevant theoretical frameworks and conceptualizations. Among the relevant frameworks are the Differential Susceptibility to Media Effects Model (Valkenburg & Peter, 2013), and classical theories on message processing, such as the ELM (Petty & Cacioppo, 1986), Social Cognitive Theory (Bandura, 2009), and PMT (Rogers, 1975). In the second phase, we categorized the factors affecting an individual's vulnerability to cybercrime into subcategories. Currently, in the third phase, we are validating the conceptual framework. Preliminary framework The proposed framework comprises five main factors, each contributing to an individual's vulnerability to cybercrime: Personal factors include traits that increase cybercrime risk, such as age, personality, socioeconomic and immigration status, unemployment, media literacy, and technological skills, along with developmental stages like adolescence. Technological factors involve hardware, software, and media use, including outdated devices or software, weak security measures, and risky online behaviors like sharing personal information. Environmental factors cover physical and societal contexts, from unsecured device use in shared or public spaces to differences in laws and enforcement. Response state refers to how individuals cognitively, emotionally, and physiologically react to cyber threats, which shapes their susceptibility. To advance this framework, we are currently utilizing it as a systematic tool for reviewing cybercrime-related literature and would benefit from feedback of the conference participants.

P003. AI-Generated „Crusaders“/“SS-Men“/“Jesus-Avatars“: Narcissistic Rage and New Fascism in Right-Wing Online Extremism a criminological perspective with interdiciplinary integrations (psychoanalysis/political philosophy/ sociology) *Julia Konstancia Mazurowska, Universität Regensburg*

Research Question: How do AI-generated self-identities from right-wing forums express narcissistic rage and Eva von Redecker’s new fascism? Keywords: AI extremism, narcisstic rage, new fascism: phantombesitz, digital radicalization, right-wing avatars Abstract: This poster explores how AI-generated self-incenations in right-wing and christian-fundamentalist online milieus (e.g., self-staged "crusaders", "SS-men" or "Jesus" avatars) contribute to online radicalisation and dehumanising violence. Drawing on Kernberg's psychoanalytic concepts of

narcissistic rage, identity diffusion, Löwenthal's (frankfurt school) psychological foundations of antisemitic propaganda, and Eva von Redecker's concept of "Phantombesitz", the defence of imagined property claims that justifies violence over lives , the analysis traces how digitally staged indentities merge nationalist, racist and religious imagery with fantasies of moral superiority and strength. The material consists of a small exploratory sample of AI-generated images from right-wing and christian-fundamentalist online spaces. Analysis focuses on posture, costume, symbolic framing and contextual narratives to examine how these avatars stabilise diffuse self-representations while delegitimising „the other“, embodying Redecker's "liquidating phantombesitz defence". Preliminary Findings and Implications: Initial analysis reveals e.g. clenched fists, combat poses, and captions like "We reclaim OUR land," fusing psychoanalyticpathology (Kernberg), political philosophy (Redecker's fascism structures), and criminology (digital radicalization). Criminological Significance: This interdisciplinary bridge show how affective mechanisms drive online-to-offline escalation in right-wing extremism, enabling targeted prevention of digital identity fantasies before real-world violence manifests.

P004. AI-Generated Sexual Violence: Rethinking Violence Against Women in the Age of Deepfakes *Inês Isabel Sales, University Fernando Pessoa; Ana Isabel Sani, University Fernando Pessoa (UFP); OPVC-UFP; CIEC-UM*

Deepfakes, especially the Non-Consensual Sexual Deepfakes (NCSD) have emerged as a particularly alarming form of gender violence, constituting a contemporary expression of image-based sexual abuse within digital environments. This phenomenon illustrates how longstanding patterns of misogyny are being reconfigured through technological innovation, reflecting a broader historical trend in which gender-based violence evolves alongside new forms of communication and media. In this context, artificial intelligence is used to generate and distribute fabricated intimate content without the knowledge or consent of the individuals portrayed, with women being the primary targets. Although public awareness of NCSD has grown significantly, most of the research has tended to prioritize the experiences of the victims, leaving the role of perpetrators, as well as the social and technological conditions that sustain these practices, comparatively underexplored. This study addresses this gap by offering a comprehensive review of the literature on NCSD, focusing on the interplay between social, discursive, and technological factors that enable their creation and circulation. Special attention is given to recent research examining perpetrator profiles, underlying motivations, and justifications, alongside the ways in which these practices are normalized and reinforced within online communities. By framing NCSD within the wider continuum of violence against women, this analysis highlights the need to move beyond a solely victim-oriented perspective in criminological research. It further emphasizes the importance of developing a more nuanced understanding of the social, digital, and discursive dimensions of this phenomenon, to support the design of effective prevention measures, strengthen digital literacy, and inform appropriate legal and institutional responses.

P005. Alternatives to pre-trial detention: a comparative analysis of the draft reform of the Spanish Criminal Procedure Law and the French model *JOSÉ FRANCISCO ETXEBERRIA, University of the Basque Country*

Pre-trial detention is one of the most serious precautionary measures in criminal proceedings, as it involves the deprivation of liberty of a person who still enjoys the presumption of innocence. Aware of this tension, both Spanish and French legislators have opted for a range of alternative measures that guarantee the aims of the process—ensuring the defendant's safety, protecting victims, and preserving the investigation—without resorting to detention as the default response. The Draft Reform of the Criminal Procedure Law in Spain proposes a tiered system of personal precautionary measures in which pre-trial detention is established as a last resort. Among the alternatives provided for are provisional release with charges, the obligation to appear periodically before the authorities, a travel ban, house arrest with or without electronic monitoring, and a prohibition on communicating with certain individuals. A mandatory periodic review of the measure adopted is also introduced. In France, judicial control (contrôle judiciaire) —regulated in the Code of Criminal Procedure (Code de Procédure Pénale) since 1970 and progressively strengthened—establishes a similar system: reporting requirements, travel restrictions, surrender of identity documents, and assignment of a residence. Assignment of residence with mobile electronic monitoring (ARSEM) represents the most intensive form of pretrial detention. Comparative analysis reveals significant structural convergences: proportionality, subsidiarity, and effective judicial control as common principles. However, differences persist regarding the threshold for application, the role of the Public Prosecutor's Office, and the integration of monitoring services. This work examines these similarities and differences with the aim of extracting proposals for improvement for the emerging Spanish model.

P006. Ambivalent Responses: A case study on villagers strategies negotiating wind energy projects in China *Xin Li, University of Essex*

The rapid expansion of renewable energy is widely promoted as a key strategy for addressing climate change. China currently leads the world in installed wind power capacity. Nevertheless, the construction of wind farms often faces controversy and opposition from local communities, which was once characterised as NIMBY (Not in My Backyard) phenomenon. Yet empirical realities do not always conform to expectations of overt conflict. Drawing on a three-month ethnographic fieldwork conducted in a rural village in North China (pseudonym: Zi-Xi), this paper examines how villagers respond to the construction of a wind power megaproject. Contrary to expectations of dispersed resistance, the research finds that villagers’

responses are characterised by ambivalence rather than open opposition. Wind turbines are frequently described as a "good thing" associated with national development and environmental protection. However, this public endorsement coexists with limited knowledge, circulating rumours, and subtle concerns about potential environmental and social impacts. Within the framework of green criminology, the study explores how perceived environmental harms and injustices are negotiated in contexts where collective protest is uncommon. The analysis identifies several forms of indirect engagement, including deferred compliance and strategic procrastination, as well as subtle and individualised forms of resistance often voiced by particular villagers informally labelled as "troublemakers". Villagers also utilise semi-institutionalised channels to express grievances, such as the national 12345 citizen hotline and short-video platforms. The paper further situates these responses within two broader contexts. First, the flexible practices of grassroots governance shape how conflicts are mediated and contained. Second, villagers' perceptions of wind turbines are embedded in complex development aspirations and livelihood considerations. By analysing these dynamics, the study highlights how environmental conflicts surrounding renewable energy may manifest not as overt resistance but as ambivalent negotiation within specific governance and development contexts.

P007. A Meta-analysis on Violent versus Non Violent Criminal Behavior: In Search of Differential Childhood Predictors of Adult Criminality. *Yasmina Rbeiz, Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Ivy N Defoe, 1. Forensic Child and Youth Care Sciences, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands 2. Interdisciplinary Research Team on Internet and Society, Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University, Jostova, Czechia*

"Those who have studied psychology, or been around violent people, would likely find it remarkable that almost all major criminological theories are "general" and that the authors do not attempt to distinguish violent offenders from less serious offenders." (Savage & Wozniak, 2016, p. ix). While this contrast is very present in the judicial system, and while the impact of violent crime is far greater for victims and for society, well-established criminological theories do not make a sharp contrast in the etiology of violent and non-violent crime. Furthermore, although developmental processes play a central role in predicting later criminality, no meta-analysis has examined how childhood risk factors differentially predict violent and non-violent crime in adulthood. To address this gap, and drawing on a well-established classification of risk factors (Pollard & Lee, 2003), we will conduct a series of three-level meta-analyses to compare the predictive effects of multiple childhood risk domains (psychological, cognitive, social, and physical) on adult violent and non-violent offending at the between-person and within-person level, and examine demographic (e.g., age, gender, geographical region) and theoretical moderators of these associations. Such a synthesis would clarify which early risk factors are most important, a clarification which is crucial for informing targeted research, prevention, and intervention in order to reduce the likelihood and severity of criminal behavior across the life course. The PRISMA guidelines will be followed, and a protocol will be registered. A meta-analytic approach is particularly suitable because it provides a quantitative, systematic overview of the differential backgrounds of violent and non-violent crime, integrates evidence scattered across psychology and criminology, accounts for country-specific contexts of illegality, and contributes to the ongoing criminological debate on specialized versus general crime (Eker & Mus, 2016).

P008. An Analysis of Court Judgments on Dating Violence Against Women with Intellectual Disabilities in South Korea *Kim Sung Ryung, Kyungpook National University; Hunsik Jo, Kyungpook National University*

This study analyzed court judgments concerning dating violence cases involving women with intellectual disabilities to explore the structural characteristics of such violence and the judicial tendencies reflected in legal reasoning. Using a mixed-methods approach, nineteen judgments (eleven cases) delivered over the past five years (2020–2025) were examined. The analysis showed that physical, emotional, and sexual violence appeared in overlapping forms during dating relationships, and the temporal and relational continuity of violence was confirmed as such harm persisted even after the relationships ended. The findings also indicated that the victim's intellectual disability influenced her ability to recognize the violence and navigate the reporting process. In addition, the courts tended to interpret the perpetrator's disability as a mitigating factor while framing the victim's disability primarily as a condition that required protection, demonstrating an asymmetric and paternalistic judicial stance. These results imply that dating violence against women with intellectual disabilities should be understood not merely as a matter of individual vulnerability but within the broader context of structural and social violence. Based on these findings, this study suggests the establishment of procedural protection systems, the safeguarding of victims' rights, the refinement of sentencing guidelines, and the strengthening of social protection systems for prevention and proactive intervention.

P009. An Unsafe World: Secondary Victimization of Bereaved Families in Cold-Case Homicides *Diana Cantini Vaisman, Bar Ilan university; Tomer Einat, School of Criminology, Haifa University, Israel*

Cold case homicide investigations leave families with unanswered questions and prolonged psychological distress. Cold case homicides impose prolonged psychological, emotional, and social strain on bereaved family members, who must cope not only with the traumatic loss itself but also with uncertainty and the ongoing absence of justice. Despite increasing scholarly attention to secondary victimization, limited research has examined bereaved families' long-term interactions with law enforcement in unresolved homicide cases. This qualitative study explores the experiences of 13 family members of homicide victims

in Israel whose cases remain unsolved. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews and analyzed using thematic analysis. Findings reveal a persistent dynamic of mistrust, emotional detachment, and perceived negligence within interactions between families and law enforcement. Participants reported feelings of abandonment, secondary trauma, and institutional betrayal, which exacerbated their grief and contributed to ongoing psychological burden. The study highlights the need for trauma-informed police practices and improved long-term support mechanisms for families in cold case contexts.

P010. Are trafficked unaccompanied foreign minors in Spain lost in the system? Examining institutional failures *Rubén Espuny, University of Lleida; Carolina Villacampa, University of Lleida*

Minor victims of human trafficking face severe disruptions to their personal development. Unaccompanied foreign minors are particularly vulnerable due to their status as non-nationals and the absence of legal guardianship. In this context, the role of professionals is vital for ensuring early detection and the specialized assistance these victims require. This qualitative study identifies institutional obstacles in the detection and assistance phases to provide evidence-based proposals for systemic improvement. The research involved 15 professionals from the public sector and third-sector organisations in Catalonia (Spain), all possessing at least 10 years of experience in victim support. Data collected through in-depth interviews were analysed using thematic coding. Results indicate that professionals encounter significant structural and procedural barriers to providing personalised support to child victims. Crucially, challenges identified during the initial detection phase tend to persist and amplify throughout the entire recovery process if not addressed at the outset. The evidence underscores an urgent need for a victim-centred approach that prioritises the best interests of the child.

P011. Artificial Intelligence in Criminology, 1985–2025: A Large-Scale Bibliometric Analysis of Methodological Transformation *Fanqi Zeng, University of Oxford*

The rapid proliferation of artificial intelligence (AI) across the social sciences poses fundamental questions about how computational methods reshape the production and organisation of disciplinary knowledge. Yet, no large-scale empirical account exists of this transformation within criminology, a field historically anchored in qualitative and ethnographic traditions. This study presents a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of AI adoption in criminology over four decades (1985–2025), drawing on a corpus of more than 100,000 academic publications. In this work, we employ an integrated analytical framework combining multiple quantitative approaches. Temporal dynamics in AI adoption are examined across the full study period. Methodological displacement is evaluated using a difference-in-differences design, comparing journals with high AI uptake against resistant counterparts along dimensions of publication volume, citation impact, and author continuity. Survival analysis assesses the persistence of traditional methods as a function of journal prestige, team composition, and international collaboration. Knowledge flows are traced through dynamic co-authorship networks constructed in five-year intervals, with community detection algorithms identifying bridging institutions and emergent epistemic communities. BERTopic modelling on the abstracts of publications captures thematic evolution, isolating ascendant, declining, and stable research streams. Our findings reveal a sharp structural inflection in AI uptake following 2015, accompanied by significant methodological displacement effects, rising institutional concentration, and the emergence of interdisciplinary clusters bridging computer science and criminal justice. Collectively, these results provide an empirical foundation for understanding how advanced computational methods are reconfiguring the intellectual architecture of criminology, with substantive implications for research practice, funding policy, and editorial governance in the field.

P012. A Systematic Review and Bibliometric Analysis: Research on Digital Violence Against Women in Southern Europe *Julia Méndez-Hernández, University of Lleida; Carolina Villacampa, University of Lleida*

Digital violence against women has become an increasingly recognized form of gender-based violence, amplified by the widespread use of digital technologies. This study explores the scientific literature on this issue in Spain, Italy, Portugal, and Greece through a systematic review, complemented by bibliometric and network analyses. A total of 89 publications were examined, taking into account their temporal trends, geographic distribution, research methods, types of violence studied, and target populations. Analyses of co-authorship, co-citation, and bibliographic coupling were also performed to uncover patterns of collaboration and thematic connections. Results reveal a steady growth in research over the past ten years, with Spain contributing the most publications, while Portugal and Greece show more limited output. Quantitative research dominates the field, primarily focusing on adolescents and general populations, with cyberbullying and digital sexual violence being the most studied forms. Overall, the literature indicates a maturing field, though fragmentation in themes and collaborative networks persists.

P013. A Systematic Review of Peer Support Services in Correctional Settings: Preliminary Findings *Jocelyn Evens, John Jay College/The Graduate College, CUNY; Mardet Homans, John Jay College/The Graduate Center, CUNY; Deborah Koetzle, John Jay College of Criminal Justice; Victoria Emma Williams, Indiana University; Grace Cohen, Indiana University*

Peer support in correctional settings is an understudied area with large variations in services and provided support. PSS responsibilities can extend from acting as a liaison between the incarcerated, or recently incarcerated, individual and social services, modeling prosocial behaviors to handle the stress following release, facilitating training for academic or vocational

programs, etc. The primary purpose of this research is to synthesize how common these services, including peer navigators, are implemented in the United States correctional systems. A systematic review of prior literature and studies on peer navigators allowed us to study the frequency of implementation, identify the dimensions of PSS, and analyze different outcomes of these services.

P014. A Thematic Analysis of Post-Conviction Narratives Written by Serial Homicide Offenders *Scott Culhane, Austin Peay State University*

The current project explored the post-conviction experiences of serial homicide perpetrators through a thematic exploration of mail correspondence. Several years ago, numerous incarcerated individuals were contacted as part of a class project. Those letters serve as the basis for the data explored using artificial intelligence (AI) tools. The AI was leveraged to qualitatively identify themes emerging from unstructured written correspondence exchanged between participants and students facilitated by the course lead. Four male individuals wrote several pieces of material suitable for analysis, while 70 additional male and female offenders submitted varying amounts of correspondence. The post-conviction experiences of convicted murderers are vastly understudied in comparison to the experiences of victims and communities. The AI model was trained to determine whether these individuals expressed remorse for their crimes, how they coped with incarceration, what mental health challenges, if any, they encountered following conviction, and to conduct an exploratory analysis of ancillary themes. All the participants who corresponded had little to no chance of release, thus they offer a unique post-conviction perspective. Twenty-eight codes across four major themes were analyzed across all participants. Study findings are discussed in light of the rarity of serial homicide offenders' adjustment to a post-conviction life.

P015. Automating Crime Script Construction using Large Language Models: A Case Study of Car Bomb Attacks *Romane Werner, UCLouvain; Sonja Bitzer, UCLouvain; Thomas François, UCLouvain*

Crime script analysis is an analytical framework that decomposes criminal activity into a structured sequence of actions, decisions and situational contexts across the stages of a criminal event (Cornish, 1994; Dehghanniri and Borrion, 2019). It has been widely applied in criminology and intelligence-led policing to analyse modus operandi, identify intervention points and support preventive strategies (Chopin and Beauregard, 2020; Leclerc, 2025). Despite its utility, the construction of crime scripts remains largely dependent on the manual coding of investigative materials, a process that is both time-consuming and sensitive to analyst subjectivity (Chainey and Berbotto, 2022). In parallel, research in natural language processing has heretofore explored information extraction from legal justice texts (Chen et al., 2024; Alshammari, 2024). While these studies demonstrate the feasibility of extracting crime-relevant entities and events, they typically focus on isolated extraction tasks and hence provide limited support for reconstructing the procedural and temporal structure of criminal activity required for crime script analysis. Recent advances in large language models (LLMs) offer new opportunities to process complex and unstructured texts, such as police interrogation transcripts, without extensive task-specific annotation. However, their application to the automated construction of crime scripts remains underexplored, particularly with respect to higher-level structuring tasks and appropriate evaluation strategies. This study addresses this gap by investigating whether LLMs can facilitate the automated construction of crime scripts from police interrogations transcriptions relating to two car bomb attacks attributed to the criminal organization Cosa Nostra. Specifically, this study evaluates the capability of LLMs to identify script-relevant elements (e.g., actors, actions, objects, prerequisites), to organize these elements into temporally ordered procedural stages, and to maintain contextual coherence across narrative accounts. By conceptualising crime script construction as a structured information extraction and sequencing task, this research contributes to both criminological methodology and the application of LLMs in intelligence-led policing contexts.

P016. Benefits of an animal-assisted intervention to support child victims of domestic violence: exploratory study *Inês Santos, University Fernando Pessoa; Ana Isabel Sani, University Fernando Pessoa (UFP); OPVC-UFP; CIEC-UM*

Animal-assisted interventions have demonstrated effectiveness in enhancing quality of life in the general population, and scientific interest in their application across diverse contexts has grown. However, research examining their benefits within the justice system remains limited, particularly in Portugal. OBJECTIVES This exploratory, descriptive, and cross-sectional study aimed to examine the benefits of implementing an animal-assisted intervention program in a social institution, focusing on improving the well-being of children residing in a shelter due to domestic violence. METHOD Given the relevance of the issue, an action-research approach with a quantitative methodology was adopted. The sample included seven children/adolescents of both sexes, aged 8 to 18, and five parents aged 18 to 50, all residing in a shelter. Data collection involved a brief questionnaire to gather socio-demographic information and assess children's well-being. Pre- and post-intervention assessments were conducted using the Kidscreen-52 (parent version) and Kidscreen-10 (child/adolescent version), administered following informed consent. RESULTS Measurable data on well-being indices were obtained before and after the intervention. However, statistical comparison between pre- and post-test phases was not possible due to participant attrition. Descriptive findings indicated that participating children and adolescents maintained overall normative levels of health-related quality of life in both phases. CONCLUSIONS Parents demonstrated a generally accurate perception of their children's health-related quality of life across both assessment periods, with slightly higher scores observed in the post-intervention

phase across most dimensions. Preliminary descriptive findings suggest that animal-assisted interventions may represent a valuable social response for promoting well-being among children and adolescents exposed to domestic violence. Keywords: Children; Domestic Violence; Animal-Assisted Intervention; Social Support Services

P017. Beyond Legal Rights: Understanding Mental Health and Autonomy in Criminal Self-Representation *Shai Farber, Max Stern Yezreel Valley College.*

This qualitative study examines criminal defendants in Israel who waived legal representation to self-represent in court. While legal systems often frame this right as a standard exercise of autonomy, this research investigates the complex social and psychological dimensions behind the decision. Through semi-structured interviews with 16 participants and 22 courtroom observations, the research identifies that self-representation exists on a spectrum rather than being a binary status, encompassing selective, mixed, involuntary, and temporary arrangements. Analysis reveals several intersecting factors driving the decision to waive counsel: mental health challenges such as PTSD and anxiety, a strong desire for personal involvement, deep-seated mistrust of legal counsel, and a significant underestimation of legal complexities. These findings suggest that self-representation often reflects structural disenfranchisement and prior negative legal encounters rather than a purely strategic choice. The study concludes with policy recommendations to balance defendant autonomy with procedural fairness, including the implementation of structured standby counsel frameworks and systematic improvements to public defense communication to address the documented trust deficit

P018. Beyond the Invisible Victim: New Criminological Perspectives on Witnessed Violence Between Law, Society and Neuroscience *Franco Posa, NeuroIntelligence – Institute for Ethical Criminological Research; Matteo Posa, NeuroIntelligence; Camilla Trussardi, NeuroIntelligence; Vanessa Vener, NeuroIntelligence; Victoria Colmenares Pulido, NeuroIntelligence – Institute for Ethical Criminological Research*

The phenomenon commonly referred to as "witnessed violence" concerns situations in which a minor is exposed, either directly or indirectly, to acts of maltreatment perpetrated within the family against emotionally significant individuals. Due to its cross-cutting nature, this phenomenon raises issues of particular interest from criminological, legal, and neuroscientific perspectives, especially with regard to the implications that exposure to dysfunctional relational environments may have on a child's developmental processes. It constitutes a complex form of crime, as it can be understood as a case of dual victimization, in which the direct victim of violence is accompanied by the child witness, who embodies a specific vulnerability deriving from their relationship of dependence on the perpetrator. Thus, an interdisciplinary approach is unavoidable. Within this framework, criminology has to play a crucial role as a science predisposed to observing human behavior in its entirety, thereby preventing reductionism that sometimes characterizes criminal justice approaches. Particularly relevant are the contributions of recent neuroscientific studies, supported by the development of neuroimaging techniques, which have made it possible to observe the direct impact that exposure to maltreatment can have on the long-term brain development of minors, especially when such exposure occurs during the so-called "sensitive period" of childhood. Research has highlighted a reduction in activity in the medial frontal cortex, accompanied by increased activation of the left medial frontal gyrus and the anterior cingulate gyrus. Such alterations are associated with impairment in executive control, decision-making and emotional regulation. Building on these premises, the present contribution aims to explore the emerging frontiers of criminology in the study of this phenomenon, proposing an integrated interpretative framework capable of offering analytical tools useful for the design of prevention strategies and the protection of minors.

P019. Beyond "the Talk": Intergenerational Transmission of Police Navigation Strategies within Migrant Households in Sweden *Thomas Hall, Lund University*

Intensified policing in Sweden's "vulnerable areas" (utsatta områden) represents one manifestation of an expanding punitive state, falling disproportionately on residents with migrant backgrounds. Yet research has overwhelmingly focused on institutional police practices rather than the lived strategies people develop in response. Little sustained attention has been paid to how families transmit knowledge of police encounters across generations within the European context, despite extensive US scholarship on "the Talk". This poster examines how strategies for navigating police encounters are passed down within migrant families residing in utsatta områden. Drawing on semi-structured interviews with first-generation immigrants and second-generation young people aged 18-24, this poster applies frameworks of racial socialisation and narrative criminology. Initial findings point toward cautionary narrative practice as a key mechanism, whereby parents draw on their own encounters with the police in both Sweden and their countries of origin to socialise children into strategies of self-preservation and risk minimisation. This poster thus contributes to scholarship on lived experience in utsatta områden and to the cross-national translation of "the Talk" framework, offering early insights into how communities at the margins of European society adapt to the expanding reach of the punitive state.

P020. Blending Narrative and Creative Methods: Intentional Research Design for Prison Leavers with Blood Borne Viruses *Em Brenner, University of Strathclyde*

People in prison often experience disproportionately poorer health outcomes compared to the general population, including a relatively higher prevalence of blood borne viruses (BBVs). The increased vulnerability of this population towards BBV transmission is due to a higher likelihood of risk factors, yet limited research has been conducted on

what is recognised to be a public health crisis in Scotland. Attending to this gap, this research uses innovative qualitative longitudinal and creative methods to collect narratives of Scottish prison leavers with BBVs. Focusing on the re-entry period, a crucial period for maintaining future engagement with BBV healthcare, participants will be interviewed at several stages and provided with physical and digital platforms to share their experiences of accessing care after release. This presentation will critically reflect on the value of these methods within the health-justice nexus, or the intersections between crime, justice, and health inequalities. Furthermore, it anticipates the importance of accessibility through creativity and building trust to lower attrition through an intentionally designed methodology.

P021. Boundary Work and Risk Governance: Managing Individuals Convicted of Serious Violence *Elli Jutila, University of Helsinki, Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy*

Background: Forensic psychiatric evaluation practices and assessment tools for violence risk have been utilized to enable both sentencing stricter sanctions and offender rehabilitation based on recognized risk factors. Historically, offenders considered dangerous have been individuals who have committed especially violent crime and have been feared to repeat their actions. Previous research indicates that prior serious violent crimes, antisocial personality disorder, and substance abuse can be considered significant individual risk factors for severe violent behavior. Little is known about the implementation and practical value of risk management in criminal sanction context. My goal is to study the assessment of risk factors for violent behavior by offenders and risk management from two angles. The first entry relates to forensic psychiatric expertise and knowledge production for persons guilty of serious violence. The second entry point examines violent risk assessment and management in the context of the criminal sanctioning system and better understands how information about the risks of violent behavior is applied at the individual level. Methodology: The research data comprises information extracted from criminal behavior and forensic psychiatric assessment research register, data from the prisoner information system, and interviews with employees from the Prison and Probation Service who conduct risk and need assessments for prisoners. The poster focuses on the research registry of criminal behavior and forensic psychiatric assessment. Results: The poster presents preliminary analysis of violence risk assessments during the mental state examination. The qualitative analysis will focus on how these documents articulate individual's life situation and the nature and the context of violent behavior, as well as the violence risk assessment constructed based on these factors. Keywords: violence risk assessment, violent behavior, prisoner

P022. Building Bridges Against Hate: Multi-Sector Perspectives on Inter-Institutional Cooperation *Ana Isabel Cunha, University of Beira Interior, Covilhã, Portugal; Marta Pereira Alves, University of Beira Interior, Covilhã, Portugal; Branco Di Fátima, University of Beira Interior, Covilhã, Portugal; Haphisa Mugnaini, University of Beira Interior, Covilhã, Portugal; Mariana Pinto, APAV - Portuguese Association for Victim Support, Portugal*

Hate crime remains a significant social challenge, underscoring the importance of effective inter-institutional cooperation to ensure prevention, reporting, and response. This study is part of the COOPERHATE project – Multidisciplinary Cooperation Approach to Prevent and Counter Hate Crime and Hate Speech, funded by the European Commission's CERV Programme. The project aims to provide a comprehensive approach to the prevention, reporting, investigation, and prosecution of hate crime and hate speech-related incidents in Portugal. Within the scope of assessing gaps and obstacles to improving collaboration across sectors, this study specifically focused on analyzing inter-institutional cooperation and identifying strategies to overcome challenges that have been previously identified. A qualitative approach was adopted, involving an in-person focus group with representatives from various sectors, including civil society organizations (such as victim support groups), law enforcement authorities, judicial actors, and IT companies. Through guided discussion, participants discussed and identified possible improvement initiatives while reflecting on their professional experiences and perspectives on collaboration among the many sectors involved. Focus group data were transcribed and analyzed using thematic analysis to identify key insights, challenges, and strategies for enhancing collaboration among different sectors. The results are discussed in terms of their contributions to the implementation of collaborative approaches and strategies for preventing and reporting hate incidents.

P023. Cannabis Supply Pathways and Their Links to Crime, Safety and Health in the Netherlands: A Systematic Review *AYSE NUR KARKIN JAVAID, 1. Forensic Child and Youth Care Sciences, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands; Ivy N Defoe, 1. Forensic Child and Youth Care Sciences, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands 2. Interdisciplinary Research Team on Internet and Society, Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University, Jostova, Czechia*

Cannabis is one of the most commonly used illicit substances in the Netherlands and many countries around the world. Zooming in on the Netherlands: While statutory law under the Opium Act prohibits cannabis, the Netherlands has tolerated the retail sale of small quantities for personal use in licensed coffeeshops since the 1970s. Despite this regulated channel, many individuals obtain cannabis through alternative and often illicit supply pathways, including dealer markets, social supply via personal networks, home cultivation, and, most recently, via online acquisition. These different supply pathways likely directly influence users' exposure to illicit markets and impact criminal involvement, exposure to violence and safety risks, and health outcomes such as intensive or high-potency use and mental health problems. Although our preliminary search indicates that several

studies have addressed this topic, the existing evidence is fragmented and dispersed. This systematic review seeks to synthesize the literature and clarify how different cannabis supply pathways in the Netherlands relate to criminal involvement, safety, and health outcomes among users. By synthesizing empirical evidence in accordance with the PRISMA 2020 guidelines, this systematic review will address an important knowledge gap by comparing outcomes across different supply modes, including: coffeeshops, social supply, dealers, home cultivation, and online markets. Eligible studies will report on Dutch cannabis users, differentiated by supply pathway, and include relevant health and safety outcomes. Both quantitative and qualitative research will be included, assessed for quality by using the Mixed Methods Appraisal Tool (MMAT), and findings will be narratively synthesized according to the supply pathway and outcome. The findings will be contextualized within the Dutch policy framework, including the Dutch Government's ongoing Closed Coffeeshop Chain Experiment, and will inform criminological discussions on cannabis regulation, harm reduction, and minimizing criminal involvement. Keywords: Cannabis supply, Netherlands, coffeeshops, illicit markets, violence exposure, public health and safety

P024. Centering Women's Voices: Perceived Benefits of a Jail Based Yoga Program *Haley Zettler, University of North Texas; Lynne Vieraitis, The University of Texas at Dallas*

Women incarcerated in short-term jail settings experience high levels of psychological distress and trauma, yet little is known about how they perceive mind–body interventions such as yoga in these unstable environments. This pilot study explores perceptions of women housed in a county jail in Texas, U.S.A. who participate in a yoga program, generating preliminary data to inform a larger mixed-methods evaluation. After attending at least three yoga classes, eligible participants will complete an anonymous post-program survey comprised of open-ended items assessing perceived benefits (e.g., stress reduction, mood, coping, sleep, relationships, and sense of safety), barriers to engagement, and suggestions for program improvement. Qualitative responses will be analyzed using thematic analysis to identify domains of perceived impact and to assess the feasibility of yoga in a high-turnover jail context. Building on prior research documenting small-to-moderate improvements in mental health outcomes from yoga in prisons and jails, this study privileges participant voice to address gaps related to jail-specific implementation, mechanisms of change, and women's subjective experiences. Findings will provide contextually grounded pilot data to refine survey measures and guide the design of a rigorous evaluation of jail-based yoga for women.

P025. Children Who Lost Their Parent to Intimate Partner Homicide – A Scoping Review *Esmée Ilisia Turpijn, Leiden University; Merel Sprenger, Institute of Security and Global Affairs, Leiden University; Martín Hernán Di Marco, Leiden University; Marieke Liem, Leiden University*

What is the current state of research regarding children who lost their parent to Intimate Partner Homicide? There is an increasing body of literature on children in the context of IPH, but the evidence is dispersed across disciplines, uses varied sample populations, research designs, temporal scopes, study foci, and has not been comprehensively mapped. This makes it difficult to understand the scope of this relatively young scholarly field, and to identify the evidence gaps necessitating further research. This poster presents a scoping review, following the PRISMA-ScR guidelines, and aims to contribute to this lacuna by (1) mapping the existing body of academic research, (2) identifying gaps in this growing literature body, and (3) making recommendations for furthering the research agenda based on these identified gaps.

P026. Clan-related crime & the administrative approach *Julia Willmes, German Police University*

The fight against so-called clan-related crime presents a significant challenge to the criminal justice system and public administration in North Rhine-Westphalia, a federal state in Germany. In 2024, approximately 6,700 offences, around 700 raids and roughly 1,700 controlled properties were recorded statewide, and 4,282 suspects were identified. This paper examines the 'administrative approach' as a supplementary tool to criminal prosecution, asking to what extent interagency cooperation, regulatory measures and cross-agency control strategies can help contain such structures. At the same time, the term 'clan-related crime' is critically examined, as it is neither uniformly defined nor free from the risk of broadly generalising complex social and criminological phenomena. The poster presents an ongoing dissertation project based on semi-structured expert interviews with individuals from the police, public administration, and other law enforcement agencies. The project aims to identify the potential, limitations and unintended consequences of the administrative approach, and to evaluate its effectiveness in responding to clan-related crime in North Rhine-Westphalia within the framework of the rule of law.

P027. Coercive Control in Intimate Partnerships: Conceptualization, Criminalization, and Public Perception *Zuzana Podaná, Katedra sociologie, Charles University Prague*

The poster presents a recently launched research project, „Coercive Control in Intimate Partnerships: Conceptualization, Criminalization, and Public Perception," conducted at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University (Prague, Czech Republic). The project focuses on coercive control (CC) as a specific pattern of abuse in intimate partnerships. Its primary aim is to systematically examine CC in terms of its conceptualization and how it is understood, perceived and addressed within the Czech Republic (CR)—both in the criminal justice system and among the general public—while considering the influence of gender dynamics. Barriers and challenges in recognizing and addressing CC under the current Czech legal framework are analysed, with comparative insights from countries, primarily the United Kingdom (UK),

where CC is explicitly criminalized—unlike in the CR. Using a mixed methods approach, the project combines conceptual and legal analysis with qualitative and quantitative empirical research, including content analysis of court judgments, interviews with professionals and a public perception survey. The poster describes the aims and structure of the project, as well as its first findings from statistical analysis of judicial data and content analysis of court judgments in cases involving abuse between intimate partners.

P028. Comparison between Germany and Mexico: How do patriarchal structures and attitudes influence femicides? *Lara Textores, German Police University*

Even after the ratification of the Istanbul Convention and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women, femicide remains one of the most common causes of death among women and girls worldwide. Femicide refers to the killing of a woman or girl for gender-specific reasons and can be linked to the attribution of roles, power, and relationships of dependency. The concept of patriarchy refers to a social formation in which the male gender dominates the female in all social relationships. Patriarchal systems exist at the macro level as well as patriarchal relationships at the micro level. For this reason, it is necessary to consider patriarchy as a potential contributing factor to femicide, particularly femicide in close social relationships. A comparison of culturally different countries can help to better understand these influences. This poster presents an ongoing dissertation project. Using a socio-cultural approach, the research focuses on patriarchal structures and attitudes as causes of femicide, based on Bronfenbrenner's ecological model. On the one hand, the Global Gender Gap Report and the Gender Social Norms Index are used as indicators. On the other hand, a comparative analysis of case files from Germany and Mexico is conducted. In this context, the study examines individual-level factors – such as motives, risk factors, justification strategies, and neutralization techniques related to the crime – and identifies socially embedded narratives and patterns of argumentation. In addition, the judicial and societal responses to femicide are analysed. The results are compared between the two countries under study. Finally, recommendations for effective prevention measures addressing patriarchal ways of thinking are derived.

P029. Conditions for Successful Addiction Treatment of Offenders – A Criminological Recidivism Study *Elena Schaffeld, Georg-August-University of Goettingen, Department of Criminology, Juvenile Criminal Law and Penology – Institute for Criminal Law and Criminal Justice; Doerte Berthold, Georg-August-University of Goettingen, Department of Criminology, Juvenile Criminal Law and Penology - Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice*

In contrast to many legal systems, the German Criminal Code (StGB) provides a distinct sanction for offenders with substance use disorders: placement in an addiction treatment facility under Section 64 StGB. Despite the legal and practical relevance of this measure, significant empirical research gaps remain regarding its effectiveness, prognostic validity, and forensic-therapeutic implementation. The project presented here will investigate which person-specific characteristics and treatment-related factors influence recidivism after release. To this end, recidivism data from the Federal Central Criminal Register will be linked with clinical and demographic information from the reference-date survey of forensic commitment facilities for approximately 2,000 participants. In addition, the study will examine the empirical foundations of a positive treatment prognosis within the meaning of Section 64, sentence 2, StGB. While numerous risk factors, such as refusal of therapy, cognitive impairments, or language barriers, have been identified, valid predictors of a successful therapeutic course remain largely unknown. The study seeks to strengthen judicial decision-making by providing empirically grounded indicators for a positive prognosis and contributing to evidence-based decisions on treatment placement. Moreover, the study aims to clarify which elements of forensic treatment, such as the therapeutic relationship, the therapeutic milieu, specific methods, or pharmacological support, have a long-term positive impact on lawful conduct after release. Different methodological approaches and broader contextual factors will be considered. The goal is to contribute to more effective treatment programs. The project follows a multidimensional research approach integrating perspectives from crime prevention, legal practice, and treatment theory. The expected results will provide new insights into the effectiveness of the measure under Section 64 StGB and an empirical basis for optimizing forensic treatment for substance-dependent offenders and may also contribute to more effective recidivism management and evidence-based intervention strategies in Germany and internationally.

P030. Confidentiality of Lawyer–Prisoner Communications in the Spanish Prison System: Legal Framework and Case Law under ECHR Standards *Eneko Echeverria Bereciartua, Professor of Criminal Procedure Law at University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU*

A person's admission to prison, while entailing the deprivation of liberty and certain rights inherent in a criminal sentence, does not imply the loss of human dignity or the suspension of their status as a citizen. Established constitutional doctrine holds that prisoners are not individuals stripped of rights, but citizens subject to a special relationship of subordination to the State, which must guarantee their integrity and those fundamental rights unaffected by the sentence. Among these, the right to a defence and to legal assistance — enshrined in Article 24.2 of the Spanish Constitution and Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights — plays a decisive role, as both an autonomous guarantee and an enabling mechanism for other rights. In the prison context, legal assistance not only provides technical advice but also monitors the treatment afforded to the prisoner and ensures their representation in the outside world. It is therefore essential to ensure that lawyer–prisoner communication is free, private and free from suspicion. Without such confidentiality, the right to a defence would be reduced to a merely

nominal or illusory guarantee, since the inability to speak freely about prison conditions would render this fundamental right meaningless. Any restriction must comply with standards equivalent to those applicable outside the prison context, with only adjustments strictly required by the deprivation of liberty. This study, part of an ongoing research project on the Spanish prison system, analyses the legal framework governing confidentiality between lawyers and prisoners through examination of Spanish prison legislation and its regulatory framework. It also offers a critical review of case law from the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court and the European Court of Human Rights, which unanimously regard interference in these communications as an exceptionally serious measure, justifiable only under the principles of necessity, proportionality and prior reasoned judicial authorisation.

P031. Connecting the Dots: Crime Through a Systems Thinking Perspective *Tess Jongsma, Delft University of Technology; Willem Auping, Delft University of Technology; Jan Kwakkel, Delft University of Technology*

Criminology is the scientific field that studies the occurrence and causes of crime. There are many theories and perspectives on what causes people to commit crimes. However, the focus is often on a single potential explanation or aspect rather than on the dynamics, complex relationships, and broader perspective. This paper describes six criminological theories and the causal loop diagrams we created for each theory to illustrate their feedback effects. The theories are Anomie, Strain and General Strain, Status Frustration, Deviant Subculture, and Social Disorganization. These theories have slightly different perspectives but are complementary and use the same mental model. Therefore, we were able to develop a single causal loop diagram that merged and connected the different theories to create and analyse a more holistic perspective of the occurrence of crime. Criminal behaviour is the central variable in the causal loop diagram, where all the theories connect. There are a couple of variables that appear across the different crime theories: strain, legitimate opportunities and coping mechanisms, poverty, and social control. These variables play an important role in understanding why people commit crimes. Causal loop diagrams allowed us to use the more abstract, soft variables often described in criminological theories and to showcase the interconnectedness of these theories and broader societal aspects. Society and the environment people live in play a significant part in preventing and reducing crime.

P032. Crime and police proximity: Evidence of localised deterrence from police boxes in Tokyo *Saizo Kudo, Incoming MSc student, London School of Economics*

Police boxes (KOBAN) are small, locally distributed police facilities in Japan and are often considered a distinctive feature of community-based policing. This study examines the association between proximity to police boxes and reported crime at the town-block level in Tokyo. Using both linear regression with distance bins and non-parametric estimation, it appears that crime is lowest within approximately 200 metres of a police box. Beyond this range, crime initially increases and then gradually declines with distance. This pattern is more pronounced and statistically significant in predominantly residential areas than in commercial areas, suggesting that the deterrent effect of police proximity is context-dependent. The increases in crime beyond 200 metres may reflect both the spatial limits of deterrence and potential reverse causality, whereby police boxes are more likely to be located in higher-risk areas. The relationship between distance to police stations and crime shows no statistically significant association. This does not necessarily imply that police stations lack a deterrent effect; rather, their lower spatial density may limit the observability of proximity-based effects. Overall, the findings suggest that the deterrent effect of police presence is highly localised and is more effectively captured by the dense spatial deployment of police boxes than by larger, less accessible police stations.

P033. Crime by Proxy and Youth Co-Offending: A Learning-Theoretical Analysis Using Finnish Register and Survey Data *Kaisla Saartenoja, University of Helsinki; Karoliina Suonpää, University of Helsinki; Markus Kaakinen, University of Helsinki*

Youth crime is frequently committed in groups, and younger offenders tend to have a higher number of co-offenders compared to adult offenders. Participation in crime involved peer groups is consistently associated with more frequent and more serious offending. Although group contexts appear to amplify delinquent behavior, the mechanisms and risk factors that draw young people into these networks remain insufficiently understood. This study examines youth co-offending networks through a learning-theoretical framework. The analysis combines data from the Finnish Self-Report Delinquency Study (FSRD, N=8 221) with extensive administrative register data. While prior research has often relied on self-reported delinquency and peer behavior, this study uniquely links self-reported learning indicators with register-based co-offending networks measured by police-reported crime. Learning-related risk factors are operationalized through crime by proxy scale. Crime by proxy refers to situations where an individual is induced, pressured, or encouraged to commit offenses on behalf of someone else. Crime by proxy and other forms of criminal exploitation have been noted as potential features of gang recruitment and may serve as early pathways toward more organized forms of offending. This study assesses how experiences of crime by proxy predict police-reported crime among youth, offending severity and frequency, and involvement in co-offending networks. The analyses utilize social network analysis methods combined with regression analysis. Understanding the mechanisms is important for developing targeted interventions needed to prevent harmful peer dynamics. This poster presents preliminary findings from an ongoing PhD project.

P034, Criminological Profiles and the Psychology of the Transition: The 41-bis Regime vs. Collaboration *Franca Bo, ASL Alessandria; Isa Mascolo, ASL Alessandria;*

Roberto Stura, ASL Alessandria; Paolo Casamento, ASL Alessandria; Alessandra Lugli, ASL Alessandria

Criminological analysis of individuals belonging to mafia organizations requires a clear distinction between two polar figures: the prisoner under the 41-bis regime (the so-called "supermax security") and the collaborator with justice (repentant). Despite their common origin, these profiles evolve along opposing psychological and behavioral trajectories, determined by their relationship with criminal identity and associative bonds. Mafiosos under the 41-bis regime often display a rock-solid personality, structured around a hypertrophic "ego" that completely overlaps with clan membership, demonstrating ideological resilience. Silence is not just a strategic choice, but a cornerstone of their identity. The solitary confinement of the 41-bis regime is experienced as a "proof of worth" that ennobles the leader in the eyes of their associates. Added to this is the need to maintain command, even in isolation, which reflects a pathological need for control that impedes internal criticism of their own crimes. From a criminological perspective, the “pentito” manifests a fractured identity. The transition to collaboration with justice never an immediate ethical process but often the result of a pragmatic crisis (facing life, vendettas). The collaborator must deal with the trauma of the "betrayal" of a code of honor he has internalized since childhood. Initially, collaboration is a survival strategy and only rarely evolves into genuine moral repentance. The "pentito" experiences a state of suspended identity, no longer a member of the mafia but not yet a full citizen. This poster will compare the criminological aspects of this type of inmate, highlighting the resistance of the symbiotic bond with the organization in the former case and the breakdown of that system of meaning in the case of repentants. Both, in fact, share an origin based on a "subculture of honor" that profoundly influences their cognitive processes, making re-educational treatment a complex and unconventional challenge for the penitentiary system.

P035. Cross-Cultural Validation and Comparative Analysis of Psychopathy-Related Constructs in Incarcerated Women: Evidence from Portugal and Mozambique *Licinio Zacarias Zitha, Psychology Research Centre, University of Minho, Portugal; Marina Leonor Pinheiro, University of Minho, Braga, Portugal; Sõnia Maria Martins Caridade, Escola de Psicologia da Universidade do Minho; Rui Abrunhosa Gonçalves, RISE-HEALTH@UPT, Portucalense University- Portugal; Olga Cunha, University of Minho*

Research on psychopathic traits in incarcerated women remains scarce, particularly in non-Western contexts. This project aims to replicate a forensic psychological protocol previously implemented in Portugal in a Mozambican sample, enabling cross-cultural comparisons and theoretical extension. The first phase involves cultural adaptation and validation of a multimethod assessment battery integrating self-report measures, behavioral tasks, checklists, and semi-structured interviews. The protocol assesses psychopathic traits, emotional processing, emotional expressivity, empathy, adult attachment, childhood experiences, executive functioning, and global cognition, as well as emotional reactivity to affective stimuli. Sociodemographic and juridical variables, including age, nationality, education, crime type, and recidivism, will also be collected, alongside social desirability to control response bias. Measures include the Psychopathy Checklist–Revised (PCL-R) and Self-Report Psychopathy Scale–Short Form (SRP-SF); the Emotional Processing Scale (EPS-25) and Emotional Expressivity Scale (EES); the Basic Empathy Scale (BES); the Adult Attachment Scale–Revised (AAS-R); the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Benevolent Childhood Experiences (BCEs); and the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA), verbal fluency tasks, and the Frontal Assessment Battery (FAB). Emotional reactivity will be assessed using the International Affective Picture System (IAPS), with responses measured across valence, arousal, and dominance via the Self-Assessment Manikin (SAM). A comparative cross-cultural design will examine similarities between Portuguese and Mozambican incarcerated women, focusing on developmental experiences, emotional processing, and psychopathic traits. Findings are expected to inform trauma-informed, culturally sensitive, evidence-based interventions in forensic settings. Keywords: Psychopathic Traits, Emotional Processing, ACEs, PCEs, Attachment, Incarcerated Women, Cross-Cultural Research, Mozambique

P036. Decolonising the Irish and German Courthouse - an Architectural and Sensory Analysis *Benita Victoria Wolf, University College Cork*

This poster presentation shows first findings of a PhD study exploring differences and similarities in how intersecting types of marginalisation come forward in criminal hearings in criminal courtrooms across countries with two different legal systems; Germany and Ireland. The study is ethnographic, and the poster presentation presents initial findings focusing on sensorial experiences and the legal geography of both courtrooms. Sensory Criminology examines how sensory perceptions shape people’s experiences of crime, punishment, and justice. By focusing on how individuals perceive and respond to their environments through the senses, sensory research brings attention to aspects of criminological experience that are often invisible, embodied, and affective. Incorporating this perspective into the research enables a deeper understanding of the courtroom not only as a physical or symbolic space, but as a sensory environment that shapes behaviour, emotion, and meaning. Sensory ethnography allows to explore how the sensory environment of the courtroom influences perceptions of authority, fairness, and legitimacy, and how it affects the experiences of those who inhabit or pass through it. Legal Geography examines the relationship between law and space, exploring how legal systems shape and are shaped by the physical, social, and symbolic organisation of places. It brings attention to how legal authority is materially and spatially produced; how law is embedded in buildings, boundaries, and landscapes, and how these in turn structure experiences of

inclusion, exclusion, and power. Legal Geography aims to establish an understanding of the courtroom not merely as a neutral site where justice occurs, but as a spatial construct that embodies and enacts relations of power. This poster presentation will have a drawing of both courtroom settings and an analysis of its architecture, as well as the sensory experiences. It will analyse the meaning of those concerning the experiences and meanings within the two different criminal courtrooms.

P037. Digital Control in Early Adolescents' Friendships: A Lifestyle and Routine Activities Perspective *Joris Van Ouytsel, Arizona State University; Kunpeng Li, Arizona State University*

INTRODUCTION Accessing a best friend's messages or phone without permission is a prevalent yet understudied behavior in early adolescents' friendships and could be an important precursor for intimate partner violence later on. Drawing on Lifestyle-Routine Activities Theory (Cohen & Felson, 1979), we seek to identify factors that make early adolescents vulnerable to such victimization within their friendships, as well as the risk and protective factors that shape these experiences. METHOD The data were collected through an IRB-approved cross-sectional paper-and-pencil survey conducted across 14 schools in Flanders, Belgium. The final sample included 3,109 adolescents (53% female) aged 12 to 15 years (M=13.01, SD=0.83). The two dependent variables were 1) a best friend reading messages without permission and 2) a best friend logging into a mobile device without permission. The independent variables were measured in accordance with the theoretical framework and included guardianship, online exposure and risky online behaviors. RESULTS 29.3% of participants reported that their best friend had looked through their phone messages without permission, and 17.5% reported that their best friend had logged into their phone without permission. In both models, sharing passwords and engaging in online risky behavior were significantly associated with these privacy violations, indicating that adolescents with riskier online behaviors were more likely to experience controlling or monitoring behaviors from their best friends. Female participants were also more likely to be victims of such monitoring. DISCUSSION The finding that girls were more likely than boys to experience controlling behaviors from their best friends, consistent with prior research on gender differences in adolescents' relationships. Interestingly, parental communication variables were not a protective factor against victimization. Perhaps parents may overlook peer dynamics, as they may rather engage in discussion about risky online content but may underestimate peer dynamics and emerging digital norms that govern early adolescents' friendships.

P038. Documenting the Swiss Asylum Dispositif from Below: An Investigation at the Intersection of Counter-Forensics and Participatory Research *Elio Panese, School of Criminal Justice (ESC), University of Lausanne*

In recent decades, European states have engaged in a continuous hardening of migration policies, using "an expansive repertoire of violent measures to contain and prevent people arriving from the Global South to enter their territories […] and to limit their access to rights, resources and freedoms as they arrive" (Lindberg, 2024: 1). Switzerland is following this trend through the gradual convergence of selective and punitive approaches with administrative management, transforming migration and asylum into a security issue (Hammerstad, 2016; Panese, 2023). In this context, the Swiss asylum dispositif emerges as a performative ensemble producing control, coercion and often violence (de Coulon, 2019; Rezzonico, 2021; Borrelli & Walters, 2024; Lederrey, 2026). This poster presents a research protocol developed as part of ongoing doctoral research on the effects of the Swiss asylum dispositif, documented through the knowledges and lived experiences of people subjected to it. The protocol combines two methodological approaches: "counter-forensics" – deploying spatial and visual tools for collecting and analysing traces of violence left on individuals (Weizman 2014) – and participatory research – which actively involves exiled people throughout the research process (Godrie et al. 2022). Viewed from above, the Swiss asylum dispositif usually appears as a coherent set of administrative procedures governed by democratically adopted laws, managing migrant populations through a constellation of administrative, judicial, security, social and healthcare actors. Yet such a reading – centred on its de jure or de administratio function – obscures the lived experience of the dispositif and the concrete effects it produces on exiled people. In this context, the poster pays particular attention to the heuristic and epistemic value this combination carries for studying a regime of control and coercion from the standpoint of those who live it. It also reflects on the tensions and limits inherent to these approaches, and the methodological rigour and political reflexivity they demand.

P039. Early Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse: A Mixed-Methods Evaluation of a Preschool-Based Intervention *Bárbara Moreira, Center for Psychology at University of Porto; Eunice Carmo, Center for Psychology at University of Porto, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, University of Porto, Portugal; William James Center for Research, Department of Education and Psychology, University of Aveiro, Portugal; Rosa Saavedra, APAV; Carla Ferreira, APAV, Portuguese Association for Victim Support; Joana Carvalho, William James Center for Research, Department of Education and Psychology, University of Aveiro, Campus Universitário de Santiago, 3810-193 Aveiro, Portugal*

Child sexual abuse (CSA) represents a critical issue within criminology and victimization research, with early prevention increasingly recognized as a key strategy for reducing long-term harm. However, empirically evaluated prevention programs targeting preschool-aged children remain limited. This study examines the feasibility, acceptability, and preliminary outcomes of a school-based primary prevention program implemented in Portuguese preschools. A mixed-methods design with a wait-list control group was used. The sample included 195 children (aged 3 to

6 years) from 10 classes across five schools. Quantitative analyses assessed changes in children's knowledge and protective responses across three domains: emotional recognition of inappropriate situations, rejection of secrecy, and disclosure to a trusted adult. Descriptive analyses and exact McNemar tests indicated significant improvements in the intervention group for emotional recognition and rejection of secrecy (both $p < .001$), with no comparable changes in the control group. Disclosure-related responses showed a positive but non-significant trend. To account for repeated measures and clustering within classrooms, generalized linear mixed models (GLMM) were estimated. Results confirmed significant time × group interactions for emotional recognition ($F(1,362) = 20.48$, $p < .001$) and rejection of secrecy ($F(1,362) = 27.33$, $p < .001$), indicating differential improvement in the intervention group. Findings for disclosure were less consistent across analytic approaches and should be interpreted cautiously. Qualitative data from teachers highlighted high program acceptability and feasibility within school settings, while also identifying structural constraints, particularly regarding caregiver engagement and institutional barriers to implementation. These findings support the potential of early, school-based interventions as primary prevention strategies within a broader criminological framework of victimization prevention. However, the study underscores key limitations, including measurement constraints, lack of long-term follow-up, and restricted capacity to assess behavioral outcomes. Future research should prioritize longitudinal designs and multi-informant measures to better understand the role of early prevention in reducing CSA risk.

P040. ECLIPSE: Preventing and Combating onLine and offline hate speech and dIsinformation through multidisciPlinary innovation, education, and awareneSs in Europe *Serena Bressan, Fondazione Bruno Kessler; Andrea Di Nicola, Associate professor of criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Trento, and director of the Centre of Security and Crime Sciences (University of Trento and University of Verona); Gabriele Baratto, Faculty of Law, University of Trento | Centre of Security and Crime Sciences, University of Trento and University of Verona; Beatrice Pattaro, University of Trento, Faculty of Law | Centre of Security and Crime Sciences, University of Trento and University of Verona; Beatrice Rigon, School of International Studies, University of Trento | Centre of Security and Crime Sciences, University of Trento and University of Verona; Bianca Donati, Centre of Security and Crime Sciences, University of Trento and University of Verona*

The complex, fast-moving, and multi-faceted spread of hate speech and mis/disinformation across Europe poses increasing challenges and significant threats. Tackling the persistent and evolving threat of online and offline hate speech, and fake news demands more than isolated action. The EU-funded ECLIPSE project is developing tools to address these challenges directly. Starting from from sociological and criminological insights, the project combines natural language processing and social network analysis to develop the digital tool, and new engagement methods, such as gamification and digital storytelling, to raise public awareness and improve societal resilience. Therefore, by working closely with Law Enforcement Authorities, Civil Society Organisations, and policymakers, ECLIPSE aims to create culturally sensitive, scalable solutions that protect citizens and support fundamental rights, such as freedom of expression and privacy. However, the tool resulting from the ICT activities will advance high-TRL assets from previous EU and national projects that will be tested by end-users (LEAs, CSOs, and international organisations) in Belgium, Germany, Austria, Italy, and the UK, with Spain and Türkiye as followers. Coordinated by Fondazione Bruno Kessler (Italy), ECLIPSE brings together 22 partners and associated partners from 10 European countries, comprising research and academic organisations, SMEs, NPOs, LEAs, CSOs, and international organisations.

P041. Evaluating the effectiveness of digital-based interventions in the prevention of knife crime in London *Sylvia Swatson, University of West London*

Knife crime among the youth remains a significant public health concern in London. Traditional educational approaches have often relied on talks and workshops to engage young people in discussions around knife crime prevention, however, there is increasing interest in the use of digital tools as an alternative approach that may be more engaging for younger audiences. This study examines the use of a game-based digital intervention known as Nae Danger to explore whether interactive learning activities can influence young people's perceptions on the risk and consequences of knife crime. The research is guided by the following objectives: (1) to critically examine the theoretical foundations of digital interventions; (2) to identify key features that support sustained engagement and behaviour change related to knife carrying; (3) to assess the effectiveness of a digital intervention within the context of South East London. The research addresses the following questions: What role can digital-based interventions play in reducing knife crime? What theoretical frameworks underpin digital interventions such as the Nae Danger game? How has the game been implemented and received by young people in London? What measurable impacts does the game have on participants' attitudes and behaviours related to knife carrying? The research adopts a mixed-methods design. A pre–post survey design is used to explore changes in participants' attitudes and perceptions before and after interacting with the game. Participants aged 13–18 are recruited through schools and community groups in South East London. Participants complete a short questionnaire and then engage with the game before completing a post-intervention questionnaire. To further explore young people's perspective, follow-up interviews and focus groups will be conducted with a subset of participants. The findings aim to contribute to the growing evidence base on the use of digital tools in youth engagement and education on knife crime.

P042. Explaining Femicide: Offender Motivations in the

Killing of Women *Weronika Gajda, Uniwersytet Komisji Edukacji Narodowej*

Femicide is the most extreme manifestation of violence against women. The term, popularised by Diana Russell, refers to the killing of women because they are women and highlights the gendered nature of lethal violence. Research has identified various forms of femicide, including intimate partner, honour, and sexually motivated murders. The concept has been widely discussed, particularly in studies focusing on Latin America, where high rates of femicide have been linked to structural violence, gender inequality, and patriarchal norms. Despite the growing body of research, empirical studies examining offender motivations remain limited. In Europe, and particularly in Poland, the concept of femicide remains underdeveloped in both academic discourse and criminal justice practice. Research on violence against women in Poland has primarily focused on domestic violence, while the specific dynamics of lethal violence against women and the motivations of perpetrators have received far less attention. Moreover, the absence of a legal or statistical category for femicide complicates attempts to assess the scale and characteristics of the phenomenon. This study aims to examine offender motivations in cases of women killed in Poland and to explore whether distinct patterns of femicide can be identified. The research is based on an analysis of court case files concerning homicide cases in which the victim was a woman. The dataset will include approximately 100 criminal cases. The analytical framework incorporates psychological, situational, and socio-cultural variables related to offenders, victims, and the crime context. Cluster analysis will be used to identify homogeneous groups of perpetrators and to develop a preliminary typology of femicide offenders. The study aims to contribute to the emerging literature on femicide by providing empirical insights into offender motivations and patterns of lethal violence against women in Poland, while also offering a basis for further comparative research on femicide across different socio-cultural contexts.

P043. Explaining inmate violence and victimisation: the predicitive role of trait aggression in the prison context *Martina Pleško, University of Zagreb Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, Department of Criminology; Irma Kovčo Vukadin, University of Zagreb Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, Department of Criminology*

Violence in prison remains a persistent challenge, encompassing both violent perpetration and violent victimisation among incarcerated individuals. Although previous research has identified institutional and demographic risks for prison violence, less is known about the role of stable personality traits, particularly aggression, in explaining both outcomes simultaneously. Drawing on the General Aggression Model and the victim-offender overlap framework, this study examines the predictive role of trait aggression in explaining prisoners' violent behaviour and violent victimisation. Using the Buss–Perry Aggression Questionnaire, the study addresses three research questions: 1. whether trait aggression predicts prisoners' violent behaviour (physical and verbal), 2. whether trait aggression predicts violent victimisation in prison (physical and verbal), and 3. whether specific dimensions of aggression (physical aggression, verbal aggression, anger, and hostility) show different predictive effects for violent behaviour and victimisation. The analysis controls for established correlates of prison violence, including age, gender, prior convictions, type of offence, security level, length of sentence, and stage of sentence. Data were collected from a Croatian inmate sample (N = 338) and analysed using multivariate regression models. Results indicate that trait aggression significantly predicts both violent victimisation and violent behaviour in prison, beyond established demographic, criminal, and institutional correlates. While criminal history, especially recidivism and violent offending, remains the strongest predictor of violent behaviour, trait aggression adds meaningful explanatory power. Disaggregated analyses reveal distinct and sometimes opposing effects of aggression dimensions, with physical aggression and hostility related to victimisation and differentially associated with violent perpetration. These findings highlight the complexity of aggression in the prison context and support a differential view of the victim-offender overlap.

P044. Exploring the Potential of Applied Games to Address Adolescent Delinquent Behavior *Ilona Michailovič, Vilnius University Faculty of Law, Lithuania; Justyna Levon, Vilnius University Faculty of Law, Lithuania*

The presentation aims to highlight the potential of applied games and to provide examples of their use in preventing adolescent delinquent behavior. This pilot and exploratory study employs a qualitative approach, based on four semi-structured interviews with specialists working with adolescents in Lithuania and/or using gamification tools to promote prosocial behavior. Drawing on qualitative data from expert interviews and insights from various stakeholders, the presentation examines their perspectives on the potential of applied games in the context of adolescent delinquency and their possible contribution to the effective prevention of juvenile delinquency. On the one hand, most of the experts we interviewed use various games but do not apply specific gamification tools, at least not in a way that they explicitly label as gamification. On the other hand, the study reveals that experts recognize the value of adopting new tools and technologies in their work. Although game elements are increasingly gaining interest among those working with youth, the results remain mixed (Saleme et al., 2020). However, overall evidence from recent studies suggests that digital interventions, such as interactive games, online activities, and video-based training, have promising potential in preventing youth violence (e.g., Esposito et al., 2024). Therefore, our research may serve as a starting point for further discussion on the future of gamification tools and their role in preventing adolescent delinquent behavior in Lithuania. The findings suggest that a multi-agency approach is needed to introduce applied games in work with

adolescents, involving both academics and policymakers.

P045. Far-right extremist discourse in Portugal: Reflections from a case study *Luísa Barcelos, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice, University of Porto; Rita Faria, CIJ - Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice, University of Porto; Samuel Moreira, CIJ (Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice) - School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto, Portugal | CEJEIA (Center for Legal, Economic, International and Environmental Studies) - Lusíada University, Portugal*

This century has been marked by a gradual rise and normalisation of the far-right, particularly across Europe and the United States. In Portugal, the far-right has remained marginal since the Carnation Revolution. However, the rise of Chega, the extreme right political party, in the national parliament, and public protests and attacks from groups associated with far-right ideologies have brought media attention and police crackdowns. Such is the case of "Grupo 1143", which has a significant online presence and is deeply involved in nationalist and anti-immigration protests. "Grupo 1143" operates outside formal institutions and spreads its ideology especially online, with social media playing a key role in its protection and legitimisation. This enables the group to mobilise support, grow their networks, and strengthen their collective identity. As such, social media platforms facilitate the creation of far-right communities worldwide that share beliefs and grievances. This poster draws on a master's qualitative case study of "Grupo 1143", aiming to identify the group's main ideological, thematic, and communicational features, as well as its methods of interacting with the public, and to assess the extent to which its discourse reflects characteristics typically associated with the far-right. Given that far-right communities employ their own discursive strategies, including radical language and subtle, coded messages, a critical discourse analysis (CDA) of 127 posts from the group's X (ex-Twitter) account from March 2025 to March 2026 is being conducted. CDA is particularly well-suited to this study as it aims to "draw out ideologies, showing where they might be buried in texts" (Machin & Mayr, 2012, p. 25). As the project is ongoing, key methodological choices and preliminary results will be presented. The importance of studying the far-right from a criminological perspective and how CDA can be a powerful tool for that purpose will also be presented.

P046. Female homicide in Italy (2021–2025): psychopathological and criminological perspective *Rocco Miazzi, Sapienza University of Rome; Narjis Elisa Cattaneo, University of Padova; Pasquale Padalino, University of Padova; Claudio Terranova, University of Padova*

Introduction Intentional homicide of women is a complex phenomenon from both criminological and psychopathological perspectives. Epidemiological approaches can contribute to its understanding by providing complementary insights. This study aims to perform an epidemiological, criminological, and psychopathological analysis of female homicide in Italy between 2021 and 2025. Materials and methods Newspaper reports published between January 1, 2021, and December 31, 2025, were analyzed. Specific Italian search terms were used to collect data on victims, perpetrators, and the circumstances of each event. Data consistency and accuracy were ensured by cross-checking multiple articles, and a subset of variables was further validated using the Italian Ministry of the Interior's official website. Descriptive statistical methods were applied to analyze the dataset. Results A total of 587 female homicides were recorded in Italy. Rates were stable from 2021–2024, peaking in 2022, then declined, with a sharper drop in 2025. Most victims were ≥65 years (208;37.5%). Mean age was 55.4±20.6 for victims and 52.2±18.5 for perpetrators; 5.9% were female. Sharp objects and firearms were the most common methods. Elderly perpetrators ($p<0.001$) accounted for over half of cases involving elderly victims and used firearms more frequently than other age groups. Most homicides occurred in domestic settings, usually by current or former partners. Suicide occurred in 24.8% of perpetrators. Discussion The findings suggest distinct age-related patterns in female homicide. The high proportion of elderly victims and the strong age concordance between victims and perpetrators highlight the need for targeted prevention strategies, particularly for vulnerable older populations. The predominance of domestic settings and intimate partner involvement confirms the central role of intimate partner violence. The relatively high rate of perpetrator suicide may indicate an underlying role of psychological distress, although no direct psychopathological data were available.

P047. Framing, Myths, and Perceptions: How Media Narratives Shape the Credibility of Sexual Violence Victims *Ana Isabel Sani, University Fernando Pessoa (UFP); OPVC-UFP; CIEC-UM; Sara Mateus, University Fernando Pessoa*

The way sexual violence cases are framed in the media and discussed on social networks plays a crucial role in shaping public perceptions of victim credibility. Rape myths and victim-blaming narratives remain embedded in social discourse, influencing how people evaluate victims' accounts. This study aimed to examine how different types of framing (positive vs. negative) and the presence of rape myths affect perceptions of victim credibility in hypothetical narratives. The sample consisted of 131 young adults (84.7% women, 13.7% men, and 1.6% non-binary individuals), aged between 18 and 30, who completed an online questionnaire developed specifically for this study and distributed via Google Forms. The instrument included two fictional sexual violence narratives ("Clara" and "Tiago") with associated comments and evaluative items regarding credibility. Findings indicate increasing awareness and rejection of traditional rape myths—such as blaming the victim for alcohol use or delayed reporting—yet implicit forms of victim-blaming persist, particularly in female victim scenarios. In the "Tiago" narrative, participants strongly rejected gendered myths suggesting that men cannot be victims of sexual violence. Although overall recognition of victim

credibility has improved, subtle biases remain, underscoring the need for ongoing educational initiatives and responsible media communication to foster an informed and empathetic understanding of sexual violence.

P048. From Deprivation to Action: Emotional, Identity, and Attitudinal Pathways to Violent and Peaceful Collective Action in Emerging Adults *Leonor de Fátima Guedes Cardoso, Psychology Research Center (CIPsi) of Psychology School of University of Minho; Centro de Investigação em Reabilitação, Escola Superior de Saúde, Politécnico do Porto; Pedro B. Albuquerque, Psychology Research Centre, School of Psychology, University of Minho; Sõnia Maria Martins Caridade, Escola de Psicologia da Universidade do Minho*

Recent increases in collective action across Europe have renewed attention to the psychological processes that differentiate violent from peaceful responses to perceived social crises. Drawing on the Social Identity Model of Collective Action (SIMCA) and criminological perspectives on marginalization and radicalization, this study examines the mechanisms linking perceived social crisis to collective action intentions among emerging adults. Using a quasi-experimental design (N = 144; M = 20.20 years, SD = 2.07), participants were exposed to a vignette manipulating the salience of social crisis (social crisis vs. lecture control). Measures included negative emotions, perceived relative deprivation, perceived social exclusion, marginalization, agreement with the endorsement of violence, and intentions to engage in violent and peaceful collective action. Structural equation modelling (SEM) was used to test the proposed pathways, showing that exposure to social crisis increased negative emotions, which in turn increased perceived relative deprivation. Higher deprivation predicted higher perceived social exclusion and higher marginalization. Higher perceived social exclusion further increased marginalization and was marginally associated with stronger agreement with the endorsement of violence. Agreement with the endorsement of violence was the strongest predictor of violent collective action, whereas peaceful collective action was primarily associated with marginalization rather than agreement with the endorsement of violence. Indirect effects analyses confirmed that social crisis influenced both violent and peaceful collective action through emotional, identity, and attitudinal pathways. These findings highlight marginalization, perceived social exclusion, and agreement with the endorsement of violence as key mechanisms translating perceived social disadvantage into collective action. The study contributes to literature by distinguishing psychological pathways leading to violent versus peaceful mobilization, offering implications for prevention strategies targeting marginalization, social identity processes, and beliefs about the legitimacy of violence.

P049. From Financial Surveillance to Algorithmic Security: Artificial Intelligence in Countering Terrorism Financing *Zbigniew Podedworny, University of Warsaw*

The detection and prevention of terrorism financing has traditionally relied on financial surveillance practices implemented through regulatory frameworks and monitoring mechanisms within financial institutions. In recent years, however, the growing use of artificial intelligence has significantly transformed these practices. AI-based systems are increasingly employed to analyse large volumes of financial data, identify suspicious transaction patterns, and support risk-based approaches to countering terrorism financing (CFT). This development signals a broader shift from conventional forms of financial monitoring toward what can be described as algorithmic security. This poster examines the role of artificial intelligence in countering terrorism financing from a critical and interdisciplinary perspective that combines insights from Criminology and Security Studies. Rather than focusing solely on the technological efficiency of AI tools, the study explores how algorithmic systems reshape the governance of financial security and contribute to the expansion of surveillance practices within the financial sector. Particular attention is given to the role of financial institutions as actors in contemporary security governance, as they increasingly perform functions traditionally associated with law enforcement and state authorities. The analysis also addresses key challenges associated with the growing reliance on artificial intelligence in financial monitoring, including issues related to transparency, accountability, and algorithmic decision-making in the identification of suspicious financial behaviour. By situating AI-driven monitoring systems within broader debates on technological governance and security practices, the poster contributes to emerging discussions on the transformation of financial surveillance in the context of Counter-Terrorism Financing.

P050. From Migration Context to Broader Implications: A Case Against Cultural Defense In Turkish Criminal Law *Elif Topuz, Bilkent University*

Cultural considerations are increasingly prominent in many areas of law; from human rights disputes to private international law matters. A parallel development in criminal law is “cultural defense”, whereby the social conditioning of the perpetrators diminishes the culpability necessary for sentencing. This newly developed notion has also been a relevant topic of discussion in Turkey, particularly after the migration flows from Syria have had tangible effects in legal disputes. It is widely discussed that moral blameworthiness is significantly affected by conflicts between normative and societal cultures, and a legal codification for cultural defense could especially benefit those for whom cultural conservation is an innate reaction to forced displacement. Others against such a provision have stipulated that if punishment is individualised to such an extent, legal pluralism would become a normative reality, the principle of equality would be compromised and deterrence would be weakened in all groups regardless of cultural backgrounds. This poster compares both of these doctrinal theses, examines national case law, engages with the relevant criminological theories and considers the sociological research into the interaction between

Syrian migrant communities and Turkish host societies. It argues that a cultural defense provision would be both unnecessary and counter-productive pursuant to two findings: the adequacy and the contradictivity of Turkish criminal law. First, Turkish law is shown to be adequate in assigning proportionate punishments to lowered culpability standards, by discussing selected cases from other jurisdictions as case studies. Second, Turkish law is also found to be deliberately contradictory at times to the prevailing social norms in the society as a tool for social engineering, and a cultural defense provision could undermine these legal considerations. These findings suggest that a formal codification of cultural defense in civil law systems could be damaging to the legal culture and alternative legal possibilities should be considered.

P051. From National Leadership to Local Practice: Leadership and D&I Implementation in the Netherlands Police *Mark Dean Brown, Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs, Institute of Security and Global Affairs*

Police organisations often make strong formal commitments to diversity and inclusion (D&I), yet implementation remains uneven in everyday practice. This poster presents the design and early empirical development of a PhD project examining how leadership practices shape the implementation of D&I in the Netherlands Police. The project asks how leadership influences D&I not only through formal commitment, but through routine decisions, signals, and interactions across hierarchical levels. The study is grounded in a qualitative, mechanism-oriented case study design. First, interviews, observation, and document analysis are conducted in one regional unit, focusing on senior leadership and boundary-spanning actors. This is expanded later on to additional regional units and basisteams, alongside a limited number of national-level actors, to examine how D&I priorities travel from policy design to local implementation. Finally, a limited international comparison will be made. The analysis focuses on leadership practices, institutional logics, psychological safety, and intersectional variation in experience and outcomes. The poster introduces the project's conceptual model, research design, and the fieldwork strategy for the case study of the first regional unit, and sets out the mechanisms the study will trace empirically: how leaders interpret D&I responsibilities, how competing organisational logics shape implementation, and when staff feel able to speak up, challenge, and participate in inclusive change. The project contributes to criminology and public administration by analysing D&I implementation as a leadership process in a hierarchical public institution, and by identifying how reform is enabled, constrained, or translated in practice.

P052. The Rise of Public Confidence in the Czech Police and Its Significance for Police-Community Cooperation *Jakub Holas, Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention*

Cooperation between citizens and law enforcement officers is essential for successfully addressing illegal activities and preventing them. The quality of this collaboration depends fundamentally on the attitudes of the general public toward the police. The aim of this paper is to summarize existing research findings on the relationship between citizens of the Czech Republic and the police and to provide a comparative analysis of these findings. Based on representative data from the past 20 years, we analyze how the Czech public's attitudes toward the police have changed and how they correlate with socio-demographic factors, fear of crime, and previous victimization. The used datasets come from a series of studies conducted by the Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention (IKSP). The findings indicate that public opinion regarding the quality of police work, as well as trust in the police, has improved systematically and steadily in the Czech Republic over the past decades. Currently, almost 80 % of citizens trust the police. Those who trust the police also report lower level of fear of crime. At the same time, it is evident that citizens who view police work positively are also more inclined to cooperate with the police. Despite the undoubtedly positive assessment of many aspects of police work, the public sees opportunities for improvement in the field of communication between the police and citizens, especially victims of crime.

P053. FROM RAPE CULTURE TO DIGITAL RESISTANCE systematic review *Sara Mateus, University Fernando Pessoa; Ana Isabel Sani, University Fernando Pessoa (UFP); OPVC-UFP; CIEC-UM*

This systematic review examines the impact of rape myths and media discourse—particularly within social media—on public perceptions of victim credibility in cases of sexual violence. It aims to explore how pre-existing beliefs, gender stereotypes, and online narratives shape societal attitudes and judgments toward victims. Following PRISMA guidelines, a comprehensive literature search was conducted across the ScOPUS, Web of Science, EBSCO, and PubMed databases. From an initial pool of 630 articles, studies were screened by title, abstract, and full text, resulting in the inclusion of 11 studies for analysis. The findings indicate that rape myth acceptance plays a significant role in shaping public interpretations of sexual violence, often contributing to victim-blaming, minimization of violence, and support for perpetrators. Social media discourse frequently reinforces stereotypical constructions of the "ideal victim," privileging moral judgments over objective evaluation of evidence. At the same time, emerging digital counter-narratives challenge these biases by promoting empathy, gender equality, and support for survivors. Responses to male victims reveal a complex pattern, characterized by growing recognition of male vulnerability alongside the continued hypersexualization of female perpetrators. Overall, social media function both as spaces that reproduce rape culture and as platforms for critical resistance. These findings highlight the importance of promoting media literacy, public awareness, and educational interventions to challenge biases and foster more informed and equitable responses to sexual violence.

P054. From Reinforcement to Diversification: A Complex Contagion Model of Offending in Longitudinal

Co-Offending Networks *Marie Eeckhout, Ghent University; Christophe Vandeviver, Ghent University*

Crime clusters in co-offending networks, but we lack a validated mechanism explaining how peer influence accumulates into behavioral change and how this process shapes specialization vs. generalization across offense types. Much empirical work treats peer influence as a linear, one-shot risk factor, despite criminological theories of social learning and reinforcement implying cumulative, thresholded influence. My project addresses that gap by developing and validating a complex contagion model of offending in which adoption becomes likely only after multiple reinforcing exposures, with thresholds varying by individual and offense type. Methodologically, I integrate agent-based modeling to formalize competing mechanisms (simple vs. complex contagion), social network analysis to reconstruct time-ordered co-offending networks and quantify exposure pathways and structural conditions (e.g., clustering, centrality), and relational hyperevent models to estimate adoption and switching hazards from cumulative reinforcement in multi-actor co-offending events. Finally, I use pattern-oriented modeling to calibrate and discriminate generative mechanisms by requiring simultaneous fit to offender-, network-, and diffusion-level patterns across local and national police-recorded suspect data. The outcome is an empirically grounded, generative explanation of when offending spreads, stalls, or escalates, and how network processes produce divergent criminal trajectories.

P055. From War Crimes Testimonies to Event Data: Validating LLM-Assisted Extraction from Judicial Texts *Ana María Cristancho, University College London*

This project examines how Large Language Models (LLMs) can be used to extract valid and reproducible event-level data on the micro-dynamics of war and war crimes from complex judicial texts. Although LLMs offer major opportunities for transforming unstructured materials into structured datasets, their use in conflict and criminological research raises unresolved questions about reliability, validity, bias, transparency, and reproducibility, particularly when sources are long, legally complex, and context-dependent. The project focuses on paramilitary violence and criminal governance in Colombia and builds on the Justicia y Paz Paramilitary Governance Dataset, an original event-level dataset derived from transitional justice sentences issued by the Tribunal Superior de Bogotá concerning war crimes committed by demobilised AUC paramilitary structures between 1990 and 2006. Version 1.0 includes 3,887 events across 31 sentences, covering 21 paramilitary structures in 15 departments. Methodologically, the project develops and evaluates an LLM-assisted extraction pipeline grounded in a theoretically informed codebook capturing civilian agency, forms of capital, and coercion intensity in interactions between criminal actors and civilians. A stratified subsample of events will be independently re-coded by a trained human coder to assess performance using precision, recall, F1 scores, and inter-rater agreement measures. The project contributes both a transparent validation framework for LLM-assisted data construction and a novel dataset on war crimes, paramilitary governance, and civilian interaction.

P056. Gang, cartel, mafia: the structure of French organized crime. The cases of the DZ Mafia and the Petit Bar. *Davide Bremi, CNAM - Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers*

Organised crime in France is often described through the imported lenses of "gang", "cartel" or "mafia", but these categories only partially capture the organisational reality of contemporary French criminal groups. Focusing on two emblematic cases, the DZ Mafia and the Petit Bar, this project examines how these groups are structured and which conceptual framework best accounts for their development. The study combines an extensive review of academic and grey literature with a systematic analysis of press coverage, semi-structured interviews with experts and group members, courtroom observation, and the collection of judicial and police documents. This multi-source strategy makes it possible to reconstruct internal hierarchies, territorial control, economic activities, and the nature of protection and corruption networks. Preliminary results suggest that France does not currently host fully-fledged mafias, but rather "mafia embryos": stable, family- or clan-based organisations that control specific illegal markets and exercise social power over a local community, yet lack some features of classical mafia-type organisations, notably entrenched political protection at higher levels of the state. The project argues that recognising these configurations as mafia embryos has important implications for definition, measurement and public policy, as ineffective or fragmented state responses may allow them to evolve into full mafia structures.

P057. Gender Gaps in Prison Quality of Life: Evidence from the Basque Country *Enara Garro Carrera, University of the Basque Country*

In 2021, the Basque Country became the first Spanish autonomous community to assume full competence over its prison system, creating a unique policy laboratory within the European penitentiary landscape. This poster presents findings from the first empirical study of quality of life in the three Basque prisons — Martutene, Basauri and Zaballa — using the validated Measuring the Quality of Prison Life (MQPL+) instrument, developed at the Cambridge Institute of Criminology. The study is based on surveys administered to 168 incarcerated individuals, stratified by sex, across the three facilities. Drawing on the MQPL+ framework, the analysis examines gender as a cross-cutting dimension across five thematic domains: mental health history, interpersonal climate, daily regime and activities, family contact and external ties, and subjective well-being. Results reveal significant gender disparities across all domains. Women report substantially higher rates of prior psychiatric admission (34% vs. 18%), self-harm (41% vs. 16%) and suicidal ideation (48% vs. 22%), suggesting that structural vulnerability predates incarceration and intensifies within custodial settings. Despite perceiving better relational quality with staff, women are geographically

further from their homes and receive fewer visits, undermining the family ties that are critical for rehabilitation and reintegration. Women also participate more in treatment programmes, yet paradoxically report more unstructured time, pointing to unmet occupational needs in women's units. These findings have direct policy implications for a prison system undergoing institutional transformation. The Basque transfer offers a distinctive opportunity to embed gender-responsive approaches from the outset of an autonomous penitentiary model. A longitudinal second wave of data collection is currently underway (2026), which will allow change over time to be tracked and will test whether the Basque model has narrowed or widened gender disparities since the baseline.

P058. General and Violent Recidivism in High-Risk Offenders: A Prospective Longitudinal Study of Risk, Needs, and Responsivity Factors *Pagnol Landry Kouassi, Université Laval-Québec, Canada; Patrick Lussier, Université Laval*

Individuals classified as high-risk to reoffend are often viewed as inevitable recidivists, potentially obscuring the complexity of their pathways toward desistance. While criminogenic risk and needs are well documented, less is known about the role of agency and structural barriers in shaping desistance among this population. This study examines the interplay between risk, needs, agency, and responsivity factors in predicting general and violent recidivism. Data were drawn from a provincial quasi-population of 7,515 adult male justice-involved individuals in Quebec, Canada, all assessed as high (n = 4,793) or very high risk (n = 2,722) using the LS/CMI. Participants were serving either community-based sentences (probation ≥ 6 months) or short-term incarceration (< 2 years). Criminogenic needs were measured using the Central Eight domains of the LS/CMI, while agency was captured through indicators of motivation to change and denial. Recidivism was defined as a new conviction during the follow-up period after return to the community. Cox proportional hazards models were used to examine time to general and violent reoffending. Results indicate that age is a significant protective factor, with younger individuals at higher risk of recidivism. Key criminogenic needs, particularly criminal history, substance abuse, and family/marital problems, were strongly associated with reoffending. Although motivation to change was linked to lower recidivism, its effect was limited in the presence of substantial risk and needs. Individuals on probation were more likely to reoffend than those incarcerated, suggesting differences in supervision and intervention intensity. Findings highlight the importance of addressing both structural barriers and individual agency in interventions targeting high-risk populations. Limitations include the exclusive focus on male offenders and the absence of repeated measures over time.

P059.Greyness in the Luxury Watch Trade *H. Konstantin Jänicke, Maastricht University, PRICELESS*

Luxury goods like watches, handbags, cars, jewellery, and art are highly desirable. At the same time, these goods repeatedly appear in connection with criminal activity. The ways in which they are used vary depending on the context and the actors involved. Luxury watches are a particularly interesting case. They have a set of characteristics that make them well suited for use in crime, not only because of their high value, but also because that value can be manipulated. In practice, this makes them useful in for a range of crimes, including money laundering, tax evasion, informal value transfer, and bribery. How niche sectors, particularly for luxury goods, are exploited is underresearched. This project starts from that gap. It looks at the relationship between luxury watches and subversive crime by focusing on how the sector works and how the luxury watch trade functions. The aim is not only to describe the sector, but to understand where and how opportunities for illicit activity arise within this otherwise licit sector. To that end, I am conducting empirical research (observations and interviews) to uncover the established structures of the luxury watch trade. Then, I am analyzing these structures to pinpoint vulnerabilities for cirminal infiltration and exploitation. At EUROCRIM 2026, I will present the design of the project, particulalry the empirical part, its current state of progress, first findings (i.e. the first chapters of my dissertation), and the next steps.

P060. Hidden Patients – Visible Offenders: Caregiver Health as a Determinant of Antisocial Trajectories (The HPAHSC Project) *Marzanna Farnicka, University of Warsaw*

This poster presents the framework of the HPFC research project, based on the premise that systemic neglect of the health of caregivers of children with chronic conditions (ASD, epilepsy) and behavioral disorders (ODD) leads to their biological exhaustion, hindering effective prevention of antisocial behavior. The core of the project is the vicious cycle of systemic dysregulation. The parent is not a criminogenic factor but an individual who becomes dysregulated in response to the child's chronic challenges. Constant exposure to stress triggers HPA-axis dysregulation (Lovell et al., 2023), leading to a state of chronic helplessness. By comparing chronic illnesses and behavioral disorders, the project demonstrates that focusing support exclusively on the child results in the failure of the entire family system (Radochoński, 1999). A dysregulated and unsupported parent (Abidin, 1992, 1995) loses the capacity to stabilize the environment, which, in the case of youth with ODD, encourages institutionalization in Youth Educational Centers (MOW). Research Hypotheses: H1: There is a significant correlation between the degree of caregiver physiological dysregulation and the rate of escalation of the child's antisocial behavior. H2: Family systems of caregivers of children with medical and behavioral challenges exhibit similar parameters of dysfunction, stemming from an analogous mechanism of systemic helplessness. H3: Interventions aimed at restoring caregiver self-regulation lead to a significant reduction in children's aggression, regardless of the etiology of their disorders. The HPFC strategy involves monitoring family functioning and recognizing the family system as an autonomous subject of care. Only by breaking the

mechanism of caregiver helplessness can the family regain its protective functions and prevent the transition of developmental difficulties into permanent criminal trajectories (Neece, 2014; Bögels, 2025).

P061. Honour Killings in Pakistan: Culture, Patriarchy, and the Criminal Justice Response *Qurat ul Ain Rizvi, University of Karachi*

The aim of the study is to examine honour killings in Pakistan through a criminological and socio-legal perspective, focusing on the cultural norms and deep-rooted patriarchal structures that exist in the society. In Pakistan, honour killings are often seen as cultural practices, however, they are accurately understood as forms of gender-based violence and instruments of social control. This study explores how the concept of "honour" is socially constructed within family and community contexts. The research is ongoing and adopts a qualitative, exploratory approach based on secondary sources, including reported case law, human rights reports, and existing scholarly literature. Particular attention is given to patterns of victimization and the societal acceptance that facilitates such crimes. The study also evaluates Pakistan's legal framework, including loopholes in the application of Shariya laws, especially in cases involving familial forgiveness. Preliminary findings suggest that despite legislative developments, honour killings continue due to weak enforcement, social legitimacy, and the normalization of patriarchal violence. These findings point to the limitations of isolated legal reforms and highlight the need of addressing both structural inequalities and cultural norms. This ongoing study aims to contribute to broader debates on gender, crime, and justice in Pakistan by emphasizing the importance of socio-cultural context in understanding and preventing honour-based violence.

P062. Human Trafficking in the Tourism Sector in Austria - The (Non)Use of AI *Karin Bruckmüller, Sigmund Freud Private University; Denise Ziack, Sigmund Freud PrivatUniversity Vienna*

Austria is a tourist country and a destination country for victims of human trafficking. Hence human trafficking in the tourism sector is an issue in Austria, often hidden behind otherwise legitimate travel and hospitality activities. It involves the exploitation of people (especially seasonal workers) —most commonly for forced labor—and can occur in hotels, transportation services, and sport activities. Also online booking and advertising can be misused to facilitate trafficking. Although we know about victims in the tourist sector, there is currently no use of AI identification tools in Austria. The project will analyze, why AI isn't used as supporter for identification of thb victims in tourism in Austria. Are trainings necessary or are there no useful tools or is there a legal problem -maybe the AI Act? These questions will be clarified by interviews with relevant stakeholders.More questions and first results will be presented on a poster and we will be happy to discuss approches in other countries.

P063. Identifying Key Predictors of Employment Among Justice-Involved Emerging Youths: The Role of Vocational Credentialing in Community-Based Reentry *Minyeong Yoon, The University of Texas at Dallas*

For justice-involved young adults, securing stable employment is an essential milestone for successful community reintegration and recidivism reduction. While various workforce development initiatives exist, empirical evidence on which specific program components most effectively drive employment outcomes remains inconsistent. Therefore, this study evaluates the impact of a community-based vocational training program located in a major metropolitan area in Texas, focusing on the relationship between program completion and labor market entry. Using administrative data from a specialized reentry program, this research conducted logistic regression analysis to examine the predictors of employment among program participants. The analysis controls for a range of individuals characteristics, including race, gender, age, educational attainment, and prior history of justice involvement. The findings showed that the number of vocational credentials obtained from the training is the significant predictor of employment. In contrast, other demographic factors such as race, age at intake, and previous justice involvement, didn't exhibit statistically significant relationships with employment outcomes. Additional analysis found that a potential gender disparity, where female participants earned fewer credentials on average than their male counterparts; however, this finding requires further validation due to uneven sample distribution. The study suggests that for justice-impacted populations, the acquisition of market-recognized credentials serves as a powerful mechanism to overcome systematic employment barriers. These findings emphasize the importance of stackable certifications over generalized support services in workforce development. By identifying credentialing as a primary driver of economic success, this study provides evidence-based insights for designing more effective, equitable reentry interventions and informing community-based correctional policies.

P064. Inter-faith dialogue, literacy, safety by design and remembrance to SHIELD European communities from intolerance, hate and extremism *Margarida Madruga Damas, IPS_Innovative Prison Systems; Pedro Liberado, IPS_Innovative Prison Systems*

The geopolitical developments across the globe, the changing terrorist tactics, rising disinformation and polarisation leave European societies susceptible to the crystallisation of discriminatory and hateful tendencies. Consequently, Europe's soft targets grow vulnerable to micro and major aggressions. Soft targets are critical places for social cohesion and development, with easy access, which include places of worship, community gatherings and schools. However, are not often met with a specialised protection and security measures (Vasilis, 2021). This is seen in recent incidents, scattered around Europe, from Southern countries, such as Portugal, to the East, with the Polish example, mostly through hateful manifestations(both on and offline), opposing mostly minority religious, ethnic and cultural communities. This lies at the core of the SHIELDed 'Schools, religious communities and local

authorities Harmonised initiative to Enhance Local Resilience' project, a European-wide initiative, funded by DG HOME under the Internal Security Fund. SHIELDed gathers 17 partners from 10 countries with a shared purpose: – to build safe and tolerant religious communities, safeguarding places of religious development and freedom. This will be achieved through a bottom-up and participatory methodology, in which local actors, including religious leaders, local authorities (incl. LEAs), educational institutions and youth, are surveyed, assessing security needs, challenges and best practices. Building upon these, the project is piloting Local Councils, which gather to tailor results and security outcomes to their own context. Moreover, acknowledging how to safeguard religious development and freedom, both soft and hard security principles need to be mobilised; the project will build upon Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to build technological solutions to shield soft targets. Lastly, through the recognition that mis-disinformation is jeopardising tolerance, SHIELDed will invest in remembrance mechanisms, leveraging past memory towards more resilient future generations. The SHIELDed project is currently under implementation until May 2028.

P065. Interventions supporting families in the rehabilitation and reintegration of violent extremist offenders *Zsofia Baumann, University of Amsterdam; Elena Zhirukhina, Ca' Foscari University of Venice*

Violent extremists, amongst them foreign terrorist fighters and their family members returning from Syria and Iraq often face a long and difficult road to reintegration. In this process, the family stands out as a decisive actor. Families are usually the first and most enduring point of contact during rehabilitation, and their capacity to support, communicate with, and guide those reintegrating can shape whether the process becomes stable and sustainable or breaks down into renewed offending. Yet many rehabilitation and post-return programmes focus on families as resources reintegrating individuals can rely on, while disregarding their needs. They give insufficient attention to the family environment and what they require in order to sustain daily rehabilitation and reintegration. This research addresses this gap by examining how family-level and individual-level interventions can be combined to improve the outcomes of repatriation, rehabilitation, and reintegration programming. It argues that behaviourally informed support for families is not an optional addition but a core condition for positive reintegration trajectories. The analysis identifies pathways through which psychological, socio-economic and logistical support at family-level can strengthen resilience, reduce relational strain, and improve the prospects for constructive social reintegration. By focusing the attention on the wider relational environment of those going through reintegration, this research shows that more durable outcomes depend on empowering families as active partners in rehabilitation and reintegration.

P066. Investigating risk profile of justice-involved perpetrators of sexual offenses using four actuarial risk assessment tools *Xavier Leclerc, Université Laval; Patrick Lussier, Université Laval*

Risk assessment is now an integral part of most clinical assessments of justice-involved individuals who perpetrated a sex offense (IPSO). Evidence-based practices recommend the use of actuarial risk assessment that can produce an aggregate risk probability score based on a predetermined list of items or predictors. These actuarial-based methods are embedded in a variable-oriented approach (whether a specific individual characteristic is present/absent) as opposed to a person-oriented perspective (i.e., configuration of characteristics; Lussier and Davies, 2015). The person-oriented approach is more aligned to the fundamentals of clinical assessment, which is concerned with the person as a whole and not as the sum of characteristics. The current study draws on the person-oriented perspective by examining the profile of risk factors among sexual recidivists and non-recidivists. The study is based on a sample of 527 individuals consecutively admitted to a federal penitentiary between 1994 and 2000 who were convicted of a sexual offense and who were subsequently released (e.g., parole, end of sentence). The study now includes four waves of data collection, with the most recent wave completed in 2024 (Lussier et al., 2025). In total, four actuarial risk assessment tools were completed (Static-99R; Static2002R; MnSOST-R; VASOR-2) and analyzed. Furthermore, information about sexual recidivism was examined, on average, over a 19-year period. In total, 101 individuals were charged again for a sexual offense during the follow-up period. Factor analyses were conducted to identify relatively independent dimensions of risk based on the items of the four instruments. Next, a series of latent class analyses was performed to identify risk profiles and specific configuration of risk dimensions. The findings highlight the presence of multiple risk profiles of sexual recidivists and non-recidivists. Findings will be discussed in light of literature on risk assessment.

P067. I.PLACING: Multi-level Spatial, Visual and Social Analysis of Urban Safety in Transit Environments (Research Project) *Miguel Saraiva, CEGOT – Centre of Studies in Geography and Spatial Planning, of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto; Carla Sofia Cardoso, CIJ-Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice; CEJEIA - Center for Legal, Economic, International and Environmental Studies; School of Criminology, Faculty of Law of the University of Porto; Susana Barreto, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Porto*

This poster presents a new research project (2025-2028), funded by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology and housed at the University of Porto. It stems from an innovative collaboration between three distinct departments of the University, Geography/Territorial Planning; Law/Criminology and Fine Arts/Urban Design, along with partnerships with the Public Safety Police (PSP) and the Ministry of Internal Administration (MAI). The project's acronym

is I.PLACING, and full title is "Multi-level Spatial, Visual and Social Analysis of Urban Safety in Transit Environments: Integration in place-making through innovations in geospatial technology and the mix-method combination of big and small data". I.PLACING's main goal is to develop and implement a replicable, technologically-driven, spatial decision-support procedure for multi-domain, multi-scalar and multi-temporal diagnosis of urban insecurity and vulnerability – expressed through a dedicated web-GIS platform tailored for transit environments. This approach can both inform integrated intervention proposals and assist citizens to make safer and sustainable choices, thus leading to concrete changes in urban spaces and how they are used. The poster will present the project's multidisciplinary and multi-level team and an overview of its main tasks. The cornerstone of the project lies in four concurrent pillars; an objective dimension (registered crime patterns and victimization); a subjective dimension (daily activity patterns and feelings, including fear-of-crime); a socio-economic dimension (spatial profiles related to social disorganization and vulnerabilities), and a morphological-design dimension (structure, design and use of urban spaces). The outcomes will exist in overlapping spatial layers that can be analyzed simultaneously and shared with stakeholders. Data will be collected and analyzed in three time periods (pre-pandemic, pandemic and post pandemic), and scales (macro city; meso parish/neighbourhood; and micro street level). Such an operational model will allow understanding and explaining differences between city areas, tracking and monitoring changes over time, and producing causality and correlation assessments, uncovering spatial determinants.

P068. Is the risk of adult perpetrator of sexual offences really dynamic? A prospective longitudinal study of age, dynamic risk factors and recidivism *Guillaume Masson, Université Laval; Patrick Lussier, Université Laval*

The notion of "change" in etiological model of reoffending remains vague, imprecise, and relatively undefined. For example, dynamic risk factors are a central component of the risk assessment and risk management of adult perpetrators of sexual offences (APSO). In theory, these factors can fluctuate over time, making them prime targets for interventions. However, conceptually we don't know how these factors evolve over time, and how stable they are across adult developmental stages, especially across the emerging adulthood period. The main goals of this study is to: a) examine the dynamic of risk factors according to age for APSO; b) assess the impact of the factors identified by risk assessment tools (Stable-2007) on criminal recidivism; and c) explore the stability of the relationship between dynamic factors and recidivism among APSO. The sample consists of 405 individuals incarcerated at a provincial detention center in Percé (Québec, Canada) between 2010 and 2017, all sentenced to less than two years for a sexual offence. Correlation analysis results demonstrate how certain factors are correlated with young adults (e.g. impulsive behaviors). while few are associated with older adults (with the exception of emotional identification with children). Survival analysis results (Cox proportional hazards regression) also demonstrate how some risk factors lose their predictive value when age is considered as a covariate (e.g., social influences). These results suggest that age should be an integral part of risk factor assessment; not only as a predictor of recidivism, but as a central determinant for contextualizing an individual's clinical profile according to their life stage.

P069. Mapping threshold concepts and terms for operationalization in identifying and responding to institutional/organisation harm *Gema Varona, Senior researcher at the Basque Institute of Criminology (University of the Basque Country)*

This poster presents the first-year work of the project PID2024-156801OB-I00 (2025–2029), 'Responding to organizational and institutional victimization: a comparative analysis of action research', funded by the Ministry of Science of Spain (https://www.ehu.eus/es/web/ivac/laboratorio-de-teoria-y-practica-de-la-justicia-restaurativa/proyecto-victimizacion-organizacional-institucional).

Institutional and organizational harm constitutes one of the most structurally entrenched yet conceptually undertheorized forms of victimization in contemporary criminology and justice studies. Despite growing empirical attention to corporate misconduct, state violence, and systemic abuses, the field lacks a consolidated conceptual architecture that enables scholars and practitioners to identify, categorize, and operationalize responses to such harm with analytical precision. This poster presents the foundational conceptual mapping work developed during the first year of the project developed by different universities. Drawing on critical criminology, victimology, and restorative and transformative justice frameworks, we undertake a systematic review and synthesis of the threshold concepts and terms that structure current scholarly and policy discourse around organizational and institutional harm. The mapping exercise identifies key definitional tensions — including the boundaries between harm and crime, victimization and structural disadvantage, accountability and redress — and examines how these tensions condition both the recognition of victims and the institutional capacity to respond. The analysis reveals significant semantic fragmentation across disciplinary and jurisdictional traditions, which in turn constrains the development of coherent response frameworks. We propose a preliminary conceptual glossary mosaic aimed at supporting cross-national comparative research. This tool is designed to serve both analytical and practical purposes, facilitating dialogue between academic inquiry and action-research interventions with affected communities and organizations. The poster invites critical engagement with the conceptual foundations of the field as a necessary precondition for developing more effective, just, and victim-aware institutional responses.

P070. Measuring the Convergence of Coercive Roles: A New Composite Index from Multi-Source Data Integration to Study the Militarisation of the Coercive

Apparatus *Ana María Cristancho, University College London*

The growing convergence of military, police, and paramilitary functions is a central yet poorly measured feature of contemporary governance. Existing indicators of militarisation rely on narrow institutional proxies and fail to capture how coercive roles are integrated across organisational, operational, and doctrinal dimensions. This project develops a new cross-national measure of the militarisation of the coercive apparatus by combining data from SIPRI, BICC, and ACLED with original indicators derived from large-scale text extraction of security and defence documents. These textual data capture the framing of internal threats and the legitimation of military involvement in domestic security. Using principal components analysis, the study constructs a composite index that captures the latent convergence of coercive roles across countries and over time. The resulting measure improves on existing approaches by strengthening conceptual validity and integrating material, organisational, operational, and cultural dimensions within a unified framework. Preliminary findings suggest that militarisation is not primarily driven by crime or security threats, but is more closely associated with processes of political consolidation and power projection. The measure provides a new tool for analysing the dynamics and consequences of militarised governance, including its implications for policing and for how democratic sanctioning is exercised.

P071. Mental Health and Criminal Responsibility: A Socio-Juridical Analysis of the Evolving Relationship between Criminal Law and Psychiatry *Celeste Novaro, University of Perugia*

The crisis of the retributive theory of punishment questions the idea of criminal responsibility. Some scholars propose its reinterpretation, while others advocate its abolition. The most controversial issue concerns offenders' mental health, which may exclude criminal responsibility in cases of mental illness. Numerous legal and psychiatric studies highlight the fragility of this idea, given the lack of a scientific notion of mental illness suitable for jurisprudence. Nevertheless, in most criminal systems responsibility remains grounded in mental health. This framework produces the so-called 'dual-track system': mentally healthy offenders are considered responsible and punishable, while mentally disordered offenders are considered not responsible and subjected to security measures. The research analyzes the legal concept of criminal responsibility alongside the evolving psychiatric concept of mental health. At the theoretical level, the research examines the debate surrounding the legal concept of criminal responsibility and the critiques questioning its coherence and applicability. The study adopts a critical-criminological perspective, highlighting how societies produce punitive practices through conceptions of law and justice that function as ideological constructs. In parallel, it analyzes phenomenological psychiatric literature that emphasizes the multifactorial nature of mental disorders. The review of criminological and psychiatric studies provides the framework for the research. At the empirical level, the study identifies the factors considered by the criminal justice system when assessing the criminal responsibility. The empirical field of research is Italy, where the dual-track system has existed since 1930. A qualitative analysis of judicial case files and forensic psychiatric evaluations will be conducted to identify the criteria used by experts and their influence on judicial decisions. The project integrates theoretical reflections on criminal responsibility with new empirical evidence. It contributes to the literature by proposing an innovative on a legal language better able to reflect the complexity of criminal phenomena.

P072. Moving Beyond Western Criminological Ideas: Building a More Globally Grounded Framework for Criminological Studies *Mitzie L. Forrest, Morningside University, Sioux City, Iowa, USA.*

Contemporary criminology remains disproportionately shaped by Western epistemological assumptions, often treating crime as a universal category rather than a culturally situated construct. Drawing on cultural criminology, narrative criminology, and postcolonial critique, this proposed research examines how crime, deviance, and justice are culturally narrated across diverse Asian contexts and how these narratives challenge dominant theoretical frameworks. This project advances a comparative, multi-site conceptual design focusing on Japan, South Korea, China, India, and Mongolia. It explores how constructs such as honor, shame, collectivism, and social harmony shape formal and informal responses to deviance. In contrast to Western models emphasizing individual culpability and legal-rational authority, these contexts often foreground relational accountability, reputational harm, and community-based regulation. Mongolia, in particular, offers a distinct lens, where post-socialist transitions and nomadic cultural legacies intersect with evolving state structures to shape perceptions of crime and justice. Methodologically, the study proposes a qualitative comparative framework integrating discourse analysis of media and policy narratives, alongside exploratory pedagogical applications in criminology classrooms. By situating crime within cultural narrative contexts, the project extends cultural criminology beyond its predominantly Western focus and contributes to ongoing efforts to decolonize and globalize the field. This research also develops a cross-cultural teaching model to enhance global criminological literacy. Positioned at the intersection of culture, theory, and pedagogy, it challenges the implicit universality of Western criminological paradigms.

P073. Murder and the Mind: Prison Homicide, Mental Health, and Justice *Kate Gooch, University of Bath*

Prison homicide is an increasing but little researched problem. This ground-breaking project answers an urgent need to understand fatal and near-fatal prison violence at a time where the number of homicides and serious assaults in English and Welsh prisons is rising (Ministry of Justice, 2025). Specifically, this project analyses the prevalence of mental illness and

personality disorder amongst perpetrators of homicidal and near-fatal prison violence. This research sits at the interface between secure psychiatric care and prison custody, excavating how, when and why prisoners move to (and from) secure hospital in the aftermath of a violent assault and addressing questions of power, justice, and human flourishing. This qualitative project is an international first; representing the first attempt to undertake qualitative research with prison homicide assailants detained in secure psychiatric hospital. In so doing, it seeks to deepen our understanding of the individual, social, penological and environmental causes of prison homicide.

P074. Neurodevelopmental Disorders and Crime: A Research Review *Anna Waligórska, Uniwersytet Warszawski, Wydział Stosowanych Nauk Społecznych i Resocjalizacji*

Neurodevelopmental disorders (NDD): intellectual disability (ID), autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and ADHD alter impulse regulation in ways that elevate offending and victimization risk. A narrative review was undertaken given gaps in cross-NDD criminological research and the under-recognition of these conditions in forensic contexts. Persons with ID are overrepresented in prisons (7-10% vs. roughly 1% in the general population) despite low-planning offenses (e.g. arson, petty theft, non-violent sexual offenses) driven by poor impulse control and situational vulnerability (Hellenbach et al., 2017). Victimization risk is approximately four times the population rate. Autistic individuals do not offend more often overall, yet are incarcerated at roughly four times the population rate. The gap reflects difficulties at police interview, higher detectability of specific offense types (stalking, cybercrime), and intense restricted interests. Victimization is severe: up to 47% report bullying, 40% sexual violence, and up to 84% polyvictimization (Chester et al., 2025). A childhood diagnosis of ADHD confers a two- to threefold risk of arrest, conviction, and incarceration; ADHD prevalence in detention reaches 26.2% (Baggio et al., 2018). Offenses are impulsive (e.g. theft, assault, drug-related) with early onset and high recidivism. Atypical impulse regulation and social processing recur as shared mechanisms. The findings support emotion regulation training and psychoeducation for NDD populations for prevention. References Baggio, S., et al. (2018). Prevalence of ADHD in detention settings: A systematic review and meta-analysis. Frontiers in Psychiatry, 9, 331. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyt.2018.00331 Chester, V., Melvin, C., Bunning, K., Alexander, R., & Langdon, P. E. (2025). Autistic people within forensic psychiatric services and the criminal justice system: A systematic review. The Journal of Forensic Psychiatry & Psychology, 36(5), 711-773. https://doi.org/10.1080/14789949.2025.2558833 Hellenbach, M., Karatzias, T., & Brown, M. (2017). Intellectual disabilities among prisoners: Prevalence and mental and physical health comorbidities. Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities, 30(2), 230-241. https://doi.org/10.1111/jar.12234

P075. Obfuscation-as-a-Service: Cryptocurrency mixing and the infrastructural transformation of money laundering *Muriel Houedjakou-Djagbre, Sciences Po Paris*

Cybercrime is increasingly structured by digital infrastructures rather than discrete individual acts, yet criminological frameworks remain largely focused on offenders, motivations, and events, offering limited insight into the systemic organisation of illicit activity. Existing criminological accounts of money laundering tend to conceptualise it as a secondary practice carried out by identifiable actors, thereby overlooking how technical systems reshape the conditions under which concealment operates. This paper addresses this gap by introducing the concept of obfuscation as a service, defined as the embedding of anonymisation and transaction-concealment functions within technical architectures that standardise, routinise, and diffuse laundering practices across heterogeneous actors. Drawing on criminology, political economy, and the sociology of infrastructure, the study analyses cryptocurrency mixing protocols as infrastructures that transform the organisation of illicit financial flows. Empirically, the analysis draws on documented cases of mixing protocol deployment : including Tornado Cash and analogous protocols implicated in large-scale illicit financial flows involving state and non-state actors ; to examine how these systems reconfigure responsibility, attribution, and coordination in criminal ecosystems. The paper argues that cryptocurrency mixers reconfigure money laundering as an infrastructural condition of digital crime rather than a discrete stage in criminal processes. In doing so, they challenge offender-centric models of crime and call for a shift toward analysing service-based and platform-mediated forms of criminal organisation. By foregrounding the infrastructural dimensions of cybercrime, this study contributes to contemporary criminological debates on the transformation of offending in digital environments and advances a systemic understanding of how crime is organised within those environments.

P076. Open prison in Jiřice, Czech Republic *Eva Biedermanova, Institute for Criminology and Social Prevention*

Jiřice has been home to the Czech Republic's first open prison since 2017. One of its primary aims is to reduce the likelihood of prisoners' reoffending. It is a low-security facility for male prisoners, in which those incarcerated are obliged to complete a specific treatment program. Data from the Jirice prison indicate that, of those prisoners who completed the entire treatment programme and were subsequently released, the penological recidivism rate was approximately 18 % as at the beginning of 2026. This low rate was also confirmed by a 2025 analysis of criminal records, carried out by the Institute for Criminology and Social Prevention. Of the prisoners who completed the treatment program and whose release was at least two years ago, less than a third committed further offences and were returned to prison.

P077. Organized Crime in Bulgaria in the Context of Globalization (1989–Present): Structural Factors,

Evolution of the Phenomenon, and Criminal Justice Strategies from a Legal-Criminological Perspective. *Kamelia Krassi Hadjieva, University of Girona*

This research examines the development of organized crime in Bulgaria from the collapse of the socialist regime in 1989 to the present day, situating the phenomenon within the broader context of globalization, economic transition, and European integration. The post-communist transformation generated profound institutional, economic, and social changes that facilitated the emergence and consolidation of criminal networks, particularly during the early transition period characterized by weak state structures, rapid privatization, and regulatory gaps. The study pursues three main objectives. First, it analyzes the structural factors (political, economic, institutional, cultural) that enabled the emergence and entrenchment of organized criminal groups in Bulgaria. Second, it examines the typological and organizational evolution of these networks, focusing on their progressive professionalization, diversification of illicit activities, and internationalization in response to globalization and the transformation of transnational illicit markets. Third, it evaluates the criminal justice and penal policy strategies developed to address the phenomenon, both within Bulgaria as a country of origin and in Spain as a country of destination for certain criminal activities, within the broader framework of European Union cooperation against organized crime. Methodologically, the research adopts a multidisciplinary legal-criminological approach combining historical-institutional analysis, doctrinal review, judicial case studies, and comparative normative analysis. Where possible, qualitative interviews with legal professionals, law enforcement officials, non-governmental organizations, and subject-matter experts complement the analysis. The study aims to provide a systematic legal-criminological assessment of organized crime in Bulgaria over the past three decades and to contribute to ongoing debates on effective criminal policy responses and mechanisms for improving victim protection in the context of transnational organized crime.

P078. Pathways to Radicalization in High-Discipline Fitness Communities *Elizabeth Carlisle, American University*

This study seeks to analyze civilian, tactical, high-discipline fitness communities and self-optimization rhetoric as it supports political violence. Specifically, this study seeks to understand why some communities move from self-optimization narratives and engage with disciplined masculinity to support or participate in extreme violence or violent rhetoric, while most do not. Previous research has documented the role of fitness paces in fostering far-right extremism (i.e., Active Clubs or MMA gyms) (Mellea & Düker, 2024; Snow, McAdam & Moss, 2025), which suggests that there are aspects within the culture of these groups like masculinity, grievance, and social belonging, that are important aspects of pathways to radicalization. By focusing on tactical fitness spaces and online fitness culture, this study highlights how protector norms, savior narratives, and moral codes are constructed and legitimized within the groups. Methodologically, this study seeks to develop a mixed-methods approach to analyze subcultural identification and engagement with internalized and practice masculine and protector norms. Further, this study will conduct a content analysis of online fitness groups and personalities engaged in these spaces. Finally, as this study seeks to engage with both criminological theory and theories in terrorism studies, this study will create a foundation framework to better align the theoretical findings of both disciplines in this under-researched subculture.

P079. Preventing Sexual Offending: Comparative Perspectives from Canada, the United Kingdom, and Japan *Aika Tomoto, Chiba University*

Responses to sexual offending increasingly require coordination across criminal justice, healthcare, and community systems. Recent international discussions have emphasized the importance of providing support not only after sexual offences have occurred but also at earlier stages, including for individuals experiencing problematic sexual interests or concerns about their own behaviour. However, the institutional arrangements that enable such prevention-oriented responses differ substantially across countries. This study examines support systems addressing sexual offending in Canada, the United Kingdom, and Japan, with a particular focus on the relationship between treatment, supervision, and community-based intervention. The analysis draws on a review of policy documents, professional reports, and previous studies, together with field observations from site visits conducted in Canada and a review of practices reported in the United Kingdom. Particular attention is given to the availability of specialised treatment services, risk assessment frameworks, voluntary access to care, and multi-agency collaboration linking justice and health sectors. The findings indicate that Canada and the United Kingdom have developed more integrated systems in which supervision and treatment are coordinated through structured risk management, specialised programmes, and community-based support. These systems often allow access to support regardless of formal diagnosis or prior conviction and include mechanisms for voluntary referral, anonymous consultation, and interdisciplinary case management. By contrast, Japan has relied more heavily on criminal justice responses after offending, while preventive and community-based treatment pathways remain limited. The study suggests that strengthening prevention-oriented services in Japan will require closer collaboration between justice, healthcare, and welfare sectors, as well as the development of accessible support systems that reduce stigma and promote early intervention.

P080. Prison dignity and the "Unconstitutional State of Affairs" in Brazil: a comparative jurisprudential analysis of the ECHR and IACtHR *Guilherme Gabardo Bornancin, Universidade Federal do Paraná - Brasil*

This research analyses the conceptual boundaries of "prison dignity" by juxtaposing the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR),

specifically assessing their influence on the material realities of incarceration in the Global South. Grounded in Pierre Legrand's framework of "negative comparison", the study contests the efficacy of universalist legal standards when applied to the specific socio-legal landscape of Brazil. It posits that the uncritical transplantation of Eurocentric normative ideals exacerbates the rift between formal legal discourse and the visceral daily experiences of the incarcerated. The study employs a dual-stage methodological approach. First, it conducts a comparative analysis of 21st-century rulings from both courts to identify epistemological divergences in defining breaches of dignity. Second, it scrutinises the Brazilian legal and physical infrastructure, centred on the "Unconstitutional State of Affairs" (ADPF 347) declared by the Supreme Federal Court. This landmark ruling recognises that structural failures within the penal system result in continuous, systemic violations of fundamental rights, effectively transforming the prison into a site of physical and ontological deterioration rather than rehabilitation. Drawing upon the theoretical contributions of Eugenio Raúl Zaffaroni, this project proposes a localised re-conceptualisation of prison dignity that accounts for the Brazilian social and normative "margin". This poster will present preliminary findings suggesting that the absence of contextualised legal concepts facilitates a "refuse management" logic within the carceral apparatus, where the suspension of dignity functions not as a systemic malfunction, but as a deliberate structural trait.

P081. Relational dynamics in Basque Prisons: trust, fairness, and humanity from the inmates' perspective *Mikel Anderez Belategi, University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU)*

While structural conditions and programmed activities are standard metrics of prison life, the moral performance of a facility—defined by relational dynamics, perceived legitimacy, and interpersonal treatment—is arguably the most critical determinant of inmates' psychological well-being. Building on previous research on time use, this poster explores the relational dimensions of confinement: how inmates experience fairness, respect, and humanity in their daily interactions. Based on the Measuring the Quality of Prison Life (MQPL+) instrument, face-to-face interviews were conducted with a randomised, representative sample of 168 inmates (incorporating both men and women) across the three Basque prisons. The analysis relies on Likert scales and Spearman's rank correlations to identify structural patterns in the inmates' subjective experiences. The findings reveal a clear fracture in the moral climate of these institutions. Basic relational decency is largely maintained: 54% of inmates evaluate their relationship with prison staff as "good", 48% feel treated "as a human being", and the vast majority (over 75%) feel physically safe from violence. However, severe deficits in procedural justice actively undermine this stability. Nearly half of the respondents (47%) believe that rules are enforced unfairly, and 53% perceive arbitrary inequalities in the distribution of prison jobs and assignments. Statistical analysis confirms strong positive correlations between humane treatment, perceived fairness, and institutional trust. The poster highlights that while the baseline of normative human rights and physical safety is met, the system's subjective legitimacy remains fragile due to perceived procedural inequities. To genuinely advance its strategic goals of human dignity and resocialization, the emerging Basque penitentiary model must move beyond material or programmatic upgrades and actively foster transparent, equitable, and trust-building dynamics between inmates and staff.

P082. Replicating a Latent Class Analysis for the Identification of Profiles of Male Intimate Partner Violence Perpetrators *Esperanza Garcia-Vergara, Universidad Loyola Andalucia; Sergio Castellanos-Luna, Universidad Loyola Andalucía*

Male perpetrators of intimate partner violence (IPV) are a heterogeneous group. Prior research on IPV perpetrator profiles often overlook critical dimensions such as relationship status and the nuanced motivations driving violence. Building on an initial Latent Class Analysis that identified distinct profiles of male IPV perpetrators based on a multidimensional framework using data from legal records, this study examined whether those profiles remained stable and identifiable when the using a different and expanded sample. The analysis confirmed the five distinct profiles in the larger sample, with minimal differences. Two profiles involved violence against ex-partners: profile 1 is driven by reconciliation-seeking and uses persistent harassment without high lethality risk. By contrast, profile 2 is motivated by revenge, exhibiting a high risk of lethality driven by possessive rage. Three profiles involved violence against current partners: profile 3 involves isolated, reactive violence; profile 4 uses violence as a learned conflict-resolution strategy; and profile 5 employs systematic, coercive control. The replication of these profiles highlighted their robustness and stability, supporting their identification as meaningful and reproducible perpetrator profiles that remain distinguishable despite variation in sampling and sample size. These profiles underscore the need for tailored risk assessment and intervention strategies that move beyond a one-size-fits-all approach to effectively address the specific dynamics of each perpetrator profile.

P083. Research Platform for the Investigation of Disinformation in Virtual Reality (FoUnD-VR) *Petra Welscher, Agentur für Innovation in der Cybersicherheit GmbH; Nicole Hartlapp, Agentur für Innovation in der Cybersicherheit GmbH; Joline Wochnik, Agentur für Innovation in der Cybersicherheit GmbH*

With the tender "Research platform for the investigation of disinformation in virtual reality (FoUnD-VR)", the Agentur für Innovation in der Cybersicherheit GmbH (Cyberagentur) aims to develop a platform for researching disinformation in virtual environments. The Cyberagentur is an in-house company of the Federal Republic of Germany and is tasked with financing innovative fundamental research with high disruptive potential and a future-oriented perspective in the field of cybersecurity. FoUnD-VR

falls under the thematic focus "Cybervigilant Society," which deals specifically with the human factor in cybersecurity and cybercrime. In this research program, virtual environments are understood as new, navigable digital spaces created through extended reality, in which individuals interact with other people, organizations, or institutions. Due to the unique characteristics inherent in XR technology, novel and potentially highly effective forms of disinformation may emerge in the future. As a result of the level of interaction and the high degree of immersion, the potential for manipulation in such spaces could go far beyond known methods of conventional disinformation. The virtual laboratory environment is therefore intended to enable, for the first time, research into the spread of disinformation and the quantification of its effectiveness in such novel virtual spaces. The conference contribution will take a closer look at the research program and the intended research topics.

P084. Restorative approaches to community-level harm in online spaces: can small-scale transformation make a difference? *Iñigo Gordon Benito, University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU)*

Online conflicts increasingly generate harm that extends far beyond the individuals directly involved, affecting broader communities and intensifying social polarisation. In such contexts, harmful speech circulating through social media can rapidly escalate, amplifying tensions and transforming localised disputes into conflicts with wider symbolic implications. This paper examines a Spanish case in which a single online message became the focal point of public controversy and formal proceedings. Although the conflict originated in one specific post shared on social media, the message rapidly circulated, triggering collective reactions shaped by historical memory, identity sensitivities, and deeply rooted symbolic references within the Spanish context. The case illustrates how a single digital expression, once amplified through online networks, can acquire a deeply symbolic resonance and cause community-level harm. Emotional polarisation, public condemnation, and social fragmentation may follow, revealing that the consequences of harmful speech in online spaces are rarely confined to interpersonal dimensions. Instead, they often affect broader communities that perceive themselves as represented, targeted, or implicated in the message's symbolic content. This paper questions the appropriateness of initiating formal legal action in such cases. In fact, it explores the potential of restorative justice to address the relational and community dimensions of "ethereal" harm arising in online conflicts. We advocate for the transformative potential of restorative encounters between the author of a harmful online message and members of the affected community. The role that police forces could play within a community-policing framework is also to be considered, provided that adequate training and awareness-raising initiatives support such involvement. All in all, drawing on the reflections generated by this case, it will be explored how restorative approaches may offer constructive avenues for acknowledging harm, fostering dialogue, and responding to tensions that emerge when online speech acquires wider symbolic significance.

P085. Serial Terrorism: Comparing terrorist recidivism rates in Europe and the US *Christopher Wright, Austin Peay State University*

Much has been written about the potential threat convicted terrorists pose to society once they have been released since recidivism rates for normal crimes are high in both the US and Europe. But is the political and ideological nature of terrorism sufficiently different from more mundane crimes that they pose a different risk of repeat offense? Is commitment to the cause sufficiently deep that they pose a greater threat than that of other repeat offenders? This poster uses quantitative data on all those convicted of offenses related to terrorism in the US and who have completed their prison terms and compares them to similar studies in Europe. Results TBD.

P086. SIREN - A SIlent REvolution in the Norwegian penal field: Intention, impact and implementation *Berit Johnsen, Kriminalomsorgens høgskole og utdanningssenter KRUS; John Todd-Kvam, University College of Norwegian Correctional Service; Ingrid Rindal Lundeberg, University College of Norwegian Correctional Service; Morten Holmboe, The Norwegian Police University College/University College of Norwegian Correctional Service; Birgitte Langset Storvik, University College of Norwegian Correctional Service; Johan Fredrik Rye, University of Oslo*

A silent revolution is gathering momentum in the Norwegian penal field. A major reshaping of Norway's correctional geography is now gathering pace, with a move from the primacy of the prison to more people serving penal sentences in the community. This shift challenges fundamental ideas and understandings regarding penal law, the legal state, and the structure of the penal system. The accelerating developments and challenges have created a large and pressing knowledge gap, which the SIREN project will close by breaking new theoretical, methodological and empirical ground in the field of legal and socio-legal research both nationally and internationally. The project's overarching aim is to explore the intention, impact and implementation of the shift in penal law and practice in Norway. It will (1) critically assess the political and penal culture that has made the paradigm shift in penal law and practice possible, and why it is passing so unnoticed; (2) address principal legal questions raised by the shift, including the implications for separation of powers becoming more acute as greater responsibility for sentencing decisions is transferred from the judiciary to the executive; and (3) the legal and practical consequences it involves for both practitioners and those subject to punishment. Methodologically, the project has an explorative mixed-methods design that goes beyond a traditional mixed-methods approach of combining quantitative and qualitative research methods to include legal methods as well. Theoretically, the project has a unique interdisciplinary approach by combining legal studies with other social science disciplines, including criminology, sociology, sociology of law and

penology. SIREN will build on and advance these interdisciplinary approaches, ensuring a unique and in-depth exploration of Norwegian penalty of international relevance and interest given Norway's status as one of the most innovative jurisdictions concerning corrections.

P087. Stigmatized Grief: understanding co-victims experiences after gang-related homicide *Samt Selman, Stockholm University, Department of Criminology*

In Sweden, gang-related gun violence has become a central moral and political issue, increasingly mobilised within punitive, anti-migration discourses framing crime, belonging, and morality through racialized and gendered imaginaries. Young men with migrant backgrounds living in socioeconomically marginalized areas are disproportionately affected and overrepresented both as victims and perpetrators. This dual positioning destabilizes the binary distinction between victim and perpetrator that underpins dominant political narratives, while simultaneously reinforcing racialized assumptions about deviance, masculinity, and cultural otherness. Yet the experiences of co-victims (family and friends bereaved by gang-related homicide) remain largely absent from Swedish scholarship. My research examines how grief is lived and socially negotiated by co-victims within a national context that officially denies race as an analytical category, yet is deeply structured by racialized, classed, and gendered hierarchies closely intertwined with anti-migration sentiment. Drawing on a hermeneutic phenomenological approach and reflexive thematic analysis of in-depth interviews with co-victims, the research explores how stigma, institutional misrecognition, and moral exclusion shape experiences of loss. The analysis is informed by theories of intersectionality, stigma, the "ideal victim," territorial stigmatization, and colorblind racism. The project seeks to further build on results from my master's thesis, where findings showed that grief becomes stigmatized through a progress of misrecognition across institutional encounters, media representations, and everyday interactions, rooted in racialized, gendered, classed and spatialized constructions of legitimacy and belonging. In response, participants engage in moral realignment, reinterpreting their loss through identification with the structurally marginalized position of the perpetrator. This challenges dominant narratives by exposing shared conditions of exclusion produced through racialized punitive political logics. By foregrounding bereavement as a site where racial, moral, and national boundaries are negotiated, the study contributes to critical victimological scholarship and illuminates how intimate experiences of grief are embedded within broader projects of exclusion, control, and moral ordering in contemporary Sweden.

P088. Stories, moral imagination and penal practices: A study of India's juvenile justice system as a field of cultural reproduction. *Becky Elizabeth Isaac, Independent*

Punishment for wrongdoing is often considered common sense across societies. Punishment is often understood as a core mechanism of governance, operating within a legal framework and structured institutions. However, criminological research has shown that punishment is also a cultural and social institution, and penal decision-making is shaped by the cultural sensibilities of a society. Yet, there is limited empirical work examining how such sensibilities are socially produced, culturally transmitted through public discourses, and translated into everyday penal practices; particularly in post-colonial contexts of the Global South. This paper advances a new frontier in criminology by arguing that moral imagination shaped through early narrative experiences, such as children's stories, is central to how penal imagination is formed, transmitted and reproduced. It also explores how children's stories can be used to reimagine punishment in a justice system. The project explores how culturally embedded narratives, such as children's stories, shape penal policies and practices within India's juvenile justice system (JJS). It asks how the moral imagination formed through these stories is reproduced in the media and parliamentary debates on punishment, and how they inform the everyday penal practices in the children's courts, making the JJS in India a field of cultural reproduction. The overarching theoretical frameworks adopted by the study is the Southern Theory by Raewyn Connell (2007) as well as Bourdieu's field theory. Through discourse analysis of stories and courtroom ethnography of juvenile justice boards, this study aims to focus on the narrative foundations of penal thought. The paper speaks directly to the theme of "frontiers in criminology" and proposes a novel direction for the field. The study is also an attempt at Southernizing and democratising criminological knowledge in its choice of site and methods. Beyond academia, the findings will lead to ethnographically informed juvenile justice policy formulation.

P089. Studying Police from Within: Reflections on Ethnographic Research in Operational Policing *Kristofer Nilsson, Malmö university, Sweden*

The poster presents methodological considerations for an upcoming ethnographic study of operational police work within the Swedish Police Authority. The aim of the study is to examine how policing against criminal networks and evidence-based methods are applied in everyday police practice. By following police officers in their operational work, the study seeks to understand decision-making processes and practical reasoning from the perspective of practitioners themselves. This approach provides insights into how policing methods are interpreted, adapted, and implemented in practical contexts. The study employs an ethnographic approach based on participant observation in operational environments, where the researcher accompanies police officers on patrol and in their daily activities. Ethnography is particularly suitable for studying policing, as many aspects of police work, such as informal decision-making, situational assessments and professional culture, are difficult to capture through quantitative or document-based methods. A central methodological perspective concerns the researcher's dual role as both police officer and researcher. While this insider position provides access to the field and

contextual understanding, it also raises methodological and ethical challenges. Issues related to role management, trust, consent, and confidentiality are therefore central considerations in the research design. The study can contribute to a deeper understanding of how policing methods are implemented in practice and how ethnographic approaches can be applied in contemporary police research, particularly when researchers study their own professional organization.

P090. Success and Failure in Cybercrime Investigations: Research Design for a Case-File Study of Criminological and Procedural Determinants *Piotr Lewulis, University of Warsaw*

Cybercrime remains a persistent enforcement challenge. Although online offending ranges from technically complex acts such as hacking and malware deployment to less technical but highly prevalent offences such as online fraud and hate speech, only a small proportion of cases result in the identification and prosecution of the offender. This project (NCN OPUS 2025/57/B/HS5/02035)addresses that enforcement gap by asking a simple but important question: why do some cybercrime investigations succeed while others fail? The study will examine the determinants of investigative effectiveness in cybercrime cases through a mixed-methods design centred on the analysis of closed criminal case files from Poland. It adopts a broad but structured understanding of cybercrime, distinguishing between technical and non-technical offences and comparing successful investigations with cases discontinued due to failure to identify the perpetrator. Rather than focusing only on exceptional or highly sophisticated incidents, the project targets routine cybercrime cases handled in everyday law enforcement practice. The quantitative component will draw on a stratified sample of closed cases from courts and prosecutors' offices.The data will be analysed using descriptive statistics, logistic regression, and decision-tree modelling. The qualitative component will use crime scripting, thematic analysis of case narratives, and theory matching to reconstruct offender behaviour and investigative pathways, and to identify recurrent bottlenecks and turning points.

P091. Susceptibility to disinformation: the role of deepfakes *Catarina Simões Martins, School of Criminology, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal; Inês Sousa Guedes, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice, School of Criminology, Faculty of Law of the University of Porto; Samuel Moreira, CIJ (Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice) - School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto, Portugal | CEJEIA (Center for Legal, Economic, International and Environmental Studies) - Lusíada University, Portugal*

The phenomenon of disinformation has marked and accompanied human history (Watson, 2018). However, with modernity came a digital evolution, and with it a new, fertile, and powerful environment that amplified the pollution of the informational ecosystem (Sonone, 2024). Deepfakes, synthetic videos generated by artificial intelligence, are one of the most recent technological innovations in the field of disinformation, raising serious concerns due to their capacity to exacerbate skepticism, distrust, and pre-existing uncertainties (Wikum & Wijayanayake, 2024). At the heart of deepfakes lies an intention to deceive, as their purposeful and conscious creation aims to manipulate individuals' perception and distort reality, relying on an invented facticity (Hancock & Bailenson, 2021; Lim, 2023). Deepfakes are particularly powerful because they intensify the difficulty of distinguishing between truth and falsehood, as individuals are more likely to remember, trust, and grant credibility to visual messages than to textual ones, given that visual content is processed more easily and with less cognitive effort (Hancock & Bailenson, 2021). In this poster, we present the methodological approach and preliminary results of an ongoing quantitative study in the scope of a master's research project in Criminology. The study aims to analyze the factors that make individuals susceptible to disinformation disseminated through deepfakes. Specifically, it examines whether content type, cognitive style, political orientation, online news consumption habits, and media literacy influence the ability to identify manipulated audiovisual content. Identifying these factors is crucial to build more resilient, less polarised societies, and with a lower tolerance for violence.

P092. Suspended Sentencing in Dating Violence Cases in South Korea: A Case Analysis and Its Implications for Victim Protection *Kim Sung Ryung, Kyungpook National University; Ye Sol LEE,, Kyungpook National University; Hyo Jeong BAK, Kyungpook National University; Jae Ik BAE, Kyungpook National University; Hunsik Jo, Kyungpook National University*

This study examines the characteristics of dating violence cases and judicial decision-making trends by analyzing 149 first-instance court judgments involving suspended sentences over the past three years (between 2022 and July 2025), with the aim of deriving implications for victim protection and institutional reform. Data were collected from the Supreme Court Integrated Legal Information System and a private legal database. Quantitative and qualitative analyses were conducted on case characteristics, sentencing results, ancillary dispositions, and sentencing considerations. The results indicated that the majority of victims were women, most frequently in their 20s and 30s, although cases involving victims in their teens and 60s were also identified, indicating incidents are not confined to a specific age group. The violence encompassed overlapping emotional, physical, sexual, and economic violence. It was found that the victim's autonomous decision (e.g., ending a relationship or refusing reconciliation) escalated into violence when combined with the offender's desire for control. A substantial proportion of cases were multiple indictments, and patterns of repeat offending and accumulated criminal histories were observed. In the sentencing consideration, mitigating factors in favor of the defendant (e.g., being a first offense, acknowledgment of facts and remorse, and victim's unwillingness to pursue punishment or having reached a settlement) were found more frequently in the sentencings than aggravating factors. Ancillary

dispositions consisted of educational programs and community service orders, and substantial measures for safety of victims and preventing reoffense were limited. These results demonstrate that, despite the structural and persistent nature of dating violence as gender-based violence in intimate relationship, current judicial system is insufficient in preventing reoffense and protecting victims. Accordingly, this study proposes the enactment of independent legislation, the introduction of procedures to verify autonomous intentions, establishment of an integrated support system to address multiple forms of harm, and strengthening of gender-based violence prevention education.

P093. The Algorithmic Construction of Misogyny: Extending Social Learning Theory to Digital Environments *Michele Balbinot, University of Macerata*

In recent years, the presence of misogynistic content in digital environments has become a matter of increasing attention both in public discourse and within scholarly research on gender socialization and the processes underlying the construction of hegemonic masculinity, particularly among adolescents. It is now well established that exposure to such content constitutes a cross-cutting component of adolescents' media experiences. Nevertheless, the theoretical mechanisms through which social media exposure translates into misogynistic attitudes remain underspecified. The aim of this research is to apply Akers' social learning theory (SLT) to examine its four constructs (imitation, definitions, differential association and differential reinforcement) operate in online algorithmic environments (TikTok and Instagram) as well as in traditional offline contexts, and whether each contributes independently to the prediction of misogynistic attitudes. The study involves the administration of a survey to Italian students attending the last year of secondary school, investigating misogynistic attitudes and gender stereotypes as the dependent variable, and operationalizing SLT constructs across two parallel contexts: offline and online. Offline measures capture exposure to discriminatory and misogynistic attitudes and behaviours within family and peers. Online measures capture equivalent mechanisms within short-form platform environments, including exposure to creators expressing denigrating content, the perceived normative climate on the platform, anticipated social rewards for engaging with such content, and algorithmic reinforcement. Additionally, problematic platform use is examined as a potential moderator of the relationship between online SLT constructs and misogynistic attitudes. The hypotheses are that SLT constructs will significantly predict misogynistic attitudes in both contexts, that online constructs will explain additional variance beyond offline constructs, and that problematic platform use will amplify the effect of online exposure. Findings are expected to extend the generality of SLT to misogynistic attitudes among adolescents, contribute to the emerging literature on digital socialization, and inform intervention strategies targeting algorithmically driven misogynistic content.

P094. The Client Experience of Community Measures: Participation, Needs-Orientation, and Satisfaction *Hannes Stadler, Independent Researcher and Adjunct Lecturer at Technische Hochule Nürnberg Georg Simon Ohm; Michael Hanslmaier, Technische Hochschule Nürnberg Georg Simon Ohm; Christian Ghanem, Technische Hochschule Nürnberg Georg Simon Ohm*

In 2021, the German state of Schleswig-Holstein enacted the Act on Ambulant Reintegration of Criminal Offenders and Victim Protection (ResOG SH), introducing mandatory quality assessments. While legislative evaluations often prioritize professional perspectives, this research shifts the focus to the lived experiences and perceptions of the clients themselves. This contribution reports on a quantitative survey conducted among clients of various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the field of rehabilitation. The study examines the implementation of the ResOG SH standards from the "bottom-up" and takes the clients' perspective, focusing on five core dimensions: (1) The quality and transparency of communication with practitioners; (2) The extent of participation and co-determination in the reintegration process; (3) The degree to which individual needs are recognized and addressed; (4) Overall client satisfaction; and (5) The relationship between perceived support and the clients' current life situations. The survey instruments used were developed through a participatory process to ensure high ecological validity for this specific population. A central feature of this analysis is the comparison of these NGO-client experiences with findings from a similar survey conducted in 2024 and 2025 among clients of state-run probation and court social services. This comparative approach allows for a nuanced assessment of how different organizational frameworks (NGO vs. state) influence client engagement and the perceived quality of support. Drawing on the completed dataset, the presentation will explore how these structural settings shape the lived reality of rehabilitation. Ultimately, the findings aim to contribute to broader European debates on procedural justice, desistance, and the effective design of community measures.

P095. The development of deviant corporate behaviour: a life cycle analysis in the chemical industry *Mária Lúcia Calmeiro, Faculty of Law, University of Porto; Rita Faria, CIJ - Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice, University of Porto; José Neves Cruz, CIJ, Faculty of Law, Universidade do Porto*

This doctoral project investigates the developmental trajectories of corporate environmental misconduct within the chemical industry in Portugal, integrating criminological, organizational, and environmental perspectives. Grounded in the emerging field of Green Criminology, the research adopts a multi-method approach comprising documentary analysis, quantitative surveys, and retrospective semi-structured interviews. The study aims to elucidate how internal and external pressures, organizational life stages, and discursive representations influence compliance and deviance over the organizational lifespan. A core focus is on testing and refining the applicability of the

Treadmill of Production Theory at a micro-organizational level, exploring how structural imperatives underlying capitalist growth processes are embedded and challenged within individual companies. Furthermore, the project seeks to expand the criminological understanding of corporate conduct by applying developmental and lifecycle frameworks, bridging the gap between processual theories of individual offending and organizational misconduct. Expected key contributions include identifying "turning points" that trigger shifts between compliance and misconduct, as well as providing empirical insights into regulatory effectiveness and organizational resilience. We anticipate that this research, when concluded, will allow for theoretical advancements in green and corporate crime criminological scholarship, practical policy recommendations, and enhanced regulatory strategies, aiming to foster more responsible corporate practices amid pressing environmental crises.

P096. The Impact of Parental incarceration on the Physical and Mental Health of their Offspring *Michael Turner, University of North Carolina at Charlotte; Jennifer Hartman, UNC Charlotte*

The rising number of children with incarcerated parents has created one of the largest at-risk groups in the United States. Although the full impact of a parent's imprisonment is difficult to measure, existing research suggests these children face significant challenges, including fractured family structures, financial hardship, and social difficulties. Using the NLSY97, this research seeks to understand the impact of parental incarceration on youths' physical and mental health. Secondary analyses investigate the impact of these consequences across the gender of the parent and the youth. Points of intervention are discussed.

P097. The Institutional Buffering Hypothesis: How Pre-Sentence Report Systems Moderate the Effect of Welfare Support Information on Sentencing Decisions *Masahiro Sadamura, The University of Osaka*

This poster presents the theoretical framework and pre-registered design of a cross-national vignette experiment examining how institutional information environments moderate the effect of welfare support information on sentencing decisions. We compare Japan - where no public Pre-Sentence Report (PSR) system exists - with England and Wales, where PSR is established under the Sentencing Act 2020. Drawing on focal concerns theory (Steffensmeier, Ulmer, & Kramer, 1998) and extending it with "redeemability" as a fourth focal concern (Ulmer, Silver, & Hanrath, 2023), we propose the Institutional Buffering Hypothesis: in jurisdictions where PSR systems routinely provide welfare-related information, the marginal impact of additional support information on sentencing is attenuated; in jurisdictions lacking such systems, the same information produces disproportionately large effects due to structural information scarcity. We employ a 2 (Country: Japan vs. England/Wales) x 3 (Support Condition: no support, emotional support, structural support) between-subjects design with 1,200 participants (600 per country). Participants evaluate a functionally equivalent shoplifting case involving a 67-year-old defendant with prior convictions, making a binary sentencing decision (custody vs. community sentence). Scenarios are designed for functional legal equivalence, verified by practitioners in each jurisdiction. Analysis comprises hierarchical logistic regression and moderated mediation (Hayes PROCESS Model 8) with perceived redeemability as the mediating mechanism, pre-registered on OSF. The study has immediate policy implications: if supported, the hypothesis suggests that Japanese citizens' apparent punitiveness reflects institutional information deficit rather than cultural disposition, providing empirical grounds for introducing a public PSR system in Japan.

P098. The matryoshka of hate: peeling back the layers of underreporting *Iñigo Gordon Benito, University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU)*

Underreporting of hate crimes in digital environments represents a critical and persistent challenge, obscuring the true scale of the problem. This paper conceptualises hate underreporting as a "matryoshka," revealing three nested layers of invisibility. The first layer reflects the general underreporting of hate crimes, with estimated "dark figures" of 80–90% across Europe. The second layer highlights the highly variable underreporting rates across different affected communities, influenced by trust in institutions, socioeconomic status, and perceived efficacy of reporting mechanisms. The third and deepest layer relates to cyberhate, whose online and diffuse character results in extreme invisibility. Drawing on EU-wide surveys, Spanish statistics, and targeted victimisation studies, this paper explores the structural, social, and psychological factors driving underreporting at the deepest layer. Findings show that low confidence in law enforcement, implicit biases, limited training, and resource constraints exacerbate invisibility and shape the adaptive coping strategies of vulnerable populations. Socioeconomic disadvantages and minority status increase exposure to cyberhate, yet victims with fewer resources often display greater resilience and willingness to report incidents. The study emphasises the importance of rebuilding institutional trust through enhanced police training in human rights, victim support, and intercultural competence, including exposure to the lived experiences of marginalised groups. Integrating cultural and diversity experts into law enforcement and fostering restorative justice practices provides pathways for both immediate redress and longer-term social impact. By unpacking these three layers of invisibility, the paper demonstrates the urgent need for improved detection, empathetic institutional response, and policies that address both the visible and hidden harms of online hate. Its anonymity and the lack of robust data make cyberhate almost nonexistent in policymakers' eyes, undermining efforts to develop effective prevention strategies.

P099. The Problematisation of Street Harassment: The Analysis of an Artistic Exhibition on Street Harassment in Belgium *Katharina Seeber, UCLouvain*

Street harassment largely affects women and minorities, particularly individuals identifying as LGBTQ+, and/or ethnic minorities, and those coming

from a lower socio-economic background. Victims experience various negative effects. 'Street harassment' however currently lacks a unified understanding; what actions, who is involved, and the locations remain a matter of debate. As a result, there are diverging ideas on which measures are required to tackle the phenomenon. This paper aims to analyse an artistic exhibition in Belgium, which wished to educate the public, as well as the police, on the nature of street harassment. Five days of observations were conducted. The exhibition's overall purpose in tackling street harassment, and the way street harassment is portrayed, both by the artists, and by the public viewing the exhibition, are examined, using Bacchi's What's The Problem Represented to Be (WPR) Approach. Findings show that street harassment is depicted as a phenomenon, which is A) (hetero)sexual in nature, as it is B) perpetrated by men, against female victims, C) experienced as a bodily phenomenon, which D) must be discussed and shared. Moreover, there are generational differences with middle-aged and senior women being more reluctant than younger generations to label their experience as street harassment. An additional finding is that members involved in the exhibition took on the role of 'experts' when it came to defining street harassment, particularly making use of the law to do so. The author concludes by discussing the importance of letting victims of street harassment define their own experiences.

P100. The Social Construction of Corporate Crime: An Integrative Theoretical Framework *Ana Luísa Pereira, PhD Candidate (Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology - 2025.01226.BD); Rita Faria, CIJ - Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice, University of Porto; Amadeu Recasens, University of Barcelona*

Corporate crime has been a debated concept and should be addressed as a socially constructed phenomenon that emerges from dynamic processes of definition, interpretation, and social reaction, involving multiple actors. Drawing on Critical Criminology, the poster presents the first steps in developing an integrative theoretical framework that systematically maps the agents, mechanisms, and power relations at play to criminalise, normalise, or render corporate crime invisible. This approach argues that power asymmetries, state-corporate relations, and processes of legal and organisational institutionalisation decisively shape how some corporate harms become publicly and legally visible as "crime" and how others are constructed as "regulatory non compliance", "business risk", or "inevitable externalities". The framework identifies seven key categories of social construction actors – state legislators and regulators, formal criminal justice system, media organisations, academics, victims and civil society movements, corporations and economic elites, and international organisations – and specifies their distinct yet interdependent roles. It further delineates three core social construction mechanisms: criminalisation (recasting corporate harmful activities into crimes), normalisation (reconfiguring crimes into accepted business practices), and invisibilisation (preventing corporate harmful activities from being recognised, labelled, or treated as crimes). This framework intends to contribute to debates on crimes of the powerful and aims at explaining cross-jurisdictional variation in corporate accountability. It is also expected that, when fully developed with an empirical study (soon to come), it contributes to more effective, power-sensitive regulatory and criminal justice responses to corporate crime.

P101. The use of new technologies to support victims of domestic violence and prevent such violence *Renata Gołdyn-Badowiec, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Poland; Renata Gołdyn-Badowiec, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Poland*

Domestic violence remains one of the most serious and widespread human rights violations in the world, and its true scale continues to be significantly underestimated. Many victims never report the violence they experience to the relevant authorities, which hinders both effective intervention and the development of preventive policies. In response to the limitations of traditional support mechanisms, new technologies are playing an increasingly important role, including chatbots and mobile apps that enable quick, discreet and often anonymous contact with support services. Examples include chatbots such as Zuzi, used in African countries for education and victim support, Maru, developed in Australia as a first-point-of-contact tool and for psychological support, and MySis Bot, used in Asia, which offers legal information and safety advice. At the same time, mobile apps such as StaySafe, MySupportSpace, BrightSky and App Elles are being developed, offering emergency functions, the ability to document violence, create safety plans and make rapid contact with support organisations and services. The aim of the presentation is to outline both the benefits of the above-mentioned solutions, in particular, increased access to support and the ability to obtain help in emergencies, as well as the challenges and risks associated with the use of new technologies. The presentation (on a poster) will outline proposals for solutions that minimise these risks by providing support and enabling early intervention against domestic violence offences. Potential ways of utilising these technologies in criminal proceedings relating to domestic violence cases will also be highlighted.

P102. The Victim-Offender Trap: Child Criminal Exploitation and the Limits of Legal Protection in Sweden *Polina Smiragina-Ingelström, The University of Sydney and DIS*

Children coerced into committing crimes on behalf of criminal networks occupy a uniquely precarious legal position: their victimization is rendered invisible by the very conduct through which they are exploited. This study examines the extent to which Swedish legal frameworks protect minors subjected to child criminal exploitation (CCE), drawing on a documentary analysis of international anti-trafficking instruments, GRETA reports, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and Swedish national law. The analysis reveals a persistent tension between offenderization and victimization in Sweden's regulatory approach. While the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive explicitly recognizes criminal

exploitation as a form of human trafficking, Swedish legislation provides no explicit non-punishment guarantee for children coerced into criminality. Drawing on double deviance and ideal victim theories, the study argues that these legal gaps are compounded by institutional and gendered barriers to victim recognition, leaving those most in need of protection the least likely to receive it.

P103. European Gender-Based Violence Survey (EU-GBV). Implementation of the Survey in Poland by Statistics Poland in 2027 *Hanna Wingrowicz, Statistics Poland (Główny Urząd Statystyczny); Izabela Grabowska, Warsaw School of Economics*

Gender-based violence (GBV) in Europe remains an insufficiently measured phenomenon, largely due to the lack of internationally comparable data. The EU-GBV survey aims to address this gap by implementing a harmonised survey across European countries within the framework of official statistics. The aim of this presentation is to outline the methodological framework and organisational aspects of the Polish edition of the second wave of the EU-GBV survey, to be conducted by Statistics Poland (GUS) in 2027. The survey will cover women aged 18–74 and will be based on a two-stage sampling design, with a planned effective sample size of at least 5.000 completed interviews. Data collection will follow a mixed-mode approach, combining face-to-face interviews (CAPI) with web-based self-completion (CAWI) for sensitive questions. The survey will use a standardised questionnaire developed at the European level and adapted to national conditions. The presentation will discuss key methodological and organisational solutions adopted during the preparation and implementation phases, particularly with regard to sampling design, recruitment procedures, data collection organisation, non-response reduction strategies, and ensuring the safety of both respondents and interviewers. It will also address major methodological challenges affecting data quality and cross-country comparability, including the underreporting of GBV. The presentation will contribute to the broader discussion on measuring gender-based violence and the role of survey data in official statistics in providing reliable and comparable evidence. The findings may support the development of future surveys and evidence-based public policies at both national and European levels.

P104. Towards Gender-Sensitive Criminal Adjudication: Tool Development for Cases Involving Women in Spain *Áurea Esther Grijalva Eternod, University of Guadalajara, Mexico; Amanda Lagreca, UFMG; Esther Fernandez Molina, Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha; Raquel Bartolomé Gutiérrez, Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha*

The JusTo II project aims to design a toolbox for criminal justice professionals, providing reference materials, protocols, and resources to improve their interaction with individuals in situations of vulnerability, and is part of a broader research framework which examines the functioning and accessibility of the criminal justice system, with a particular focus on barriers faced by vulnerable groups, including women. Within this framework, one line of work focuses on promoting the integration of a gender perspective in the adjudication and sentencing of women offenders. This poster presents preliminary findings focusing on two aspects: (i) the challenges in applying a gender perspective within criminal proceedings and (ii) the initial development of tools to facilitate its incorporation into judicial practice. The study combines several methodological approaches. First, an updated review of the scientific literature on female offending and gender-sensitive justice was conducted, with a focus on Spain. Second, a thematic analysis of interviews conducted within the JusTo I project with criminal justice professionals has been undertaken. This analysis has identified knowledge gaps, gender stereotypes, and institutional barriers that hinder the integration of a gender perspective into legal reasoning. Based on these findings, an evidence-based consultation handbook has been developed, synthesising key information on women's offending trajectories, associated structural factors, and available institutional resources. In parallel, a preliminary checklist has been developed, including guiding questions designed to foster judicial reflection from a gender perspective during decision-making processes. Currently, interviews and consultations with experts and judges are being conducted to assess the relevance, clarity, and practical usefulness of both tools. The results of this phase will support the refinement and validation of these materials prior to their dissemination and implementation within the judicial system.

P105. Trauma-Informed Practice for Teachers, Youth Workers, and Parents *Victoria Wozniak-Cole, KU Leuven; Stephan Parmentier, KU Leuven; Mina Rauschenbach, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven; Laura Hein, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven*

Across Europe, children and adolescents are affected by trauma resulting from violence, poverty, migration, and other adverse experiences. The ongoing war in Ukraine has further intensified these challenges, exposing large numbers of children to displacement, disruption of education, and prolonged psychological stress. While primary prevention targets the avoidance of such adverse experiences, secondary prevention focuses on mitigating the progression and long-term impact of existing trauma. This poster presents insights from the Erasmus+ funded project Trauma-Informed Practice for Teachers, Youth Workers, and Parents (TIP FOR KIDS) (2024–2026), which aims to strengthen trauma-informed responses for children in educational, family, and community settings. We introduce a range of openly accessible resources developed within the project: (1) user-oriented guidelines, (2) a catalogue of case studies—including examples related to displaced and refugee children, particularly those affected by the war in Ukraine—(3) a resource pack, (4) an interactive e-platform, and (5) a mobile application. The poster highlights key concepts such as post-traumatic stress symptoms in children and adolescents and trauma-informed practice, emphasizing a paradigm shift from "What's wrong

with you?" to "What happened to you?". It further explores how these materials support professionals in fostering safe, stable, and supportive environments for children, through the development of soft skills, conflict management strategies, stress reduction principles in service contexts, and the promotion of self-care among educators, youth workers, and caregivers.

P106. Understanding Hacking as a Form of Offending: Integrating Offender, Victim and Societal Perspectives *Maria Canudo, Faculdade de Direito da Universidade do Porto; Samuel Moreira, CIJ (Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice) - School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto, Portugal | CEJEIA (Center for Legal, Economic, International and Environmental Studies) - Lusíada University, Portugal; Inês Sousa Guedes, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice, School of Criminology, Faculty of Law of the University of Porto*

The rapid expansion of digital technologies has contributed to the increasing prevalence and diversification of hacking as a form of cybercrime. Despite its growing relevance, the literature on hacking remains fragmented, with studies typically focusing on hackers, victims, or societal perceptions in isolation. This fragmentation limits a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon, particularly regarding how different actors construct, interpret, and evaluate hacking and its consequences. This study presents a critical literature review aimed at integrating these distinct yet interconnected perspectives. First, research on hackers has highlighted the heterogeneity of this group, including distinctions between white, grey, and black hat actors, as well as variations in motivations, trajectories, and identity construction. Notably, hackers often challenge dominant negative stereotypes, framing their actions as legitimate, skill-based, or even socially beneficial. Second, the literature on victimisation by hacking points to a range of psychological, social, and economic impacts, while also emphasising the relative lack of in-depth research on victims' lived experiences. Third, studies examining societal perceptions reveal ambivalent and sometimes contradictory views of hacking, with judgments shaped by factors such as intent, perceived harm, and the characteristics of both hackers and victims. By bringing these strands of research together, this study aims to highlight key convergences and divergences across perspectives, including tensions between self-perceptions and societal representations, as well as discrepancies between public judgments and victims' experiences. The paper argues for the need to move beyond siloed approaches and towards more integrative frameworks capable of capturing the complexity of hacking as a social and criminological phenomenon. Such an approach has important implications for theory development, prevention strategies, public communication, and cybersecurity policy.

P107. Understanding Public Acceptance of Victim–Offender Mediation in Portugal *Mariana Sebastião Machado, Faculty of Law - Lusíada University of Porto / CEJEIA - Center for Legal, Economic, International and Environmental Studies; Josefina Castro, CEJEA, Lusíada University, Porto, Portugal; Carla Sofia Cardoso, CIJ-Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice; CEJEIA - Center for Legal, Economic, International and Environmental Studies; School of Criminology, Faculty of Law of the University of Porto; Maria Leonor Machado Esteves, Universidade Lusíada; Margarida A. Santos, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice; School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto*

The adoption of Restorative Justice (RJ) practices, particularly victim–offender mediation (VOM), has grown worldwide. Nevertheless, Portugal remains an exception, despite the integration of penal mediation into the criminal justice system in 2007. Given the public's crucial role as a potential participant in VOM processes, their perspective is essential to understanding the implementation of RJ practices. Taking this into account, the present ongoing project aims to explore public acceptance of the RJ framework and of VOM, as well as the factors that may influence individuals' willingness to engage in such processes. Concretely, it aims to i) characterize the attitudes of a convenience community Portuguese sample in what concerns their orientations through the retributive and restorative justice, levels of punitiveness, and attitudes through the justice system; and ii) examine how these variables influence the decision to engage with restorative justice and to participate in VOM. To achieve these goals, the first phase of the project comprises administering a self-report questionnaire, in which two vignettes depicting different criminal scenarios (crime against property and crime against people) will be presented. The application of such a technique will make it possible to adopt a more realistic approach to the decision to adhere to, or not, a VOM, once participants can imagine themselves from the perspective of the victim in a concrete situation. The findings are expected to contribute to the literature on RJ by clarifying how individual orientations towards punishment and justice influence the acceptance and potential uptake of VOM.

P108. Understanding Racial and Ethnic Disparate Treatment of Juvenile Interpersonal Violent Offenders in the Juvenile Justice System *Suzanne Overstreet-Juenke, Indiana University Southeast*

Disproportionate minority contact (DMC) is a salient issue that has been found at every stage of the decision-making process in the juvenile justice system. Existing research indicates that DMC influences adjudication for drug, property, and personal crimes. Because intimate partner violence(IPV) is a major public health problem and global concern, the current study examines DMC at adjudication among youth charged for crimes of interpersonal violence. This research uses administrative, Court Designated Worker (CDW) data collected from 2014 to 2016 (n = 699). The results are contextualized using Steffensmeier's version of focal concerns theory of judicial decision-making. This study assesses race and two seriousness of offense measures to establish whether a link exists between race and adjudication. The results of this study coincide with previous research. These results are discussed in terms

of policy implications, limitations, and future research.

P109. Understanding the Impact of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Frameworks on Organisations in Relation to Modern Slavery and the Fashion Industry *Georgia Cordwell, University of Manchester*

Analyses of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) frameworks are emerging within literature as human rights due diligence becomes a major priority of the fashion industry, owing to its status as the second biggest perpetrator of labour exploitation globally. As it stands, many ESG frameworks take a voluntary approach which remains largely ineffective. The UK's Modern Slavery Act 2015 necessitates large businesses to publish an annual modern slavery statement, though the current compliance rate stands at just 60%. Government refusal to enforce such legislation may legitimise current ESG reporting standards, facilitating a hands-off approach. Now, fashion corporations are increasingly able to distance themselves from down-stream supply chain activities, thereby shirking responsibility for human rights violations. The contemporary neoliberal capitalist system relies on deeply embedded, systemic practices of capital accumulation that are intrinsically linked to labour exploitation, and disentangling these practices is critical for understanding how state-corporate criminality is a critical component of garment production and ESG non-compliance. With ESG largely neglected in state-corporate crime literature, this project will critically investigate the symbiotic relationship between businesses and states, and their collaborative roles in skirting responsibility for human rights due diligence in fashion supply chains. By interrogating normalised perfunctory regulatory compliance, we will better understand state-corporate deviance as a contributor to the mechanisms underpinning crime associated with garment production. As this project is in its infancy, this poster presentation will highlight early-stage successes, including selection of guiding theoretical frameworks and proposed methodology.

P110. Understanding youth in custody: A descriptive profile of adolescents in the Spanish Juvenile Justice System. *Laura Barroso Gonzalo, Universidad Pontificia Comillas; Xenia Pérez López, Universidad Pontificia Comillas*

This study aims to describe the characteristics of juvenile offenders placed in young offenders' institutions in the Community of Madrid (Spain) for offences committed between the ages of 14 and 17. The data analysed has been obtained through collaboration with the Agency for the Re-education and Reintegration of Juvenile Offenders (ARRMI). The poster will show data from a sample of 390 adolescents. Information was collected using a structured instrument designed to record their criminological and social background at the time of admission to juvenile detention centres. This instrument includes nearly one hundred variables grouped into eight domains: (a) family and socioeconomic context; (b) education and training; (c) employment; (d) peer relationships and leisure activities; (e) addictive behaviour; (f) mental health; (g) personality and behavioural traits; and (h) legal and administrative information. Given the breadth of the instrument, the results will focus on a selection of the most representative variables in each domain. Data will be analysed using descriptive and correlational methods. The findings will contribute to a better understanding of the social and individual characteristics of juveniles in custody in Madrid and will be discussed in light of existing research on risk and protective factors in juvenile offending across other Spanish regions and European countries.

P111. Visitation rights for the offending parent in relation to a child who is a victim of domestic violence following Directive 2024/1385 *Ivana Larrosa Ibañez, Universidad San Jorge (Zaragoza, Spain) / Ministry of Justice*

Directive 2024/1385 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on combating violence against women and domestic violence sets out as its primary objective the creation of a comprehensive framework to effectively prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence throughout the Union. To this end, it aims to establish measures for prevention and protection of victims, particularly where they are minors. In line with this and in order to ensure their safety, it is stipulated that visits by the perpetrator to the child, where the perpetrator holds parental authority with visiting rights in accordance with national civil law, must take place in safe, neutral and supervised locations, always taking into account the best interests of the child. However, the Directive does not include, in any of its recitals, any measures to suspend and/or withdraw joint custody or the visiting arrangements of the offending parent with regard to their minor child victims, which could be adopted to protect the child from these acts of violence. Nevertheless, this research will highlight, in accordance with the European Parliament Resolution or the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, that gender-based violence is clearly incompatible with the best interests of the child and with shared custody and care, and how the withdrawal of custody and visiting rights from the violent partner

P112. What Does Crime Look Like in the Virtual Reality World? *Mohamed Ibrahim Alhammadi, PhD researcher at the University of Birmingham - School of Social Policy, Sociology and Criminology.; Evelyn Svingen, University of Birmingham; Neil Stephens, Associate Professor in Technology and Society; Oliver Chan, Professor (Associate) at the University of Birmingham*

In 1992, the metaverse term was coined by Neal Stephenson in a book called 'Snow Crash', a science fiction novel where the world would be virtual, and people would be represented by avatars and communication would be done by the avatars (Stephenson, 1992). Starting from 1992, Neal's imaginary idea of the metaverse started to accumulate and get adopted by big companies such as Meta (Kelly, 2021, cited in Kim, 2021), Nvidia (Shapiro, 2021, cited in Kim, 2021), Microsoft (Ivan, 2021) and Apple (Apple.com, 2024). Nevertheless, the metaverse technology is not without limitations; the metaverse can introduce a number of criminal behaviours that can

take place in such advanced technology. There were a number of studies that have categorised criminal behaviour in the metaverse. Financial crime that can take place in the metaverse, such as money laundering (Wu et al., 2023), tax violations (Qin, Wang and Hui, 2025) and NFT fraud (Katterbauer, Syed and Cleenewerck, 2022). Sexual assaults and offences, such as meta rape (McCarthy, Bleakley and Mason, 2025), avatar sex crime (Lee, 2022) and sexual ageplay (Qin, Wang and Hui, 2025), cyberbullying (Dwivedi et al., 2023), defamation (Rajkumar and Padmaja, 2025). Property-related crimes, such as property theft (Teodorov, 2023), cyber-physical burglary (Gómez-Quintero et al., 2024), terrorism related crime, such as terrorist propaganda (Singh, 2024), terrorist financing (Lin et al., 2023), technical infrastructure crime, such as social engineering (Fiaz et al., 2024), deepfakes (Lewandowsky, 2024), hacking (Interpol, 2024) and DDoS attacks (Stănilă, 2023).

P113. Who plays and who pays? Comparing consumption and harm profiles of videogame monetization system users: A Spanish Sample *Aiala Tejada García de Garayo, CRÍMINA Center, University Miguel Hernández of Elche; Nieves Erades Perez, Miguel Hernández University of Elche (Spain)*

Understanding who bears disproportionate exposure to predatory monetization requires examining differential vulnerability across population subgroups—answering two distinct questions: who spends more? and who suffers greater harm? This secondary analysis of the GamerVictim survey (N=1,812 Spanish adults) explicitly compares consumption with harm profiles across five dimensions: (1) the socioeconomic paradox—whether low-to-medium income households show comparable or higher spending than high-income groups; (2) digital ecosystem participation—whether streaming, paid communities, and content creation predict spending independent of play time; (3) platform-specific vulnerability—whether mobile gaming correlates with higher spending in women and adults over 35; (4) identity moderation—whether gender, age, and LGTBIQ+ membership shape the spending-culture relationship; and (5) Spanish contextual patterns—whether anglophone patterns of elevated spending among unemployed/lower education populations replicate locally. The study operationalizes vulnerability through three analytically distinct mechanisms: exposure to monetization systems (in-game purchases, DLC, subscriptions, probabilistic mechanics), participation in high-risk routine activities (streaming consumption, parasocial engagement in paid communities), and capacity to absorb harm (income, education, occupational stability). We expect to identify elevated-risk subpopulations—including young men in low-income brackets, women with high streaming consumption, and potentially LGTBIQ+ individuals—comparing whether those who spend most align with or diverge from those experiencing greatest vulnerability to harm. Although academic literature and regulatory frameworks converge almost exclusively on loot boxes—representing less than 1% of monetization revenue—it remains fundamentally unknown whether their consumers experience the greatest harm from these systems. This comparative analysis of consumption and harm profiles identifies where risk truly concentrates, enabling development of consumer protection strategies precisely targeted to effectively vulnerable populations rather than following media-driven regulatory priorities. Findings will inform evidence-based policy, identify specific intervention populations, and redefine regulatory priorities through genuine mapping of harm in Spanish monetization systems.

P114. Exploring LGBTQ+ adolescents experiences of adolescent partner violence (APV) in the UK *Sophie de Groot, University of Leeds*

As the body of academic research in the United Kingdom (UK) exploring abuse within adolescent romantic relationships grows, much of it centres on quantitative measurements of the prevalence and nature of 'adolescent partner violence' (APV) in heterosexual relationships (Barter et al., 2009). Similarly, qualitative research explores young people's experiences through heterosexual, cisgender lenses, identifying violence at home and misogyny as key drivers of abuse (Hird, 2000). Despite a small body of research in the United States (US) indicating that Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer/Questioning+ (LGBTQ+) young people are at greater risk of APV victimisation, little research has examined this in a UK context (Dank et al., 2013). Research based on heterosexual samples often relies on counts of physical, psychological, and sexual violence, which may overlook identity-based abuse, where structural oppression is weaponised within LGBTQ+ relationships (Woulfe and Goodman, 2021). In policy terms, individuals under 16 in the UK are not legally recognised as victims of domestic violence (Home Office, 2013). Instead, APV is situated between child safeguarding and youth violence legal frameworks. In practice, this leads to complex safeguarding procedures, led by schools, in response to APV. The poor implementation of this then limits timely and effective intervention (Barter, 2009). Emerging evidence suggests current prevention mechanisms also inadequately support young people experiencing relationship abuse by failing to address structural drivers such as patriarchy and homophobia (Sheng, 2023). From an intersectional perspective, it remains unclear how marginalised adolescents perceive and engage with support. To address this gap, this exploratory study draws on retrospective mixed-methods research with LGBTQ+ young people across the UK, presenting early findings on how they navigate abusive relationships and access support.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER, 11

189. Gender, Crime and Justice Working Group Panel 9: Identifying and managing risk

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence (Gender, Crime and Justice WG)
Paper Session
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.110

Chair:

Joanna Kufel-Orłowska, Institute of Security Studies, University of Siedlce

Participants:

Strengthening Police Responses to Gender-Based Violence: Evaluating a Blended Training Approach Using a Serious Game Simulator *Berta Vall, Faculty of Psychology, Education and Sports Sciences (Blanquerna) Ramon Llull University / The European Network for the Work With Perpetrators of Domestic Violence (WWP EN); Roger Prat, Faculty of psychology, education and sports sciences (FPCEE, Blanquerna), Ramon Llull University*

Effective institutional responses to gender-based violence (GBV) and domestic violence (DV) remain a critical challenge across Europe, particularly in ensuring victim-centred, informed, and consistent practices among frontline professionals. Police officers play a critical frontline role in victim identification, and case handling, yet gaps persist in training related to victim-centred approaches, and responses to complex abuse dynamics. This study evaluates the effectiveness of a blended training programme designed to improve police competencies in responding to GBV. Developed within the European ISEDA project, the training combines traditional seminar-based instruction with an interactive serious game, the Victim Interview Simulator (VIS), which replicates first-contact victim interviews and decision-making processes. A quasi-experimental pre–post design was implemented across Bulgaria, Spain, and Greece, involving 454 police officers. Standardised questionnaires assessed self-reported knowledge, attitudes, and competencies related to GBV, alongside objective knowledge measures. The final analytical sample included 395 matched observations. Statistical analyses included Wilcoxon signed-rank tests and McNemar tests, with correction for multiple comparisons. Results showed significant improvements across all domains of knowledge and professional competencies (all adjusted $p < .001$), including enhanced understanding of GBV dynamics, improved victim-centred communication, and increased confidence in risk assessment and referral practices. Gains were also observed in correcting common misconceptions related to domestic violence, which are known to affect police decision-making. Importantly, no significant differences were found between traditional and simulator-based training modalities, suggesting that immersive simulation is as effective as conventional training approaches. These findings demonstrate the value of integrating experiential and technology-enhanced learning into police training to strengthen institutional responses to GBV. The use of simulation tools such as the VIS can support more consistent, informed, and victim-sensitive policing practices, ultimately contributing to improved case handling and victim protection within criminal justice systems.

Improving Protection Through Risk Assessment: The Portuguese Experience with RVD and RVD-R *Iris Sofia Almeida, Egas Moniz School of Heatlh & Science; Ana Cristina Neves, Egas Moniz School of Heatlh & Science; Andreia Matias, Egas Moniz School of Health and Science; Jorge Albino Quintas de Oliveira, University of Porto - Faculty of Law; Pedro Sousa, Interdisciplinary Research Center on Justice (CIJ/FDUP); School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto; Ricardo Ventura Baúto, Egas Moniz School of Health and Science; Rosa Saavedra, APAV; Susana Sofia Monteiro, Egas Moniz School of Heatlh & Science*

In Portugal, violence risk assessment within law enforcement has increasingly incorporated structured tools such as the RVD (Risk Assessment for Domestic Violence) and its revised version, RVD-R (Risk Assessment for Domestic Violence-Revised). These instruments are primarily used by security forces, including the Public Security Police (PSP) and the National Republican Guard (GNR), to assess the risk of recidivism and escalation in cases of domestic violence. Their implementation reflects a broader institutional commitment to standardising procedures and enhancing victim protection. The RVD and RVD-R are tools designed to support frontline officers in identifying key risk factors associated with intimate partner violence. These factors include previous incidents of violence, threats, substance abuse, access to weapons, and patterns of coercive control. The revised version (RVD-R) introduced improvements in clarity, risk categorisation, and operational usability, allowing for more consistent and reliable assessments across different policing contexts. In practice, these tools are applied at the point of first contact with victims and alleged perpetrators, often under time constraints and in complex social circumstances. The resulting risk classification, typically categorised as low, medium, or high, directly informs immediate protective measures, such as victim support referrals, emergency restraining actions, and ongoing monitoring by specialised police units. Despite their relevance, challenges persist. These include variability in training among officers, potential subjectivity in interpretation, and the need for continuous validation of the tools within the Portuguese socio-cultural context. Additionally, the integration of risk assessment outcomes into broader inter-agency coordination mechanisms remains an area for development. Overall, the use of RVD and RVD-R by Portuguese security forces represents a significant advancement in the systematic management of domestic violence cases. Continued investment in training, evaluation, and inter-institutional collaboration is essential to maximise their effectiveness and ensure consistent protection for victims.

Managing Risk for Honour-Based Abuse: An interview-based study with professionals *Emma Källvik, Örebro University; Anna-Karin Larsson, Örebro University; Susanne JM Strand, Örebro University*

Across welfare and criminal justice systems, responses to violence are organized through institutional frameworks for identifying, categorizing, and managing risk. These frameworks shape how violence becomes governable and how responsibilities are coordinated across agencies. However, for many young victims, disclosure occurs in everyday settings, particularly schools, rather than within formal systems

such as the police. In the Swedish context, schools, social services, and the police are expected to collaborate in a coordinated chain of response, moving cases from detection to protection. This creates specific challenges in cases of honour-based abuse (HBA), where risk is often high and complex. This paper examines shared challenges in interagency risk management in HBA cases involving young people. The study draws on semi-structured interviews with professionals from schools, social services, and the police across Sweden, conducted between 2023 and 2026. The data are analysed using thematic analysis informed by a governmentality perspective. Preliminary findings indicate tensions between institutional mandates, risk assessments, and professional roles, which complicate coordination and may fragment protective efforts. The paper contributes to research on risk management and interagency collaboration by highlighting how risk is negotiated across institutional boundaries in responses to HBA.

Are (Ex-)Partner Stalkers a Distinct Group? Comparing (Ex-)Partner Stalkers and Other Intimate Partner Violence Perpetrators on Psychopathology and Criminogenic Risk Factors *Dylan van Oorschot, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; Janna Verbruggen, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; Joan van Horn, De Waag Nederland; Jantine van Kooten, De Waag Nederland; Daniël Janssen, De Waag Nederland; Vere van Koppen, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; Joke Harte, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU)*

(Ex-)partner stalking is a persistent and intrusive form of intimate partner violence (IPV), associated with substantial psychological and social harm for victims. Empirical knowledge on the characteristics of stalkers and clinically relevant risk factors within forensic outpatient populations remains limited. A better understanding of this group may inform risk assessment and treatment in forensic mental health care. The present study aimed to describe and compare (ex-)partner stalkers receiving forensic outpatient treatment in the Netherlands with other IPV-perpetrators, with specific attention paid to criminogenic risk factors and psychopathology. Data were derived from clients treated at De Waag, a Dutch forensic outpatient mental health service. Criminogenic risk factors were assessed using the Forensic Outpatient Risk Evaluation (version 2), which includes both static and dynamic risk domains. The sample consisted of clients treated for IPV. Within this sample, (ex-)partner stalkers (N = 157) were compared to a matched group of non-stalking IPV-perpetrators (N = 468). Descriptive and comparative analyses were conducted to examine demographic characteristics, scores on criminogenic risk domains, and diagnoses of mental health disorders. Results indicated largely comparable profiles of both groups. Differences were observed in specific criminogenic risk factors, with stalkers showing higher levels of antisocial attitudes and lower levels of problematic (ex-)partner relationships. In terms of psychopathology, stalkers showed higher odds of personality disorders. Overall, findings suggest that stalkers do not constitute a markedly distinct subgroup based on psychopathology and criminogenic risk factors alone. Contextual factors and coping processes may play a more prominent role in differentiating (ex-)partner stalking from other forms of IPV.

The importance of ageism in shaping the risk of criminogenic and victimization *Joanna Kufel-Orłowska, Institute of Security Studies, University of Siedlce*

Ageism constitutes an increasingly significant challenge for contemporary societies, particularly in the context of population aging. The aim of this presentation is to provide a criminological assessment of ageism through an analysis of its manifestations, determinants, and social as well as legal consequences. In particular, the study seeks to answer the question to what extent ageism can be considered a factor contributing to the emergence of specific forms of crime, both in a direct dimension (e.g., violence against older persons, fraud, abuse) and an indirect one (e.g., marginalization, social exclusion, limited access to legal protection). For the purposes of this presentation, an analysis of selected court cases concerning crimes against older individuals was conducted, which made it possible to identify the most common forms of victimization and the ways they are addressed by the justice system. The research was complemented by a survey carried out among respondents, aimed at exploring social attitudes toward older people and the level of awareness of the problem of ageism. The presentation will also discuss mechanisms of stereotyping and prejudice against older persons that may lead to their victimization and to the underreporting of crimes. An important element of the analysis will be the evaluation of the effectiveness of existing legal and institutional frameworks in preventing ageism and protecting older individuals. The considerations are embedded in an interdisciplinary perspective, combining insights from criminology, sociology, and legal studies. The conclusions of the analysis will allow for the identification of directions for preventive measures and recommendations for social and criminal policy aimed at reducing the scale of ageism and strengthening the safety of older people.

190. EHC-WG Panel 3. Prisons and Rehabilitation

Topic 7: Comparative and Historical Perspectives/Historical Comparisons of Crime (Historical Criminology WG)

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.120

Chair:

Jayne Mooney, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Participants:

EHC-WG - "Medieval Dungeons" Under the Rigors of Progress: Memories of the Maria Zélia Prison-Village *Patrick Cacicedo, University of São Paulo; Marina Ferreira, Universidade de São Paulo*

This research explores the tensions between the liberal discourse of civilizational progress and the authoritarian and illegal punitive practices observed in São Paulo, Brazil, in the late 1930s, on the eve of what became known in Brazil as the Estado Novo ("New State"). It focuses on the memories of the Maria Zélia

prison-village, a former industrial workers' complex converted into a political prison, where violence, improvisation, and arbitrariness prevailed over any ideals of modernization. The research argues that Maria Zélia was not an accidental deviation from a supposedly progressive penal order, but rather an expression of the contradictions of Brazilian modernity itself. Grounded in historical materialism, the research reconstructs these events through primary sources, especially archival documents and contemporary newspapers, connecting the local history of Maria Zélia to broader social, political, and economic structures. It situates the emergence of political prisons within the formation of Brazil's punitive system, emphasizing how liberal promises of legality, order, and civilization coexisted with slavery, repression, and the violent management of populations deemed dangerous or undesirable. By rescuing the memory of Maria Zélia, the research also challenges linear and Eurocentric understandings of penal modernization. Rather than treating Brazilian prisons as incomplete versions of a European model, it highlights the need to analyse punishment through local categories and historically specific social relations. In this perspective, the Maria Zélia prison-village reveals continuities between past and present punitive practices and offers a critical lens through which to reflect on institutional violence, political repression, and the historical roots of contemporary incarceration in Brazil.

Georg Michael von Obermaier and His Concept of Treating Offenders *Dariusz Schmidt, University of Warsaw, Faculty of Applied Social Sciences and Resocialization*

This presentation will focus on the thought and work of Georg Michael von Obermaier, a Bavarian visionary and prison reformer of the first half of the 19th century. The creator of the original penitentiary system, he achieved success in treating prisoners and reducing crime in Bavaria, by employing pedagogical concepts rooted in the principles of mercy and love for one's neighbor. This was accompanied by great recognition for the activities undertaken in the institutions he ran (including Kaiserslautern, Munich, and Modena), inspiring many prison reformers. Obermaier was an extremely important figure in the development of penitentiary thought in the 19th century, and his legacy cannot be overstated. Unfortunately, he has been almost completely forgotten, so it is worth highlighting his person and achievements. The research underlying this presentation is based on an analysis of nineteenth-century source texts and is likely one of the first attempts to explore his legacy on such a scale.

Fordism, post-Fordism, and incarceration in Brazil: towards a critical approach of contemporary prison in São Paulo *Marina Ferreira, Universidade de São Paulo*

The article develops a critical analysis of contemporary incarceration in São Paulo by situating the prison within the historical dynamics of peripheral capitalist development in Brazil. It argues that mass incarceration, racialized violence, and chronic overcrowding are not anomalies of democratic governance but structural outcomes of a specific trajectory of modernity shaped by dependency, uneven development, and the persistence of archaic social relations. Building on previous historical research on prisons in São Paulo between 1920 and 1964, the article advances the hypothesis that Brazilian prisons have long combined modern disciplinary institutions centered on labor with improvised and repressive forms of confinement aimed at political control and the management of surplus populations. This coexistence reflects a broader pattern in which modernity and traditionalism are not opposed but mutually constitutive within peripheral capitalism. Grounded in historical criminology, historical materialism and the political economy of punishment, the article extends the analysis from the military dictatorship inaugurated in 1964 through the process of democratization, employing the concepts of Fordism and post-Fordism to examine how transformations in accumulation regimes, labor markets, and state forms reshaped incarceration in São Paulo – and how these same concepts behave taking into account the specificities of Brazilian social formation and the particular configuration of its capitalism. By reconstructing the prison as a product of economic, political, racial, and social processes, the project seeks to contribute to a critical understanding of the expansion and selectivity of contemporary punishment in Brazil.

Exploring the History of Incarceration in New York City: Remembering, Suffering, and Resistance *Jayne Mooney, John Jay College of Criminal Justice*

This paper explores the history of exclusion and incarceration in NYC, its role in the development of the city, and how this forms the background for understanding NYC's penal institutions as they exist today and the inequities within the city's social fabric. One of the themes is that of invisibility. Within the city, there are few signifiers of the locations of early institutions of confinement – a small plaque to Blackwells' penitentiary exists on Roosevelt Island, and many of the more privileged New Yorkers remain unaware of the location of the notorious Rikers Island jail complex or the city's other penal institutions. The paper focuses on the voices of those who have been incarcerated in NYC over the years, especially at Rikers Island, and aims to contribute to the broader conversation on the politics of historical memory and what we choose to memorialize. It starts with the colonial city, drawing from archival research and oral history, and explores the importance of learning from the past, especially in relation to criminal justice reform movements. It builds on the core tenets of critical criminology by examining why and how institutions of incarceration came to be seen as such a "natural" part of society and as an acceptable solution to the social problems confined there

191. Gender, Crime and Justice Working Group Panel 7: Risky contexts: GBV and challenges to women safety

Topic 3: Crime Correlates/Gender and Crime (Gender, Crime and Justice WG)

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.128

Chair:

Kelly Johnson, Glasgow University

Participants:

Gender-based violence against women in rural Poland: evidence from a national study *Magdalena Grabowska, Polish Academy of Sciences; Ilona Matysiak, Maria Grzegorzewska University; Aleksandra Świderska, University of Warsaw*

The paper discusses the findings of a research project on violence against women living in rural areas in Poland, conducted in 2025-2026. Drawing on representative nationwide survey data and expert interviews, we examine the specific experiences of rural women in relation to psychological, physical, economic, sexual, and symbolic violence. The findings are framed within the broader context of national and international research on gender-based violence, as well as studies on women in rural areas. We focus in particular on several key results. First, we address sexual violence, including a relatively low proportion of women reporting experiences of sexual harassment (approximately 30%) alongside a comparatively high proportion indicating sexual violence related to the so-called "marital obligation" (approximately 20%). Second, we examine symbolic and social violence, reported by over 40% of respondents, particularly publicly expressed beliefs about women's "traditional roles", attitudes towards disclosing violence, and women's opportunities for collective organization in rural communities. Third, we discuss cultural and social factors that may increase the likelihood of violence, such as low awareness of the phenomenon and its different types, alcohol use, as well as institutional barriers to reporting, including limited support infrastructure (e.g., shelters and transitional housing). We also consider institutional and non-institutional coping strategies, including the role of informal networks, and the specific characteristics of rural communities, particularly family structures and economic conditions, and their influence on women's experiences of and responses to violence.

Justice Needs of Street Harassment Victims: Insights from Qualitative Research in Poland *Jagna Krotoska, University of Warsaw*

Street harassment constitutes one of the most prevalent forms of sexual harassment experienced by women and girls in Europe. Despite its scale, until 2014 it was not widely recognized as a problem requiring state intervention; rather, it was often framed as a matter of incivility or a harmless "compliment." A turning point occurred when Belgium became the first European country to introduce legislation explicitly criminalizing street harassment, followed by France, Spain, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and, more recently, the Netherlands. In Poland, the issue has only recently entered public and academic debate, revealing a persistent lack of understanding of its scale, consequences and most importantly justice needs of those affected. Within criminological and feminist scholarship, discussions of justice responses to street harassment have predominantly focused on the criminal justice framework, while rarely examining the justice needs and expectations of those affected beyond the realm of formal legal redress. This presentation addresses that gap by drawing on original qualitative research conducted in 2025. An analysis of 26 in-depth interviews with victims/survivors of street harassment in Poland indicates that their primary justice needs extend beyond formal legal remedies to encompass a broader cultural transformation, aimed at challenging and reshaping the gender stereotypes that underpin street harassment, with the goal of preventing such behavior rather than responding to it retrospectively.

The Dark Figure of Gender-Based Violence in Bangladesh: Evidence from Police and NGO Data *Mohammad Azizur Rahman, Texas A&M International University; Lucky Akter, The University of Osaka, Japan; Riya Das, Police Staff College, Bangladesh*

This paper examines the "dark figure of crime" in gender-based violence (GBV) in Bangladesh by comparing official police statistics with NGO-based monitoring data. While police data categorize cases broadly under "Women and Children Repression," they lack disaggregation by type of violence, obscuring patterns of victimization. In contrast, NGO sources such as Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) provide detailed accounts of domestic violence, rape, dowry-related violence, and sexual harassment derived from media monitoring. By triangulating these datasets, this study demonstrates significant discrepancies in reporting, highlighting systematic underreporting and institutional blind spots in official crime data. Drawing on secondary data analysis (2015–2025), the paper shows that a substantial proportion of GBV cases remain unreported due to stigma, fear, and limited access to justice. The findings suggest that reliance on police data alone underestimates the scale and nature of violence against women. The study argues for the institutionalization of nationwide victimization surveys and improved gender-disaggregated crime data systems. The paper contributes to global criminological debates on measurement of hidden crimes and emphasizes the importance of integrating alternative data sources in Global South contexts. It also highlights implications for policy reform, victim support systems, and evidence-based policing.

Sexual Violence in the Scottish Folk Music Scene: Risks, Relationships and the Challenges of Safeguarding in Informal Workplaces *Kelly Johnson, Glasgow University; Michele Jane Burman, University of Glasgow; Oona Brooks-Hay, University of Glasgow /SCCJR; Amy Cullen, University of Glasgow; Emily Qvist-Baudry, The University of Edinburgh; Stephanie Love, Univeristy of Glasgow*

Sexual violence and harassment in cultural and creative industries have increasingly been recognised as persistent and structural problems, yet empirical evidence remains uneven across specific sectors and communities. This paper examines women musicians' experiences of sexual violence and harassment in the Scottish folk music scene, a context compounded by informal working practices, close-knit professional networks, and, in turn, limited safeguarding or reporting mechanisms. Drawing on survey responses

from 409 participants, follow-up interviews with musicians and collaborative action learning sets, the paper explores how gendered power relations, reputation, and professional dependency shape experiences of harm and responses to disclosure. Participants described a range of behaviours, including sexual harassment and assault, coercive control, and stalking, often occurring in settings where social and professional relationships overlap. The small scale and interconnected nature of the scene were frequently identified as intensifying risks and constraining opportunities to challenge harmful behaviour or seek support. Alongside presenting these findings, the paper engages reflexively with the development of the project, reflecting on how the particular social and organisational dynamics of the folk scene informed the research design and influenced both the kinds of evidence generated and the forms of change that became possible through the research process.

192. Narrative Criminology Panel 1

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Narrative Criminology

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.141

Chair:

Anna Markovska, IPPPRI Anglia Ruskin University

Participants:

Narrating Harm: The Gendered Experiences of Sexual Violence by Ukrainian Prisoners of War *Ashley Michelle Perry, International Policing and Public Protection Research Institute; Iryna Soldatenko, Karazin Kharkiv National University; Anna Markovska, IPPPRI Anglia Ruskin University*

Since the onset of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, an expanding body of evidence from international monitoring mechanisms and human-rights organisations have documented the systematic use of sexual violence against Ukrainian civilians and prisoners of war (POWs). Testimonies collected by state bodies and NGOs indicate that both male and female Ukrainian military personnel have been subjected to, or have witnessed, acts of sexual violence while in captivity. Given that interpretations, experiences, and disclosures of sexual violence are conditioned by gender, cultural norms, lived experience, and the dynamics of armed conflict, interrogating these gendered conceptual frameworks is vital to developing a deeper and more nuanced understanding of the nature and consequences of these violations. This pilot study, funded by ARU Safe and Inclusive Communities, investigates how former Ukrainian POWs of different genders conceptualise, articulate, and disclose experiences or witness accounts of sexual violence during the ongoing conflict. The project employs a two-stage, co-designed research methodology. The first stage involved an open-web content analysis of publicly accessible interviews with former POWs detained at any point during the full-scale invasion. This analysis mapped emergent themes, characterised forms of harm, and identified silences and narrative constraints, providing the empirical foundation for designing a trauma-sensitive focus-group schedule. Building on these findings, the second stage featured focus groups with five male and five female former POWs, with lived-experience specialists co-designing the structure, timing, and recruitment strategy. These discussions explored how participants interpret and narrate sexual violence, the factors influencing their willingness or ability to disclose, and the insights these accounts offer into broader patterns of abuse, as well as the evidentiary challenges inherent in documenting conflict-related sexual violence. Through this integrated approach, the project sought to generate foundational knowledge that can inform future survivor-centred research, strengthen documentation practices, and support emerging accountability processes.

Coherence under Constraint: Situated Moral Agency and the Narratives of Migrant Women Imprisoned for Drug Trafficking in Chile *Catalina Droppelmann, Pontificia Universidad Catolica Chile*

This article examines the narratives of 19 foreign women convicted of drug trafficking in northern Chile. Drawing on narrative criminology and in-depth biographical interviews, the study explores how migrant women construct moral coherence within structurally coercive contexts and project desistance from positions of extreme vulnerability. The study addresses two interconnected gaps. Empirically, research on drug mules remains predominantly Eurocentric, without examining transit and destination circuits within Latin America. Theoretically, desistance theory assumes subjects who desist through narrative rupture with a past criminal self and reintegration into a recognising community, assumptions that do not hold when the subject is a migrant serving a sentence abroad, far from her social networks, in a legally opaque system. The analysis produces three main findings. First, entry into drug trafficking is not narrated as ethical rupture or emancipatory pursuit, but as moral continuity: an extension of the same values — care, debt, reciprocity — that constitute these women's identities. Even when trafficking is narrated in emancipatory terms, it produces narrative but not structural emancipation, reproducing the conditions of vulnerability from which it emerged. Second, mobility is not a risk factor but the constitutive grammar of these women's subjectivity: the same relational plasticity that enabled trafficking organises the projection of desistance. Third, desistance operates through strategic silence and mobility rather than community reintegration. Silence functions as active narrative agency enabling identity reinscription elsewhere, though its sustainability depends on whether it coexists with a self-project that extends beyond a care-based feminine identity. Drawing on these findings, the article proposes the concept of situated moral agency to capture how subjects in positions of high vulnerability construct narratively coherent moral identities within, and despite, structural constraints. The study contributes to expanding narrative criminology toward the Global South and to reconceptualising desistance theory for subjects whose identities are constituted

through transnational mobility.

Narratives in life-course criminology: Life storytelling among prisoners in Latin America *Sveinung Sandberg, Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law, University of Oslo*

Life-course trajectories shape life-stories and life-stories shape life-courses, and the two are closely intertwined. The presentation emphasizes the role of storytelling in the life of people in prison and discuss how stories reflect, accompany and sometimes change their lives. Based on repeated life-history interviews with 400 people in prison in Latin America we argue that life-courses to crime cannot be fully understood without taking life-storytelling into account. Throughout life, from childhood to death, both everyday life and dramatic life-changing events were accompanied by storytelling. Experiences from early on make up a pool of possible stories to be part of who we are or our narrative identity and self-story. Adolescence is particularly important in shaping stories of the self and as people grow older some narrative roles or life-stories tend to settle. Time in prison seemed to be a particular dramatic event where changes in the narrative identity could occur and facilitate cognitive openings assisting desistance. Throughout the life of people in prison, life-phases, trajectories, transitions and turning points shaped identities, self-understanding and life-storytelling, but storytelling also changed their life-courses. This was most evident in religious redemption stories, but many tried to change their life based on other stories, for example emphasising the importance of family. The presentation shows the value of narrative perspectives in life-course criminology. Data are from the research project CRIMLA (crimeinlatinamerica.com) and analysis and discussions from ongoing work on the book Trajectories to Crime in Latin America: Towards a Global Life-course Criminology (Oxford University Press, 2026, with David Goyes).

193. Electronic monitoring in Europe

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Courts and Sentencing and Penal Decision Making (Sentencing and Penal Decisionmaking WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.147

Electronic monitoring is used increasing across the World and at all stages of the criminal justice systems to manage defendants/offenders in the community often with the explicit purpose of managing high prison populations. This is one of two panels bringing together contributors to an edited collection on electronic monitoring (EM) (A. Hucklesby (ed) Electronic monitoring and criminal justice in a globalised world, Routledge). This panel focuses upon the use of EM in five European countries which have contrasting penal histories (Norway, Sweden, Poland, Portugal and Lithuania). Drawing on a range of methods, each paper charts the development and current use of EM, often drawing upon empirical data, to analyse its use to identify key characteristics and challenges for academics, practitioners and/or lawyers.

Chair:

Anthea Hucklesby, University of Birmingham

Participants:

The new normal: studying Norway's "in action" use of electronic monitoring for minor criminal offences *Benjamin Branaman, University College of Norwegian Correctional Service; Berit Johnsen, Kriminalomsorgens høgskole og utdanningssenter KRUS; John Todd-Kvam, Norwegian University of Science and Technology*

"Unconditional prison sentences" in Norway are increasingly funnelled into the country's front-door electronic monitoring (EM) program as an alternative to short prison sentences. As the use of EM aims to alleviate the harms of imprisonment, how do institutional contexts and the work of EM practitioners impact its effects? Through a documentary analysis of legislation and government reports and interviews with EM-officers, this chapter analyses how EM "in action" differs from its "in books" legal intentions. Officer work was guided by the principle of normalization, which, while not codified, states that penal environments should replicate life in freedom as much as possible. In doing so, officers exercised significant discretion to intervene in clients' lives, which they did both to ensure clients received services they were legally entitled to and to facilitate "normal" activities as they saw fit. However, because sentences on EM were as short as two weeks, and with most clients serving time for traffic and driving under the influence (DUI) crimes, these normalising ambitions were sometimes frustrated and raise questions about the proportionality of such interventions for minor criminal offenses.

Born Carceral: Electronic Monitoring and Penal Culture in Portugal *Rafaela Granja, University of Minho; Silvia Gomes, University of Warwick*

Electronic monitoring (EM) has been widely promoted across Europe as a modern, efficient and humanistic alternative to imprisonment. However, its scope, modalities and implementation vary substantially across national contexts. This paper examines the Portuguese case, drawing on an in-depth analysis of the sociohistorical trajectory of the criminal justice system, the legislative evolution of EM, and the institutional rationalities that have shaped its expansion since the early 2000s. Portugal's long authoritarian past, its post-revolutionary modernisation agenda, and the prominent role of informal welfare networks create a distinctive context. We argue that EM in Portugal was not simply made carceral (Kirk-Werner, 2025) through practice but rather born carceral by design. Initially introduced as a substitute for preventive detention, EM was normatively anchored in custodial logics from the outset, consolidating home confinement as a functional extension of the prison. Today, EM operates through a broad set of modalities (namely, pre-trial, post conviction, adaptation to conditional release and modification of prison sentence, as well as with specific regimes tailored for domestic violence, stalking, and fire crimes). Across these modalities, EM tends to systematically reproduce punitive rationales by enforcing long and highly restrictive periods of confinement. Despite strong institutional and media

narratives highlighting its success and supposed high compliance rates, there is limited empirical evaluation, particularly regarding lived experiences and the redistributive effects of EM on families and communities. By situating EM within Portugal's penal culture, this paper argues that its rapid and broad expansion reflects penal layering rather than decarceration, thereby raising critical questions about surveillance, coercion, and the eventual future of community-based sanctions in the country.

Electronic Monitoring in Poland: Regional Gaps and Practical Challenges *Paulina Sidor-Borek, University of Warsaw*

Electronic monitoring has operated in Poland since 2009 and has undergone a number of significant legislative and organizational changes over this period. Although it constitutes an important alternative to custodial sentences, its practical application reveals considerable regional disparities, affecting both decisions on granting permission to serve a sentence under the electronic monitoring system (EMS) and how it operates in practice. The presentation will show the results of research conducted in Poland, including both statistical analyses and qualitative interviews with probation officers, penitentiary judges, employees of the Electronic Monitoring Office, Prison Service officers, and individuals who have served their sentences within the EMS. The collected material makes it possible to capture both the institutional perspective on the application of EMS and the experiences of the offenders themselves. In total, over 50 qualitative interviews were conducted with the criminal justice professionals as well as individuals serving their sentences under electronic monitoring. In addition, the analysis identifies a downward trend in the proportion of positive decisions in recent years, suggesting an increasing selectivity in the application of EMS, despite the expansion of the system's capacity and eligibility criteria. This tendency appears across all regions, although its intensity varies, which further highlights the importance of local practices. The findings also point to differences in the role of technical conditions as a basis for refusal. The paper outlines the current functioning of EM in Poland, with particular emphasis on practical problems arising at the stage of qualification for the system and during its implementation. The analysis addresses, among other issues, the living conditions of offenders, their ability to undertake and maintain lawful employment, as well as variations in judicial practice.

Electronic monitoring in Sweden: policy development and empirical evidence on its effects *Enes Al Weswasi, Department of Criminology, Stockholm University, Sweden; Olof Backman, Department of Criminology, Stockholm University, Sweden*

This presentation reviews the development, implementation, and empirical consequences of electronic monitoring (EM) within the Swedish criminal justice system. Sweden was among the earliest European adopters of EM as an alternative to incarceration, initially introducing the measure in the mid-1990s as a way to reduce the use of short prison sentences. Over time, the use of EM has expanded through several policy reforms, including both front-door programmes—where prison sentences are served at home under intensive supervision—and back-door programmes that allow individuals to complete the final portion of a prison sentence outside prison. The presentation outlines how these programmes operate in practice, including eligibility requirements, supervision conditions, and the technological infrastructure underpinning monitoring. The presentation also synthesizes findings from the Swedish empirical literature on EM, with particular emphasis on studies that use quasi-experimental designs and administrative register data to identify causal effects. Evidence from recent studies indicates that replacing short prison sentences with EM reduces recidivism and improves labour market attachment among offenders. These benefits appear to extend beyond the individual, with some evidence of positive spill-over effects for children of individuals who avoid incarceration. Evidence regarding back-door EM suggests more limited overall effects, though some subgroups benefit from improved labour market outcomes and reduced reincarceration. Finally, the presentation discusses recent policy developments in Sweden, where rising prison populations and increasing penal severity have renewed interest in EM. These developments raise important questions about the future role of electronic monitoring in Swedish penal policy.

Electronic monitoring and human rights: legal and practical challenges in Lithuania from an empirical perspective *Simonas Nikartas, Vilnius University, Faculty of Philosophy; Loreta Matačiūtė, Vilnius University, Faculty of Philosophy*

The use of electronic monitoring has spread rapidly across many countries in the past two decades. EM is publicly presented as a more humane and cheaper alternative to imprisonment. However, research also reveals problematic aspects to this measure, such as stigmatisation, social isolation, an interventionist nature, and excessive and non-individualised nature. Despite these issues being closely related to human rights, there is still a lack of systematic analysis that would allow assessing the legal regulation and application practice of EM in the context of international human rights standards. Although the main principles of EM are enshrined in Council of Europe recommendation – legality, proportionality, individualisation and minimal intervention – it remains insufficiently clear from a legal point of view where the limits of this measure are from a human rights perspective and in which cases its use may lead to human rights violations. This paper based on international human rights standards, the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights, and empirical data (interviews with people who have experienced intensive supervision, probation officers and judges in Lithuania) aims to discuss the limits of the application of EM according to human rights perspective and identify signs that allow assessing when this measure may lead to potential human rights violations.

194. Policing, Social Organization, and Inequality:

Institutional and Community Dynamics of Crime, Control, and Trust

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.152

This panel brings together new research on the how social organization, institutions, and time have shaped crime, misconduct, trust, and inequality. Spanning multiple national and urban contexts, the papers use rigorous measurement and estimation strategies to examine how state action and community dynamics structure crime, social control, and their consequences. The first paper operationalizes Matsueda's differential social organization theory by modeling how collective efficacy—and heterogeneity in residents' perceptions—interacts with cultural adaptations such as legal cynicism and the code of the street to jointly affect victimization and violent crime in two US cities. The second paper focuses on the institutional foundations of police misconduct by developing and validating a test using data from the European Court on Human Rights to determine when more commonly examined individual and group-level processes of misconduct are driven by higher-level institutional forces. The third paper provides a rare extended longitudinal view of public attitudes about policing, comparing survey data from London in 1981 and 2026 to assess how trust and confidence in the police—including their empirical measurement and association with common correlates—have changed over 45 years. The fourth paper examines the long-term consequences of proactive policing in England and Wales, demonstrating how cumulative exposure to stop-and-search during adolescence contributes to diminished educational attainment and the reproduction of social inequality. Taken together, the research in this panel uses new data and advanced empirical strategies to shed new light on how heterogeneity and change in policing and social organization affect not only crime and victimization but also patterns of misconduct, trust, and life course inequality.

Chair:

Charles C Lanfear, University of Cambridge

Participants:

Differential social organization and cultural heterogeneity *Charles C Lanfear, University of Cambridge; Thiago Oliveira, University of Manchester*

Modern social disorganization research has focused on how the capacity for informal social control—often operationalized using collective efficacy—reduces crime in communities. Recent research finds this crime reduction effect depends not just to the level of collective efficacy but also the heterogeneity in perceptions about collective efficacy among residents (Brunton smith et al. 2018). Separately, reflecting its roots in Kornhauser's (1978) control theory reformulation of social disorganization, the literature largely rejects that some forms of social organization—and not just its absence—may promote crime (Matsueda 2006). We address this using an analytical model derived from Matsueda's differential social organization to examine organization against crime in the form of Sampson's collective efficacy and organization in favor of crime in the form of two cultural adaptations to concentrated disadvantage: the Code of the Street in Seattle and legal cynicism in Chicago. We use multilevel multivariate location-scale models with community survey data from each city to estimate how self-reported victimization and police-reported violent crime are related to both variation in social organization between neighborhoods and consensus among residents within neighborhoods. We conclude by emphasizing the importance of aligning theory with methods for testing neighborhood social-structural explanations of crime.

Calibrating a test for institutional influences on police misconduct *Natalia Cabrera-Morales, University of Cambridge*

Most accounts of police misconduct focus either on individual or group explanations, like police cultures. Though the influence of institutions and political power in police misconduct is often theorised, it is rarely tested or clearly differentiated from group factors. To develop such a test, I take insights from Hagan and Raymond-Richmond's theory of collective/institutional action applied to genocide to operationalise the strength of institutional organisation in different settings. If and when police misconduct is an expression of institutional goals, it shares the same causal sources as other state crimes, but that is an empirical question. I develop and apply a test to proven state crime (positives) and cases of police misconduct in which the ECHR found no violation (negatives). The hypothesis is that a stronger organisation will increase the harm when the state promotes the misconduct, and it will contain it if the state is acting rightfully. Institutional organisation is understood to be stronger when the police act in institutional settings, such as in police cars, when more police officers are present, and when they have a higher rank. Severity of the outcome is measured by the severity of injuries, the number of victims, the targeting of specific groups, and the type of crime committed. To obtain a database with these variables, I classify a large number of court file cases using large language models. The purpose is to validate a test that can be applied in ambiguous cases and is accurate in distinguishing between institutionalised misconduct and isolated or group-caused events.

'Trust and confidence' in the police in London, 1981 to 2026: Changing times, changing measures, changing patterns *Ben Bradford, University College London; Jonathan Jackson, LSE; Johann Koehler, London School of Economics and Political Science*

First published in 1983, Police and People in London was a landmark piece of social research. For almost the first time, interview and observational methods were combined with a major social survey (fielded in 1981) to explore people's experiences of policing at a time of significant social upheaval. In this paper we present findings from a 2026 pilot replication study (n=1,000) alongside data from the original survey. The aims of the pilot study were to duplicate key measures, add items that represent conceptual developments made over the intervening decades, and consider issues that are currently of pressing concern in UK policing. We first describe the general pattern of change – using 1981

measures, do Londoners trust the police less now than 45 years ago? Second, we compare 'old' and 'new' measures of trust. Third, we explore the patterning of trust across different population groups, with a particular focus on socio-demographic and experiential correlates and the question of whether trust is distributed in the same way in 2026 as it was in 1981. Comparison of the two surveys illuminates how trust in the police in London has changed over time, and also that the way we think about trust and how to measure it shapes our understanding.

Stop and Search and the Reproduction of Social Inequality
Thiago Oliveira, University of Manchester; Artur Damião, University of São Paulo / University of Manchester

Research on the social costs of policing has highlighted unintended consequences of direct experiences with police stops, particularly during adolescence. Yet we know less about the enduring consequences of growing up in heavily policed neighbourhoods across the life course. Drawing on the life-course theory of cumulative disadvantage and procedural justice theory, this study examines whether neighbourhood exposure to stop and search during adolescence is associated with damaged educational attainment—including school dropouts, which could trigger adverse life-course consequences. Linking longitudinal survey data from the Millennium Cohort Study (MCS) with geocoded stop-and-search records from England and Wales, I construct a novel measure of cumulative neighbourhood exposure to proactive policing between ages 14 and 17. Using marginal structural models with residual balancing to account for dynamic relationships between time-varying exposures and confounders, I estimate the cumulative effects of neighbourhood exposure to stop and search during adolescence on educational outcomes measured at age 23. Results indicate that adolescents raised in over-policed neighbourhoods experience worse educational outcomes, suggesting that the widespread reliance on stop-and-search powers contributes to reproducing social inequality.

195. The Role of Pracademics in Police Research, Policy and Practice.

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)
Roundtable
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.158

Pracademics - those with both practitioner and academic experience - are often portrayed as boundary spanners in research, policy and practice. That is equally the case within the relationship between police and academia. In this roundtable, participants - who could be considered pracademics - from Canada, Portugal, Iceland, UK, Belgium and the Netherlands are invited to unpack this role reflecting on their experiences and identities moving between practitioner and academic roles. We will do this by asking them the following questions: • To what degree would you consider yourself to be a pracademic and/or boundary spanner? • How are pracademics or boundary spanners positioned in your country's police-academic relationships? How are they perceived by academia and how are they perceived by police? • Based on your journey so far, what are some of the challenges and opportunities when navigating police-academic partnerships as a pracademic? The discussion based on these reflections will create the basis for a better understanding of these roles in police-academic relationships. The audience is also welcomed to share their own experiences with the panel to add to the discussions. It builds on wider work within the ESC Working Group on Policing exploring relationships between police and academia.

Chair:
Marleen Easton, Universiteit Gent

Discussants:
Angela Workman-Stark, Athabasca University
Rute Pereira, Interdisciplinary Research Center on Justice (CIJ/FDUP); School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto
Ólafur Bragason, Center for Police Training and Professional Development
David Knowles, University of Portsmouth
Isabel Verwee, VIAS Institute, Belgium

196. From Victimisation to Secondary Harm

Topic 4: Victimology/Consequences of Victimization (Victimology WG)
Paper Session
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.162

Chair:
Kathryn Louise Bovington, Edge Hill University

Participants:

Beyond the immediate crime: Seconday victimization and institutional responses to Feminicide and Vicarious violence *Núria Torres-Rosell, University Rovira i Virgili - Spain; Eva Zafra-Aparici, University Rovira i Virgili - Spain*

In this presentation we examine the consequences of feminicide and vicarious violence on secondary victims, including children, mothers, and extended family members, through a qualitative interdisciplinary approach. Drawing on 38 in-depth interviews and expert discussion groups conducted across four Spanish regions, the study explores unmet needs, forms of secondary victimization, and structural gaps in protection and care following gender-based killings. The findings suggest that feminicide should not be understood as an isolated event, but as part of a continuum of gender-based violence with enduring social, psychological, and institutional impacts. Particular attention is paid to vicarious violence, conceptualized as the intentional harm inflicted on children to further victimize women, and its implications for rethinking traditional definitions of victimhood. The analysis reveals persistent fragmentation in institutional responses and serious deficiencies in coordination across legal, social, and health systems. By foregrounding the experiences of indirect victims, this study contributes to victimological debates on feminicide and family violence and highlights the long-term consequences of gender-based killings beyond the immediate crime. The paper underscores the need for integrated,

trauma-informed, and gender-sensitive interventions that support long-term recovery processes while avoiding the reproduction of fixed victim identities.

Disabled by police injustice? How police (in)actions shape and are shaped by sexual violence victim-survivors' disabilities, health and neurodiversity in England & Wales *Rosa Walling-Wefelmeyer, University of Reading*

Procedural justice is considered integral to a fair society. However, current models are not sufficiently advanced to respond to challenges experienced by victim-survivors with disabilities, health conditions and/or neurodiversity when encountering police processes. This project fills that gap. In so doing, it explores police power and legitimacy, and addresses key conceptual and empirical challenges in the field of procedural justice studies. This conference presentation will report on the results of stage one of a three-stage ESRC-funded project in the UK. Stage one of this project involves secondary qualitative and quantitative data analysis of the largest non-probability sampled survey in England and Wales of sexual violence victim-survivors experiences of policing. The survey data collection was undertaken as part of Operation Soteria (and led by Prof. Katrin Hohl) and the database overall includes the responses of almost 5000 victim-survivors from two data collection waves between January 2023 – June 2024. The results of this new secondary analysis support a comprehensive understanding of: a) police injustice experienced by victim-survivors with disability, health and/or neurodiversity conditions and b) the possibilities for justice. The presentation will cover these aspects and give brief consideration to how conceptualisations of disability, health and vulnerability shape what is possible for researchers to understand about police (in)actions.

Indicators of secondary victimization in criminal proceedings for child sexual abuse within the Barnahus context *Patricia Hernández-Hidalgo, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya; Núria Torres-Rosell, University Rovira i Virgili - Spain; Àfrica Cruz, Universitat Rovira i Virgili*

This paper presents the findings of a quantitative study designed to examine the presence of secondary victimization indicators in criminal proceedings involving child sexual abuse and assault. The study justifies the selection of specific indicators and analyzes potential shifts following the passage of child protection legislation and the implementation of a specialized advocacy center. This service, established in Tarragona in 2020, adheres to the international standards of the Barnahus model. The research confirms the positive impact of Barnahus on the protection of child victims through the identification of changes in key indicators, such as procedural duration, the pre-constitution of evidence (recorded forensic interviews), and the effective intervention of Barnahus professionals in victim support. Nevertheless, the study also identifies certain indicators pointing to the persistence of secondary victimization risks, which demand further attention from both judicial authorities and practitioners.

Understanding Survivorship: An Intersectional Life History Study With Men Who Have Experienced Sexual Violence *Kathryn Louise Bovington, Edge Hill University*

Sexual violence against men and boys has received increased attention within scholarship and policy in recent years. Despite this, it remains under-recognised and under-addressed within research, practice and public discourse. Drawing on life history interviews with male survivors and interviews with professionals working in support services in the United Kingdom, this paper examines how experiences of sexual violence are shaped by diverse social factors and by shifting political and institutional contexts. Grounded in intersectionality and critical masculinity studies, the research situates survivor narratives within broader socio-political conditions, including changing policy environments, funding precarity, and contested public discourses surrounding gender and rights. Rather than treating victimisation as a discrete event, the paper approaches harm as socially mediated and politically structured, shaped by institutional recognition, resource allocation, and constructions of masculinity. Early thematic development indicates that broader social narratives political climates influence how sexual violence against men and boys is experienced, recognised, resourced, and publicly framed. These have significant implications for male survivors, support service provision, the criminal justice system and broader attitudes on sexual violence.

197. POLWG Panel 5: Time Use, Leadership, and Occupational Legitimacy in Policing

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.168

Chair:

Ludovic De Vocht, Ghent University

Participants:

"Like A Duck on Water": Examining 'Command Presence' Among Critical Incident Commanders *Laura Huey, University of Western Ontario; Lorna Ferguson, University of Regina; Cole Heffren, University of Western Ontario*

This paper examines how police Critical Incident Commanders (CICs) understand and enact 'command presence' during high-risk, high-stress incidents. Drawing on in-depth qualitative interviews with CICs, the study addresses a gap in policing and leadership scholarship that has tended to conceptualize command presence through frontline, control-oriented frameworks rather than as a relational, situational leadership form. Using Goffman's impression management theory, the analysis demonstrates that command presence is best understood as a performative leadership skill through which Commanders project calm, confidence, and competence, regardless of internal stress or uncertainty. This performance serves to instill trust and confidence, coordinate teams, and maintain internal operational legitimacy during incidents. The findings reveal how command presence is shaped by organizational context and unevenly received along gendered lines, with women

Commanders reporting heightened scrutiny and credibility challenges. The article concludes by disentangling command from control and highlighting command presence as a relational, impression-based form of police leadership.

Police performance: impossible to measure? *Fleur Soete, Ghent University; Jelle Janssens, Ghent University*

In 2025, the new Federal Government in Belgium has initiated two challenging projects with regard to the integrated police. The first one is the merger of the six police services in Brussels that serve 19 municipalities; the second one concerns the revision of the way the local and federal police are being funded by the Federal Government. In both cases, there seems to be an absence of a concrete political vision on how the Belgian police should perform in the near future. The merger is said to be a symbolic political gesture, rather than an answer to the problems confronting the police services in Brussels. The financing project seeks to deal with an outdated allocation model that has favoured some police services over others during the past two decades– with a skewed budget allocation as a result. While performance indicators are not to be found in these projects, the question raises whether or not it is even possible to measure police performance – and its societal impact – beyond the traditional in-, through- and output indicators that so often are being used. We conducted a literature study and interviewed police managers from both the local and federal police to come up with a possible answer.

Understanding Police Time Use, Demand and Complexity through the 2023 Police Activity Survey in England and Wales *Jake Walker, Home Office, UK Government*

Understanding how police allocate their time is central to improving productivity, prioritisation and public safety. While the last national measurement of police time use took place in 2005 to 2006, major changes in demand, crime types and operational practice have transformed policing since then. This study presents new national evidence from the 2023 Police Activity Survey, a large scale time use survey completed by operational officers and staff across 35 police forces in England and Wales. Over a seven day period, respondents recorded more than 6.1 million hours of activity across crime, public safety and welfare and general policing tasks. The analysis shows that just over half of all recorded time is dedicated to general crime and public safety activities such as visible patrol and supervisory work, while 34.9 percent of time relates to specific crime incidents and 12.2 percent to public safety and welfare incidents. High harm crime types including violence with or without injury, rape and other sexual offences account for 45.9 percent of all specific crime incident time. Missing persons represent the largest share of public safety and welfare incident time. The study also finds that activities involving at least one complexity such as drugs, domestic abuse or mental health take approximately 52.7 percent longer than those without complexities.

Police self-legitimacy and police online presence through short-form media representations *Ludovic De Vocht, Ghent University*

Recently, several Dutch and Belgian police forces started media content channels focused on short-form videos. In Anglo-Saxon countries, the portrayal of police work and informing citizens through social media channels is associated with increased police self-legitimacy, community-building, and crime prevention (Ralph, 2021). However, the same online spaces also host citizen-generated videos depicting police transgressions, through sousveillance and cop-baiting, which contributes to stress, professional fatigue, and negatively impacts (self)-legitimacy (Huey & Ferguson, 2024). Self-legitimacy relates to the extent to which police officers believe in their professional identity and in the objectives and identity of the police organization. This research investigates how police self-legitimacy is constructed in relation to police online presence. The research contributes to existing literature on self-legitimacy by including the emergence of police online presence and exploring the understudied phenomenon of cop-baiting.

198. Mapping Intimate Partner Violence: Prevalence, Awareness, and Victimization Trajectories

Topic 4: Victimology/Patterns and trends in Victimization (Victimology WG)

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.172

Chair:

Alexandra Lysova, Simon Fraser University

Participants:

Identifying Violent Dynamics in Intimate Partner Violence *Laura-Romina Goede, Federal Criminal Police Office; Nathalie Leitgöb-Guzy, Federal Criminal Police Office*

A comprehensive understanding of different dynamics of intimate partner violence (IPV) is essential for the development of targeted prevention and intervention strategies. Building on established typologies (Johnson et al., 2014), the present analysis examines whether distinct patterns of controlling behavior, physical violence, and mutual violence can be identified in intimate relationships. It further investigates whether these vary between sex as well as frequency and severity of victimization. The study is based on data from the LeSuBiA study ("Life Situation, Safety and Strain in Everyday Life"), which is a large-scale victimization survey with a focus on gender-based violence, in particular intimate partner violence, sexualised violence and violence in the digital space. The survey aims to examine both police-reported and unreported incidents of violence across all genders in Germany. The data collection took place from July 2023 to January 2025. A total of over 15,000 interviews were conducted. The objective of the present study is to identify distinct types of violent relationship dynamics and assess of their frequency. It also examines whether these types differ with regard to socio-demographic factors (e.g., age, gender, migration background, and socio-economic status). The present study contributes to a more nuanced understanding of IPV by identifying and comparing different violence dynamics and types of victims of IPV.

Intimate Partner Violence in Russia: Prevalence, Trends, and Risk Factors *Alexandra Lysova, Simon Fraser University*

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a serious social problem in Russia. However, its precise prevalence remains unclear due to limited data availability and inconsistencies in how IPV is defined across sources. The objective of this study is to synthesize the current state of knowledge on both perpetration and victimization of IPV in Russia, including physical and sexual violence as well as psychological aggression. A systematic search of four electronic databases, i.e., PubMed (MEDLINE), PsycINFO, Web of Science, and Academic Search Premier, was conducted for peer-reviewed journal articles published up to the end of 2025. The search employed the following keywords: (date OR dating OR partner* OR domestic OR spous* OR marital OR wife OR husband OR intimate partner) AND (batter* OR violen* OR abus* OR aggress*) AND (Russi* OR Russian Federation). In addition, publicly available statistics on IPV perpetration and victimization were examined, including official data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia and population-based surveys conducted by VTSIOM and the Levada Center. The findings suggest that the prevalence of IPV victimization in Russia is broadly comparable to rates reported in Western countries. Although prevalence estimates vary widely, there is no clear evidence of a consistent increase over time. Similar to Western findings, self-reported survey data indicate that rates of male and female victimization are largely comparable, whereas official crime statistics show a higher proportion of female victims. The analysis also considers the influence of unique sociopolitical factors, including the 2017 partial decriminalization of domestic violence, economic instability, and broader societal changes associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Overall, the study highlights key gaps in data and measurement, underscores the importance of methodological consistency, and outlines directions for future research on IPV in Russia.

199. DRUGS Panel 1. Contemporary Challenges in Drugs and Crime

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Drugs and Crime (European Drug Policies WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.510

This session explores four interrelated topics at the intersection of drugs and crime. It ranges from the presence of nitazenes on the darknet and the use of Telegram for drug selling—with cases from London (UK) and Warsaw (Poland)—to how drug markets respond to new regulations that restrict the supply of synthetic substances, and finally to the relationship between drugs and crime in Italy. Despite the diversity of topics, the papers are connected by a common theme: their policy relevance in addressing contemporary drug markets. The session will be moderated by Professor Peter Reuter.

Chair:

Peter Reuter, University of Maryland

Participants:

Do darknet drug markets supply highly potent synthetic opioids to Europe? *Meropi Tzanetakis, Vienna University of Economics and Business; Teodora Groshkova, European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA); Nigel South, University of Essex*

This paper analyses the evolving role of darknet drug markets (DNMs) in the European supply of highly potent synthetic opioids amidst profound geopolitical and market disruptions. DNMs are encrypted online marketplaces facilitating anonymous drug exchange and have been shown to facilitate both overt and hidden opioid sales, including fentanyl and its derivatives, including carfentanyl and nitazenes, despite formal bans. Recent findings suggest the growing online availability of nitazenes, shifts in origin countries, and diversification of product forms, while international control frameworks struggle to keep pace with rapidly emerging derivatives. In Europe, opioid-related deaths remain substantially lower than in North America, partly reflecting both established public health and harm reduction infrastructures. However, concerning signs suggests heightened vulnerability to a new wave of highly potent synthetic opioid deaths. The Taliban's 2022 opium cultivation ban and the consequent contraction of heroin supply has intensified uncertainty in European opioid markets and potentially increased exposure to highly potent synthetic alternatives. This paper presents a comparative cross-European analysis of DNMs as adaptive distribution infrastructures within an increasingly synthetic and digitally mediated opioid markets. Building on established DNM monitoring methodologies, it uses repeated web-crawled digital trace data to construct a longitudinal dataset of drug listings, vendor activity, shipping information and buyer reviews across multiple DNMs from 2020 to 2025. Following observational approaches, listings are systematically coded for substance type, product form, vendor activity and origin-destination shipping patterns. Descriptive and trend over time analyses assess changes in substance availability, vendor concentration and geographic sourcing, evaluating whether DNMs function as international or intra-European supply hubs for highly potent synthetic opioids. The paper aims to provide evidence to inform policy and public-health responses addressing the growing diffusion of highly potent synthetic opioids across Europe.

Churn, hubs and hybrid fulfilment: link-tracing Telegram drug-market ecologies from London and Warsaw *Jack Cunliffe, University of Kent; David Décary-Hétu, Université de Montréal*

Purpose This article examines how drug-market activity on Telegram is organised through digitally mediated but physically grounded practices, and how volatility and partial visibility shape what can be known about these markets Design and method The work uses an iterative, three-level link-tracing scrape of public Telegram channels anchored in city-specific entry points (London/UK and Warsaw/Poland) and conducted in two waves (March and May 2024) capturing channel metadata and messages from public channels, and recording private channels encountered

via links. This is the basis for a descriptive analysis of channel network and activity, and a closer description of two sales bots. Findings Across both entry points, a sizeable, heterogeneous market is observed, but one that is difficult to bound because discovery is highly dependent on a small number of "hub" channels. The network contracted sharply between March and May, especially in the UK, indicating high churn and the fragility of entry pathways. Private channels comprised a substantial share of the networks. Channel descriptions combined drug advertising with trust/security signalling and, in Poland, frequent "roleplay" disclaimers suggestive of platform-facing self-protection. Evidence of cross-platform linking and bot-mediated storefronts indicates hybrid infrastructures with physical fulfilment. Originality We characterise Telegram's drug-market network as marked by churn and with volatile key nodes, documenting linkages that blur digital/physical boundaries. We show how small, short-lived channels co-exist with a few high-visibility hubs and bots, and links these patterns to the dynamics of hybridity, volatility, and partial visibility: factors that complicate both inference and intervention in app-mediated drug markets.

Violence as Informal Governance: Configurations of Power and Conflict in Mafia-Controlled Drug Markets (Italy, 2004–2024) *Alberto Aziani, Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca; Francesco Calderoni, Transcrime / Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Milan)*

This study examines violence as a mechanism of informal governance in mafia-controlled drug markets in Italy between 2004 and 2024. Drug markets operate under conditions of secrecy, high uncertainty, and the absence of enforceable contracts, making them especially dependent on extra-legal forms of regulation. Drawing on an original dataset of mafia-related homicides, the paper reconceptualises violence not as a set of discrete categories but as configurations of co-occurring governance logics. In particular, it focuses on the intersection between market enforcement, organisational control, and two symbolic dimensions: demonstrative signalling and honour-code dynamics. These dimensions are especially salient in drug markets, where violence must simultaneously regulate transactions, deter opportunism, and communicate credible threats in environments characterised by fluid competition and low trust. Methodologically, the study employs Multiple Correspondence Analysis (MCA) combined with clustering techniques to identify recurrent patterns in how different forms of violence co-occur. The findings show that drug-related homicides rarely serve a single function; rather, they combine enforcement, communication, and internal discipline in distinct configurations that vary across contexts and organisations. By uncovering these patterns, the study advances our understanding of how mafias stabilise and govern drug markets through the strategic and multidimensional use of violence.

How Do Novel Synthetic Opioids Respond to Supply-Side Regulations? *Luca Giommoni, Cardiff University*

Since the early 2010s, supply-side regulatory actions—such as banning specific synthetic opioids like fentanyl and nitazenes—have been implemented to limit their spread. This paper explores how synthetic opioid markets respond to such interventions and what kinds of disruption—if any—they produce. The analysis draws on evidence from 18 regulatory actions, each sharing a common feature: the sudden scheduling of substances that, until days earlier, were legal. Findings show that these interventions often cause short- to medium-term changes, such as less production, fewer international shipments, and lower rates of drug-related harms. However, long-term outcomes are far less predictable, ranging from the emergence of new synthetic opioids to increased reliance on legally supplied alternatives. Given this uncertainty, the paper concludes that rather than attempting to forecast market adaptations, it may be more effective to invest in early detection and rapid response systems.

200. Media and social construction of crime I

Topic 6: Perceptions of Crime and Justice/Media and social construction of crime

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.511

Chair:

Vincent Chris Figliomeni, F.F. Social Science Research Center

Participants:

24/7 Violence: A Qualitative Analysis of High-Profile Assault and Murder Cases in Round-the-Clock French Media *Gaetan Dore, Coventry University*

Exploration of thematic coverage over time and across news sequences remains significantly understudied in the crime news literature. The current project investigates thematic coverage of violent high-profile crime cases in French round-the-clock media. Using standard content analysis with iterative coding, 52 news reports covering six violent high-profile cases occurring between January and June 2024 have been studied. Reports were collected from two television channels (BFMTV and France Info) and one radio station (Europe 1). Thematic coverage time was calculated and tracked across initial reports and subsequent follow-ups to identify patterns and evolution. Five broad themes (Case Information, Victim Information, Offender Information, Justice Procedure, and Context), each following a unique evolution pattern over time, have been identified. Differences in thematic coverage patterns across media were a function of the source and their reporting models (ownership-related), rather than medium-based. Implications for portrayed criminal reality and potential threats to the French ideals of free, (politically) independent, and pluralist media are discussed.

Framing Deadly Encounters: Media Narratives of Rural Police-Citizen Incidents *Alexa Gabriela Mendoza, Sam Houston State University; John C Navarro, Sam Houston State University*

Deadly police-citizen encounters can attract substantial

media attention, yet scholarship has primarily focused on urban contexts, leaving rural encounters underexamined despite calls for greater attention to their patterns. We compiled a unique dataset of approximately 2,000 newspaper articles covering roughly 250 fatal rural encounters occurring in 2018 across the United States. We measured article prominence using article frequency and word count and employed structural topic modeling to identify latent themes in headlines and article text. We aim to advance empirical and theoretical understanding of how race shapes narratives and the framing of police-citizen deadly encounters in rural America.

Media Coverage of 'Ndrangheta Organized Crime *Vincent Chris Figliomeni, F.F. Social Science Research Center*

This research addresses media coverage of 'Ndrangheta, the mafia-type organized crime that has its origins in the southern Italian region of Calabria. The approach employs content analysis of primarily print news revealing qualitative and quantitative data used to publicly acknowledge the 'Ndrangheta phenomenon through its local as well as its global manifestations identified in the news. Further data obtained from Direzione Investigativa Antimafia (DIA), as well as United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other official sources, lays a foundation of events and law enforcement operations inside as well as outside of Italy that describe confirmed and suspected 'Ndrangheta organized criminal activities. Comparing the data reveals the disparity in coverage of 'Ndrangheta at various locations, particularly, the differences in coverage in Calabria as compared to northern Italy and abroad where criminal investigations have routinely discovered enormous profits gained from 'Ndrangheta activities. The analysis addresses expansion of 'Ndrangheta's criminal activities throughout numerous northern Italian regions and various countries throughout Europe as well as its extended global expansion, which includes South America and Africa, as well as Australia, Canada, and the United States of America. Included in the analysis is discussion pertaining to 'Ndrangheta's power structure and exploitative impact on environments that make them suitable for its primary and variable methods of engaging in successful organized criminal activities. The ultimate goal of the research is to reveal Ndrangheta's dynamically oriented and innovative organized criminal manifestations to analyze them, and to better understand how media coverage has an impact on locations where 'Ndrangheta operates. It is argued here that media coverage drives how vigorously the public demands anti and counter actions on the part of local, regional, national and international law enforcement and criminal justice entities. A better informed public can also assist in combating 'Ndrangheta organized crime more effectively.

201. Digital Criminology - Digital Methods in Criminological Research I

Topic 8: Methodologies in Criminology/Advances in Qualitative Methods (Qualitative Methods WG)
Roundtable
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.516

The panel brings together scholars engaging with critical, empirical, and methodological approaches to studying crime, justice, and harm in digitally mediated environments. Our goal is to create a space for method-focused dialogue on how criminologists collect, analyse, and interpret digital data, ranging from social media content, platform based interactions and OSINT practices to digital ethnography, algorithmic tools, automated scraping, or hybrid fieldwork. We particularly welcome reflections on methodological challenges, ethics, data governance, platform constraints, and the reshaping of criminological knowledge production in the digital age. Contributors will offer short provocations or brief inputs to spark collective discussion and to assemble a diverse set of methodological perspectives rather than research presentations.

Chair:

Veronika Nagy, VU Amsterdam

Discussants:

Piotr Siuda, Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz
Marco Romagna, The Hague University of Applied Sciences

Participants:

Access as governance: When platform actors become gatekeepers *Piotr Siuda, Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz*

This contribution examines access to illicit online environments not as a technical or logistical problem, but as a form of platform governance that actively shapes the research process. Drawing on a digital ethnography of a Polish darknet drug forum, I show how entry into the field is negotiated with community gatekeepers who impose their own rules, constraints, and ethical expectations on researchers. In this case, access was conditional on approval from the forum administrators, who effectively acted as a quasi-institutional review board: defining acceptable research practices, restricting recruitment strategies, controlling interaction formats, and monitoring potential risks to the community. As a result, core elements of the research design—including sampling, communication channels, and tempo of data collection—were not fully determined by the researcher but co-produced within the platform's governance structure, a process conceptualized as "releasing control" over methodological strategy. I argue that such dynamics require rethinking digital methods in criminology. Rather than assuming researcher autonomy, we should conceptualize access as a negotiated and governed process embedded in platform-specific norms of trust, security, and operational risk. This raises broader questions about the redistribution of epistemic authority, the limits of methodological standardization, and the extent to which research in illicit digital spaces becomes dependent on—and shaped by—the actors it seeks to study. Keywords: digital ethnography, darknet research, methodological innovation, research ethics, platform governance, hard-to-reach populations, illicit online markets

From grey to black markets – A quasi-experimental study on algorithmically driven digital drift opportunities on social

media *Kristoffer Aagesen, University of Copenhagen*

Digital drift theory poses, that actors can more easily drift in and out of criminal online contexts. However, network associations on modern social media are not solely controlled by the user but are also maintained by recommendation algorithms. I will present and discuss methodological developments from of a study into how Snapchat's recommendation algorithms facilitate digital drift in and out of illegal drug networks. Using microsociological observations, we conducted a quasi-experiment with 40 profiles that were allowed to drift from grey markets for nicotine vapes and sex work into drug markets. They then attempted to drift out by severing all social connections on the app. Within the first four days of the experiment 75% of the profiles were directed towards at least one illegal drug seller despite no prior engagement with illegal content. After removing all connections in the app only 30% successfully rid themselves of drug network association. The remaining 70% retained dealer recommendations in the app. Our audit of Snapchat's affordances highlights their criminogenic potential, showing how platform algorithms can actively steer users toward illicit networks, and risks retaining and triggering relapse in user who are trying to leave these networks. These findings underscore how social media platforms function not only as offender convergence spaces but also as facilitators of illegal activity.

Online drug markets as a visual space *Silje Anderdal Bakken, Norwegian Police University College*

The everyday use of digital communication platforms to organize and conduct illegal activity calls for research focusing on the visual aspects of such activity. A vast part of people's everyday social life contains mediating, receiving, and being exposed to various forms of visual representations – also when concerning illegal and deviant activity. As visual media become central in interaction it would limit the scientific understanding of society to keep studying images with words - rather than to include images as primary data. Therefore, digital methods must also be visual methods (Harder and Bakken, 2024). In this discussion, my focus will be on online drug markets as a visual space. As in any part of society, the digitalization of drug markets means increased communication through various platforms designed for image- and/or text-based interaction. I argue that adding a visual perspective therefore allows for a deeper understanding of the cultural dynamics and social practices. I will shortly present three various ways of analyzing visual presentations: the design and visual composition of an online platform to understand online market structure; drug dealers' online profile to analyze trust and risk; and an interdisciplinary approach to emerge illegal activity with legal commerce. A core discussion point is the fluid overlap of textual and visual representations.

202. Mapping the Penological Landscape of the Balkans: Sentencing, Imprisonment and Penal Change

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Penology and Theories Punishment (Crime, Science and Politics WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.517

This panel brings together four presentations regarding Balkan penology and is conceived as a presentation of the forthcoming volume, with particular emphasis on the part of the book that examines prison systems across the Balkans. Offering a comparative perspective on sentencing, imprisonment and penal policy in the region, the panel first situates the volume as a regional collaborative and knowledge-building endeavour, before presenting its main comparative findings on imprisonment, sentencing structures and shared penal challenges across Balkan jurisdictions. It then moves to a country-specific analysis of Croatia, highlighting the tension between formal penal moderation and the continued reliance on deprivation of liberty, and concludes with a broader critical reflection on penal populism, symbolic toughness and the realities of imprisonment in the region. Taken together, the presentations show that the Balkans do not constitute a single penal model, but rather a diverse and analytically rich comparative space shaped by common historical trajectories, institutional constraints and differentiated contemporary penal outcomes. At the same time, the session aims to introduce the book's broader contribution to regional penological scholarship and to open discussion on how prison systems in the Balkans can be better understood through comparative and critically informed analysis.

Chair:

Hans-Jörg Albrecht, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law; Balkan Criminology

Participants:

Creating Balkan Penology: Regional Collaboration, Comparative Perspective and Penal Mapping *Michael Kilchling, Max Planck Institut (Freiburg)*

This presentation offers a general overview of the making of Mapping the Penological Landscape of the Balkans: A Regional Study on Sentencing and Imprisonment with a Critical Analysis of Current Penal Policies as the second major regional "mapping" volume emerging from the wider Balkan Criminology initiative. Developed within the Balkan Criminology network—originally established through the Max Planck Partner Group between Freiburg and the University of Zagreb Faculty of Law—the book builds on the earlier volume Mapping the Criminological Landscape of the Balkans (2014), which sought to place the Balkans more firmly on the European criminological map. The presentation will explain why penology became the next logical focus. While crime, criminal justice and criminological development in the region had already been mapped, sentencing, imprisonment and prison policy remained under-researched in a systematic comparative perspective. The volume therefore set out to examine common regional patterns alongside national specificities across Balkan and neighbouring countries, with each chapter following a shared analytical framework: country background, historical development of sentencing policies, legal and institutional framework of imprisonment, prison population, current debates and critical reflections. By discussing the intellectual, methodological and collaborative foundations of the

book, this presentation highlights Balkan Penology not only as an edited volume, but as a regional knowledge-building project that connects criminology, penology and comparative criminal justice research in Southeast Europe.

Sentencing and Imprisonment in Croatia *Anna-Maria Getoš Kalac, University of Zagreb Faculty of Law*

This presentation explores a central paradox of contemporary Croatian penality: while officially registered crime and the number of convicted persons have generally declined, imprisonment continues to occupy a remarkably strong place in penal practice. Drawing on the Croatian chapter of Balkan Penology, it examines sentencing and imprisonment against the backdrop of major criminal justice reforms, demographic shifts, and persistent institutional weaknesses. Particular attention is paid to the gap between sentencing policy and sentencing practice, as well as to the methodological problems created by inconsistent court and prison statistics. The presentation will further show that Croatian courts rely overwhelmingly on suspended prison sentences, while fines remain marginal and unsuspended prison sentences are still predominantly short, especially in the range of six to twelve months. It also connects sentencing patterns to broader prison realities, including overcrowding in closed conditions, a high and growing share of detainees, staff shortages, inadequate healthcare, and weak oversight. Special emphasis is placed on the increasing heterogeneity of the prison population, particularly the rise in foreign nationals linked to migrant smuggling offences. The Croatian case ultimately reveals a deeper tension between formal penal moderation and continued practical dependence on deprivation of liberty.

Penal Populism and Imprisonment in the Balkans: Between Symbolic Toughness and Penal Reality *Petra Šprem, University in Zagreb, Faculty of Law*

This presentation examines penal populism as a postmodern mode of criminal policymaking in which media salience, moral panics and perceived public demands increasingly shape criminal law and punishment. Focusing on the Balkans, it explores how headline-driven politics contributes to the expansion of criminalisation, the intensification of sanctions and the symbolic use of criminal law as a rapid response to emotionally charged events. The presentation argues, however, that the relationship between penal populism and imprisonment is neither automatic nor linear. While penal-populist reforms often promise toughness, their effects on prison populations are filtered through judicial practice, institutional capacity, alternative sanctions, release mechanisms and broader political and socio-legal contexts. Drawing on selected Balkan examples and a focused Croatian case study, the presentation highlights the selective and uneven nature of punitive change. Particular attention is paid to legislative developments in Croatia between 1997 and 2024, showing that normative hardening has been significant, yet not universal, and that many reforms reflect a complex interaction between domestic penal-populist pressures, Europeanisation and broader policy trends. The presentation ultimately invites discussion on whether contemporary criminal justice systems in transitional settings are becoming more punitive in substance, or primarily more punitive in rhetoric and symbolism.

Balkan Penology in Comparative Perspective: Regional Findings on Sentencing and Imprisonment *Hans-Jörg Albrecht, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law; Balkan Criminology*

This presentation offers a regional overview of the main findings of Mapping the Penological Landscape of the Balkans, a comparative volume examining sentencing, imprisonment and penal policy across the Balkans and selected neighbouring countries. Rather than revealing a single and coherent "Balkan model" of punishment, the volume points to a region marked by diversity in imprisonment levels, sentencing structures, pretrial detention practices and the development of alternatives to custody. At the same time, the comparative perspective also identifies a set of shared challenges that recur across jurisdictions. Among the most important common themes are the continuing centrality of imprisonment in penal practice, the persistent use of short custodial sentences, prison overcrowding, understaffing, uneven prison conditions, and the limited or inconsistent use of non-custodial sanctions. The findings further suggest that probation and other alternatives do not automatically reduce imprisonment and may, in some systems, widen rather than narrow penal control. The regional picture is also shaped by broader structural influences, including post-socialist transformation, demographic decline, migration, European integration, and episodic penal populism. Yet the impact of these factors remains filtered through national legal cultures, institutional capacities and political choices. The presentation argues that the Balkans should therefore be understood not as a uniform penal space, but as a particularly instructive comparative laboratory in which common historical trajectories coexist with highly differentiated contemporary penal outcomes.

203. Criminology and Affect Theory: Thinking Feeling

Topic 6: Perceptions of Crime and Justice/Attitudes about Punishment and Criminal Justice System

Pre-arranged Panel

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.610

Affect theory first arose in the humanities and social sciences as an analytical framework to conceptualize and understand dynamic emotional relationships between individuals and the social environment. Despite the tremendous potential utility for affect theory to assist criminologists with conceptualizing crime and justice, affect remains surprisingly underutilized in criminological research. Uniting research from otherwise geographically and culturally disparate locales under affect's analytical umbrella presents a unique opportunity to demonstrate how criminologists can utilize affect theory to understand aspects of the justice process which otherwise prove elusive. Kreseda Smith presents a theoretical model of farmer affect to analyze the unique ways in which criminal victimization jeopardizes farmers' already precarious sense of

ontological security, with a view to understanding how their affective typologies might provide insights into how people cope with chronic stress. Tiantian Zheng explores the affective dimensions of intimate partner violence in China by analyzing emotions such as shame, grief, and anger not as private states of mind, but as affects deeply embedded in political and institutional processes, proposing instead the concept of affective justice to reimagine an institutional accountability grounded in emotion, human dignity, and care. Dragana Derlic focuses on the affective dynamics of incarceration by examining how solitary confinement in prison shapes emotional and sensory experiences, disrupts perceptions of time, and affects psychological wellbeing through the trauma of emotional deprivation and sensory isolation. Susan Dewey and Brittany VandeBerg present three theoretical interventions in their exploration of how incarcerated women experience the inherent contradictions between prison as a traumatic environment and trauma-informed prison policy by presenting three interventions into affect theory: mandatory resilience, institutional resilience and resistance, and institutional affects. Taken together, papers on this panel represent the diverse applicability of affect theory to criminology, as emphasized in the panelists' forthcoming Routledge International Handbook of Criminology and Affect Theory.

Chair:

Susan Dewey, The University of Alabama

Participants:

The Frontier of Farmers, Feelings, and Fear: Crime, Affect, and Coping *Kreseda Smith, Harper Adams University*

It is a fact that farmers are stressed. It is also a fact that farming globally is one of the sectors that consistently reports some of the highest levels of suicide. They have to deal with the weather, finances, paperwork, and machinery breakdown among other things within a time-sensitive, high-pressure environment. Farmers across the world have developed an impressive level of ontological security that enables them to juggle these competing chronic stressors in their own way. But if you throw in an acute stressor, such as crime, this can have a devastating effect on a farmer's ability to cope. This discussion explores a theoretical model of farmer affect and how this could be used by farmers and rural practitioners to understand how different farmers cope with competing stressors, recover from a stress event, and survive within this industry. It is argued that by having this understanding farmers themselves, but also those who support farmers, can tailor the response to inevitable chronic and acute stressors with the aim of better preparing farmers to manage their own response to stressful events. Even where it seems that a farmer is 'handling' the daily stressors he or she faces, the underlying affective response may suggest otherwise. In many cases, being seen to cope may not be enough. This theoretical affective typology may enable the right help at the right time and in the right way. It is no understatement to suggest that understanding their affective typology could help save their lives.

Affective Risks, Criminal Justice System, and Intimate Partner Violence in Postsocialist China *Tiantian Zheng, SUNY Cortland*

Based on the ethnographic research with women victims, male abusers, police, judges, and government officials in China from 2014 to 2021, this paper explores the adverse impact of the affective risks of criminal justice system and state apparatus on women victims of intimate partner violence in postsocialist China. Based on ethnographic data, it approaches emotions such as shame, grief, and anger not as private states of mind, but as affects deeply embedded in political and institutional processes. It demonstrates that, instead of protecting women victims and mitigating violence, criminal justice system and state apparatus, shaped by state-sponsored ethos that prioritizes harmony and social stability, often reinscribes the secondary "system-level" and institution-level emotional trauma onto women through structural oppression and structural violence within the legal system. State apparatus and criminal justice system's victim-blaming, indifference, cold dismissal, and biased and unequal sentencing induce affective risks of emotional trauma and psychological harm on women victims. The ethnographic data breaks the silence of women victims and exposes what is otherwise obscured and invisible the emotional injuries and affective harms inflicted by the very institutions tasked with protection. The paper concludes by proposing affective justice to reimagine an institutional accountability grounded in emotion, human dignity, and care - an indispensable step toward future legal and social transformation in China.

Carceral Affects: Narratives of Solitary Confinement from Formerly Incarcerated Individuals *Dragana Derlic, Georgia Southern University*

Solitary confinement is a common tool in U.S. prisons, yet its profound emotional and psychological toll is often overlooked. Drawing on affect theory, which emphasizes emotional climates, sensory experience, and trauma, this study examines the lived emotional experiences of formerly incarcerated individuals subjected to solitary confinement. Previous research which documents adverse outcomes, anxiety, paranoia, insomnia, and hallucinations, often relies on administrative data, missing the nuanced perspectives of those directly impacted. This study, however, uses qualitative, narrative-based methods, analyzing books authored by formerly incarcerated individuals between 2010 and 2024. Through thematic content analysis, the study explores how solitary confinement shapes emotional and sensory experiences, disrupts perceptions of time, and affects psychological wellbeing. The study also considers variation across institutional contexts and individual characteristics such as gender and race. By centering the voices of those who endured solitary confinement, this study highlights the embodied and affective dimensions of solitary confinement that are largely invisible in policy discussions. Findings reveal recurring themes of emotional deprivation, sensory isolation, trauma, and coping strategies, illustrating how solitary confinement produces profound affective harms beyond behavioral outcomes. These insights advance theoretical understandings of carceral affect while providing evidence for trauma-informed policies that acknowledge the emotional landscapes of incarceration. The findings also underscore the value of

narrative-driven research in capturing the complex emotional realities of criminal justice systems, advocating for reforms that prioritize human dignity and psychological wellbeing.

Doing (Gender-Informed, Trauma-Responsive) Time: The Work of Emotions in Southern Women's Prisons *Susan Dewey, The University of Alabama; Brittany VandeBerg, University of Alabama*

In prison, gender-responsive, trauma-informed approaches revolve around the principle that women fare best in a supportive environment which strengthens their relationships with children and other loved ones, fosters self-sufficiency, ensures holistic post-release services provision, and provides mental health treatment specific to women's histories of trauma and victimization. These approaches first emerged at a sociopolitical and historical juncture wherein the mass incarceration of women and girls coalesced with the consolidation of the first generation of feminist criminologists and women prison administrators in positions offering real opportunities to make meaningful changes to women's prisons. These researchers and practitioners rightfully objected to a status quo which administered prisons as institutions built by men for men, yet Despite its generally positive reception through implementation across many women's prisons internationally, gender responsivity has also prompted criticisms. Critics regard this approach as repackaging "control as the caring provision of social services" and regard correctional institutions as inherently traumatizing places wholly inappropriate to the provision of therapeutic, trauma-informed programs. Others have additionally cautioned that gender-responsive, trauma-informed institutional efforts are thwarted when women release into community with few social supports. Gender-responsive, trauma-informed approaches nonetheless remain the gold standard for working with incarcerated women nationwide, although their implementation generally remains confined to specific aspects of prison operations, such as program offerings, rather than the kind of institution-wide implementation researchers recommend. Through analysis based on long-term immersive ethnographic research in women's prisons in the U.S. South, the authors explore how these contradictions manifest in everyday prison life by positing three theoretical interventions: mandatory resilience, institutional resilience and resistance, and institutional affects.

204. EUROC Panel 6. Intersections of Corporate, White-Collar, and Organised Crime (1)

Topic 2: Types of Offending/White collar Crime, Organizational Crime, Corporate Crime, Financial Crime (EUROC)

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.611

Chair:

Johan Dahlberg, Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå) and Department of Sociology, Stockholm University

Participants:

Cartels as Organizational Crime: Structure, Opportunity and Social Control *Raluca Florescu, PhD Candidate, Faculty of Law, "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest*

Illegal cartels and price-fixing are recognized components of white-collar crime, but have historically been treated as technical regulatory violations involving limited moral culpability. However, cartels generate substantial social harm and raise core criminological questions about corporate deviance, coordination, and control. The paper proposes a structured framework for analyzing cartels through three dimensions: structure, opportunity, and social control. First, cartels operate as horizontal networks of otherwise legitimate competitors, in which the firm itself becomes the vehicle of the offense. Criminal networks such as cartels are among the key facilitators convenience when executives commit white-collar crime, with privileged positional access and lack of internal guardianship enabling both the commission and concealment of the offense. Second, this paper applies the convenience theory to the cartel context. White-collar misconduct occurs when there is a financial motive benefiting the individual or the organization, an organizational opportunity to commit and conceal crime, and individual willingness for deviant behavior. In cartel settings, oligopolistic market structures function as criminogenic environments that reduce the effort required to coordinate, while neutralization techniques (such as denial of harm and denial of victim) enable participants to rationalize misconduct. Third, the paper examines the limits of social control over cartels. Enforcement within the European Union remains predominantly administrative and firm-centered, with limited individual accountability. Leniency programs have functioned as key detection tools, effectively institutionalizing defection within cartels. However, their recent decline and the reduction in enforcement activity point to a growing gap between the prevalence of cartel behavior and its detection. Finally, white-collar crime harms victims directly but also affects the broader community. Drawing on competition law enforcement data from the European Commission and national authorities, the paper argues for a more systematic engagement with cartels as organizational crimes characterized by identifiable structures, opportunity conditions, and control deficits.

Exploring the Relations Between Firms and Organized Crime: Towards a Typology Through a Literature Review *Tea Maistro, University of Milan; Giovanni Radaelli, Warwick Business School, University of Warwick; Anna Mori, University of Milan; Marco Guerci, University of Milan*

Although prior research on organized crime and OCG–firm relationships has extensively examined OCGs' strategies, motivations, and market infiltration, less attention has been devoted to firms as organizational actors with distinct characteristics, interests, and forms of agency. To address this gap, we adopt an integrative and generative literature review that reconnects fragmented studies across multiple disciplines and

reinterprets them through a firm-centered lens. We thus review the literature on relationships between firms and organized crime groups (OCGs) to clarify (i) what kinds of firms interact with OCGs, (ii) why they do so, and (iii) how these relationships are governed. Treating OCG-firm relationships as a form of inter-organizational relationship, we draw on transaction cost economics, resource dependence, and strategic choice perspectives to synthesize the evidence resulting from the 52 studies analyzed - identified through keyword searches, issue-by-issue journal screening, and backward and forward citation tracking. Substantively, -regarding the three review guiding questions- the literature suggests that (i) firms differ not only in their exposure to OCG pressure but (ii) also in their willingness to engage: some firms are coerced into ties for survival in hostile environments, while others voluntarily collaborate with OCGs to obtain illicit services, strategic resources, market advantages, or political influence. Also, (iii) governance mechanisms vary accordingly, ranging from fear and intimidation to corruption and forms of pseudo-trust. Building on these findings, we propose a typology of four firm profiles—resigned, antagonistic, cooperative, and collaborative—based on the degree of voluntariness in the relationship and whether the interaction serves survival or development aims, challenging the dominant image of the homogeneous "victim firm" and highlighting firms' heterogeneous agency. We conclude by outlining a research agenda on institutional contexts, misconduct as a service, clandestine governance, anti-resilience tactics, and hidden organizational actors, while deriving implications for managers, policymakers, and law enforcement.

Marketised Healthcare, and Turkey's Newborn Gang *esin damar, Gendarmerie and Coast Guard Academy*

Private healthcare systems that subordinate clinical governance to profit create structural conditions in which medical deviance can escalate into organised crime. This paper examines Turkey's newborn gang case as a comparative case study to test whether the theoretical framework developed in my doctoral research on medical deviance in the UK private healthcare sector travels beyond its original empirical context. Employing documentary case study analysis, the presentation draws on court records, indictment materials, trial proceedings, and professional body statements from 2023–2025. The Turkish case offers a rich documentary record: operations were captured in recorded communications, indictment materials detail falsification techniques transmitted across multiple institutions, and both the Istanbul Medical Chamber and the Turkish Medical Association issued formal statements diagnosing the case in explicitly structural terms. Detection came not through any regulatory mechanism but through a citizen complaint. This failure is structural: Turkey's Ministry of Health simultaneously administers the reimbursement system that incentivised the fraud and holds formal responsibility for oversight, a conflict of interest the Turkish Medical Association's own ethics declarations identify as endemic to marketised healthcare. These findings resonate with my UK research, where private hospital managers described commercial pressures shaping responses to misconduct, information-sharing failures, and a systemic preference for internal resolution over regulatory escalation. Where the UK case reveals these dynamics under partial regulatory constraint through GMC and CQC oversight, the Turkish case shows what happens in a near-total regulatory vacuum, an extreme that isolates regulatory design as the critical variable. Contributing to criminological debates on the crimes of the powerful, this presentation argues that the conditions enabling medical deviance in the UK are part of a cross-national pattern rooted in profit-driven healthcare, and that regulatory architecture, not individual character, is the decisive factor.

Companies as Tools of Crime: Corporate Involvement in the Criminal Milieu *Johan Dahlberg, Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå) and Department of Sociology, Stockholm University*

Legitimate business structures play an important role in many forms of serious and organized crime. Companies can provide offenders with legitimacy, access to regulated markets, and financial infrastructure, while also obscuring control and responsibility. Despite growing policy attention, there is limited systematic empirical research—particularly in a Nordic context—on how companies are used as tools of crime, who controls them, and which system-level vulnerabilities enable such use. This paper presents results from a government-commissioned study by the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå). It examines how companies are used within the criminal milieu in Sweden, focusing on individuals connected to criminal networks and their formal involvement in companies. The study asks: How are companies used by network-associated offenders, and what patterns and system-level vulnerabilities can be identified? The analysis combines large-scale register data with qualitative material. Police intelligence data on network-associated individuals are linked to administrative registers covering corporate ownership and management, taxation, insolvency, employment, public subsidies, and regulatory permits. This is complemented by interviews with practitioners, intelligence material, and excerpts from decrypted criminal communications. The results show that formal company involvement among network-associated offenders is relatively common but highly uneven. Around one fifth of individuals have held at least one formal role, while a small subgroup is involved in many companies, often for short periods. These companies frequently display indicators of non-serious activity, including high public debt, low reported turnover, and limited transparency, consistent with instrumental use for financial transactions, false invoicing, and access to public funds. The study also identifies recurring system-level vulnerabilities, including limited background checks, reliance on self-reported information, and restricted information sharing between authorities. By highlighting these patterns, the paper contributes to research on economic and organized crime and provides insights for crime

prevention at the intersection of criminal justice and administrative control systems.

205. Crime, Technology and Public Accountability

Topic 6: Perceptions of Crime and Justice/Political and Social Discourses about Crime and Justice (Crime, Science and Politics WG)

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.616

Chair:

David Baker, University of Liverpool

Participants:

Comparing refugee migration policies in Germany and the United States: Implications for social cohesion, perceived safety, and violent crime *Eileen M. Ahlin, Penn State Harrisburg*

Social cohesion among residents is closely linked to their perceptions of community safety. Research indicates that the presence of refugees in a community can affect these perceptions by weakening social ties among residents, particularly in areas with high levels of social disorder (e.g., drug use, violent crime). It is important to understand whether refugee migration policies strengthen or weaken social ties within communities, as these ties influence safety and cohesion. This paper examines the interplay between refugee migration policies and community-level social dynamics in Germany and the United States. While both nations have experienced significant refugee inflows, their policy frameworks differ markedly in terms of admission criteria, integration programs, and local governance structures. Using a comparative approach, we analyze how these policies shape communities and safety. Drawing on existing literature and secondary data, we explore whether inclusive integration strategies foster stronger interpersonal trust and social cohesion, and whether restrictive or fragmented approaches correlate with heightened safety concerns. Findings suggest that Germany's emphasis on structured integration and social support networks may contribute to more positive neighborhood relations, whereas the U.S. model – characterized by decentralized resettlement and limited federal integration mandates – presents mixed outcomes. This study contributes to ongoing debates on migration policy effectiveness by linking macro-level governance to micro-level community experiences, offering insights to policymakers seeking to balance humanitarian obligations with public safety and social stability.

Is crime really down or are we witnessing a Michelin Star level cooking the books phenomenon? *Maria Haberfeld, John Jay College of Criminal Justice*

"The numbers do not lie" – seems to be the mantra circulated by police executives in major American cities. However, the numbers can lie, it all depends upon how you operationalize the concept of "crime being down". For example, the New York City Police Department will classify a shooting event as an actual shooting event only if the shell casings are found on the scene of the crime, if there is no victim present. Absent the victim and the shell casings the event will be classified as "noise". This paper discusses the importance of proper classification of criminal events to allow for focused deployment rather than bragging rights for misleading claims.

Palantir in the Press: Media Representations of Data-Driven Social Control in Germany *Rebekka Buerkert, University of Muenster; Jens Struck, University of Muenster*

The deployment of Palantir Technologies' software 'Gotham' by German police forces has sparked considerable public controversy. The software, which links data from social media, public registration records, and case management systems, is currently used in three federal states, with further expansion underway and a constitutional complaint filed in 2025. These developments raise broader criminological questions about the mediatization of data-assisted social control and the role of public discourse in legitimizing or contesting surveillance infrastructures. This paper examines how the German national press has framed Palantir and data-driven policing between January 2017 and March 2026. The paper draws on a full corpus of articles mentioning 'Palantir' across seven major outlets (Der Spiegel, Die Welt, Bild, Die Zeit, FAZ, SZ, taz), retrieved via systematic database queries, and conducts a discourse analysis. The sample covers politically diverse outlets, enabling comparison across discursive positions. Preliminary analysis identifies several overlapping discourse strands, including Palantir as an instrument of domestic social control, its embeddedness in a politically charged tech-industry network, and debates over European digital sovereignty. The paper discusses implications for the normalization of data-driven policing and the role of media in negotiating the boundaries of legitimate surveillance. Keywords: Palantir, Policing, Media, Artificial Intelligence, Social Control

Transparency in the Wake of an Accountability Crisis: Proactive Police Communication about Policy Governing their Use of Camera-Based and Artificial Intelligence-enhanced Technologies *Andrea Slane, Ontario Tech University; Christopher OConnor, Ontario Tech University*

In early 2020, multiple Canadian police services were implicated in a scandal following revelations they had quietly used Clearview AI, a facial recognition tool which allowed police to compare an image of an unidentified person to a database of millions of images scraped from the internet and social media. The scandal exposed a gap in police governance of new technology use, a lack of transparency about it, and illustrated how a rights-infringing technology could make its way into police use without any safeguards or accountability mechanisms in place. Focusing on the province of Ontario's 43 municipal police services, this study asks how effectively police services are communicating their efforts to address the accountability gap exposed by the Clearview scandal. We examined current proactive police communication practices regarding governance of their use of a full range of camera-based and artificial intelligence-enhanced technologies that have raised rights-

protection concerns (e.g. body-worn and closed-circuit cameras, automatic license plate readers, remote piloted aircraft, facial recognition, and video analytics). The study examined the most prominent means by which Ontario's municipal police services communicate with the public about their use of such technologies, namely websites, annual reports, strategic plans, public presentations at police service board meetings, and social media. The proactive communication content was analyzed for the depth of policy information provided to the public, and what policy elements were communicated (if any), namely legal compliance, data handling practices, bias risk mitigation, authorization processes and limitations, public engagement practices, and internal oversight mechanisms. The study determined patterns that indicate the emergence of some norms, but also a lot of idiosyncrasies. The study points to transparency and oversight gaps that remain, and suggests how these can be more effectively addressed.

Preventable deaths, coroners and denial *David Baker, University of Liverpool*

In Anglophone common law systems, coroners investigate deaths that are suspicious or unnatural. They consider a wide range of death types, including (but not limited to): deaths in prison; in police custody; in health and social care facilities; and in immigration detention. This paper examines how effective they are at: a) establishing the truth about how deaths occur; and, b) contributing to the prevention of future deaths. It argues that coroners are relatively effective at the former but ineffective at the latter. The paper therefore seeks to understand how establishing the truth about deaths typically does not translate into learning that prevents future deaths. Cohen's (2001) states of denial thesis is used to interrogate how the failure to learn lessons is systemic and emerges from political bases. This ultimately shapes how preventable deaths are conceived of and represented which in turn furthers societal denial about such deaths. The paper explores a central theme from the upcoming book co-authored with Dr Hugh Dillon (University of New South Wales, Australia): Death, truth, accountability and justice: Coroners in the Anglophone world (Routledge 2027).

206. Crime, Justice, and Foreign Affairs: Forthcoming edited volume

Topic 7: Comparative and Historical Perspectives/Transnational Crime and Justice (Organized Crime WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.014

Criminal justice is an integrated—but underexplored—dimension of states' foreign affairs. Criminologists have studied the widening net of global crime governance as part of the liberal international project, where efforts to fight transnational and international crimes and insecurities while promoting penal reform in the Global South have dovetailed liberal universals of human rights, rule of law, democracy, and development (Lohne 2019; Russo and Stambøl 2022; see also Cohen 1982). Today, due in part to seismic geopolitical shifts, the liberal international order underpinning these discourses, and their practices are in rapid decline (Goddard et al., 2024; Lake et al., 2021). Crime, Justice, and Foreign Affairs is a forthcoming volume that explores the relationship between criminal justice and notions of order-making beyond territorial sovereignty: How do crime control policies, practices, logics, and technologies of crime governance factor in the foreign policy toolbox? How is criminal justice part of states' external logics and manifestations of sovereign power—and their efforts to contribute to global order-making? By offering a set of original empirical analyses of the "external" logics of crime governance from a diverse set of authors from around the world, the book seeks to advance criminological knowledge on how penality fares outside the territorially bounded nation-state order of analysis. Such a rescaled focus on order and order-making represents a new direction in criminology, which despite its fixation on social order, has by and large taken international order for granted.

Chair:

Kjersti Lohne, University of Oslo

Participants:

Introduction *Kjersti Lohne, University of Oslo; Randi Solhjell, University of Oslo*

The introduction sets out the aim of the book, namely to contribute to the crossing of the Criminology/International Relations (IR) divide (Loader & Percy, 2017). Whereas work bridging criminology and IR focuses on security (Aradau and van Muster 2009; Bigo, 2016; Heath-Kelly, 2025), this book addresses how also other core topics in IR—international order, conflict and geopolitical struggle, political economy, global governance, international justice, and status-work among states in the international order—affect the study of crime, justice and order-making. The introduction survey the history and literature on the relation between criminology and international relations (Aradau & van Munster, 2009; Jakobi, 2013; Loader & Percy, 2017) and related literatures such as global (Franko, 2020), transnational (Sheptycki & Wardak, 2005) and Southern/postcolonial (Carrington et al., 2015; Cunneen & Tauri, 2016) criminologies.

Norway, the EU and the Politics of Humane Incarceration *Katrine Antonsen, Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law, University of Oslo; Randi Solhjell, University of Oslo*

This chapter explores how Norway uses humane incarceration as a foreign policy instrument in its relationship with the European Union. We focus on the European Economic Area and Norway Grants Agreements in funding prison reform and correctional services in Eastern Europe. We argue that these funds advance liberal norms, showcases Norway's penal exceptionalism, and secures its economic and geopolitical interests while remaining outside the EU. The chapter included a review of 180 prison related projects (2004-2021) and finds a shift from a security-oriented phase (2004-2009), to a phase centred on rehabilitation, social inclusion, and vulnerable groups (2009-2014), to a phase market by large-scale export of Norwegian penal models and expertise to help these states meet European human rights and rule of law

standards (2014-2021). We then analyse these foreign policy tools through interviews with key practitioners and policy makers. We find brand alignment where Norway's humanitarian profile and its reputation as a "good punisher" are fused to gain recognition, influence and market access. We finally reflect on the fragility of soft power amid increasing contestation of the liberal international in the EU and North America.

Crime, Criminal Legal Reform, and Foreign Policy in Trinidad and Tobago *Nathan W. Pino, Texas State University, USA*

Trinidad and Tobago (T&T), a post-colonial small-island state in the Caribbean located off the coast of Venezuela, faces numerous challenges including economic volatility, political gridlock, the external influence of hegemonic powers, and consistently having one of the highest murder rates in the world. Along with the occasional influence of Canada and the United Kingdom (UK), the United States (US) continues its efforts to control and manage T&T as part of its foreign policy, heavily influencing the economic, political, military, and criminal legal systems of the two-island state. T&T has governed through globalized crime multilaterally and bilaterally with the United States (US) in numerous ways that benefit both local elites and the geostrategic, political, and economic interests of the US. Policies based on the wars on drugs and terror, austerity, and oil extraction are increasingly framed within the context of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), economic development, human rights, democratic governance, and the rule of law, even though outcomes of the policies run counter to the SDGs. The authors discuss the implications of these trends for criminology and international relations, and the future of crime governance in T&T.

Geopolitical Dependency and Criminal Justice Governance in Bosnia and Herzegovina *Nejra Veljan, Atlantic Initative; Mirza Buljubašić, Faculty of Criminal Justice, Criminology, and Security Studies, University of Sarajevo*

This chapter explores how international authority was exercised through criminal justice institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina after the Dayton Peace Agreement. Drawing on decisions of the Office of the High Representative, communiqués of the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board, and related institutional reports from 1995 to 2025, it traces a shift in the function of criminal law over time. In the early postwar period, externally backed reforms were used to construct courts, legal frameworks, and judicial governance bodies. As cohesion among external sponsors weakened and domestic political contestation intensified, criminal law increasingly served to enforce compliance with the institutional order those reforms had created. To explain this shift, the chapter introduces geopolitical dependency, a reciprocal but unequal relationship in which external sponsors rely on domestic political elites and legal institutions to give effect to externally backed decisions, while those actors depend on international recognition, support, and validation. The chapter shows how criminal justice moved from a mechanism of institutional construction to one of institutional preservation under conditions of growing geopolitical rivalry.

Universal Jurisdiction Trials as an Exercise of the Responsibility to Protect *Maartje Weerdesteijn, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; Lachezar Yanev, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*

'Responsibility to protect' (R2P) and 'universal jurisdiction' (UJ) are two conceptually distinct, yet teleologically related notions: They are both tools in the global discourse on preventing the commission of 'core' international crimes and, thereby, promoting the international rule of law. At the same time, UJ and R2P are concepts in which foundational criminological foci – crime prevention and criminal accountability – are enacted outside of state borders. They are both concerned with addressing crime in a global context, yet both concepts have been heavily criticized for their potential to infringe on state sovereignty and hamper international relations. While UJ and R2P have drawn much criminological attention, the manner in which these two interlinked concepts operate in the global landscape, has never before been analysed in depth. This chapter examines the intersectionalities between the (second pillar of) R2P and UJ by looking at how states have utilized their criminal justice systems to address the commission of international crimes in Syria, Ukraine, Gaza and beyond. Specifically, we analyze the extent to which UJ prosecutions could be seen as, and form an important component of, the second pillar of the R2P doctrine while also noting certain pitfalls around the selectivity of such trials.

207. AI, Impersonation and Liability in Digital Crime

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Cybercrime (Cybercrime WG)
Paper Session
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.116

Chair:
Laura Maria Stanila, West University Timisoara, Romania

Participants:

Cybercriminal Profiling Techniques in the Age of Artificial Intelligence *Adrian Cristian Moise, Spiru Haret University of Bucharest*

The communication aims to present scientific techniques that determine the personality and behavioral characteristics of cyberspace criminals by using research methods from the fields of social sciences, computers and criminology in the era of artificial intelligence. Unlike real space, in cyberspace, when outlining the profile of a criminal, an interdisciplinary approach is necessary, being useful not only knowledge from psychology, criminology and law, but also knowledge from the field of new technologies, including the field of artificial intelligence. The communication presents and analyzes several typologies of cybercriminals, their personality and motivation, the communication attempting to establish the profile of these cybercriminals. Knowing the personality of cybercriminals is important for identifying measures to prevent and combat the phenomenon of cybercrime. The study of the personality of cybercriminals involves an approach to all social factors that determine and influence criminal

behavior in virtual space, as well as the psychological characteristics of these cybercriminals. Artificial intelligence, which uses efficient algorithms to detect risks in committing crimes in cyberspace and to prevent these illegal acts, can also be used to detect the profile of a cybercriminal. Artificial intelligence-based algorithms can sift through a significant amount of data to uncover risks and are used to detect, prevent, and even anticipate future cybercrimes or types of criminal behavior. An artificial intelligence system can contribute to crime scene prediction using the artificial intelligence data mining approach, but it can also contribute to anticipating a cybercriminal who will commit a crime in the future, using the technique of identifying people in the facial recognition system, as well as by discovering behavioral changes of cybercriminals.

Digital Doppelgangers: A Typology of AI-Facilitated Online Impersonation *Marie-Helen Maras, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York, USA; Emily R Ives, University of Virginia*

Criminals continuously adapt their tactics, targets, tools, and methods of operation. Unsurprisingly, criminals have utilized emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), in the commission of crime. Research on the role of AI in cybercrime, particularly online impersonation, is limited. Because little is known about AI-facilitated online impersonation, this research will examine the use of this emerging technology in impersonating real people and in creating synthetic identities. The aims of the research are three-fold: 1) to situate online impersonation (of both a real person and a synthetic identity) within the broader literature on cybercrime and fraud; 2) to identify the role of artificial intelligence in this cybercrime; and 3) to develop a typology of AI-facilitated online impersonation that identifies the gender, age, and nationality of offenders and victims; the size, structure, and roles of members of any identified groups; and the actors' and/or groups' tactics, tools, targets, areas of operation, and modus operandi. The findings can be used to inform future research on this crime.

Who's Responsible for Cryptocurrency Fraud? Analyzing Crimes, Arbitrating Disputes, and Determining Liability *Emily R Ives, University of Virginia; Marie-Helen Maras, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York, USA*

Cryptocurrency disputes increasingly rely on arbitration clauses, yet little is known about how arbitration shapes accountability in cases involving fraud and security failures. This study examines cryptocurrency arbitration through a mixed-methods analysis of legal opinions, news reports, and arbitration filings involving cryptocurrency exchanges. We analyze a sample of cases identified through NexisUni searches and detailed arbitration claims, including consolidated demands involving hundreds of victims alleging unauthorized crypto transfers linked to platform vulnerabilities, often arising from liquidity mining scams that exploit malicious smart contracts. Our analysis identifies characteristics of victims and offenders, common patterns in cryptocurrency fraud, types of claims, and alleged offender and platform practices, including the exploitation of smart contracts and insufficient user protections by cryptocurrency exchange companies. These results can inform policy discussions and future research on cryptocurrency fraud and dispute resolution.

GenAI - Tool or Perpetrator? Potential Implications for Criminal Liability *Laura Maria Stanila, West University Timisoara, Romania*

The rapid integration of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) across virtually all domains of human activity has reshaped its role from a purely technical instrument into an influential component of decision-making and social interaction. Individuals increasingly rely on GenAI not only for professional and practical purposes but also for emotional support, sometimes developing strong psychological attachments. In certain extreme cases, such reliance has been associated with harmful outcomes, including self-harm, suicide, or acts of public violence, raising complex questions about causation and the allocation of responsibility. This paper examines whether GenAI should continue to be understood solely as a neutral tool or whether its growing autonomy and behavioral influence call for a reassessment of traditional concepts of criminal liability. Particular focus is placed on situations in which GenAI systems generate outputs that may encourage, facilitate, or fail to prevent harmful conduct, especially in interactions with vulnerable users. The analysis explores the extent to which responsibility can be attributed to human actors—such as users, developers, and deployers—in light of the emerging "responsibility gap" associated with systems capable of semi-autonomous decision-making. While current legal frameworks do not recognize GenAI as a bearer of criminal liability, due to the absence of consciousness, intent, and moral agency, this paper argues that an exclusively human-centered model of liability may prove increasingly insufficient. It proposes a more nuanced approach grounded in expanded notions of foreseeability, duty of care, and risk allocation in the design and deployment of AI systems. Ultimately, maintaining the legitimacy of criminal law in the digital age requires acknowledging the complex interplay between human agency and technologically mediated influence, without prematurely attributing perpetrator status to GenAI.

208. EUROC Roundtable 3. The dark side of the ball: Governance vulnerabilities and criminal risks in European professional football

Topic 2: Types of Offending/White collar Crime, Organizational Crime, Corporate Crime, Financial Crime (EUROC)
Roundtable
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.118

This roundtable examines the intersection between professional football and crime, focusing on the vulnerabilities of European football clubs to financial crime and illicit influence. While football has long been associated with match-fixing and hooliganism, recent cases have highlighted a broader set of

criminal risks – in particular related to money laundering, tax crime, bankruptcy fraud – often enabled by complex cross-border ownership structures and opaque investment vehicles. While the EU anti-money laundering regulation will introduce, since 2029, due diligence obligations on professional football teams and agents, lower-tier leagues remain largely unmonitored and exposed to illicit financial flows. The roundtable will discuss recent contributions and on-going research in this field, in particular from Italy (Addesa and Riccardi), the United Kingdom (Duncan and Lord) and the Netherlands (Nelen). By bringing together insights from these studies, the panel aims to identify common structural vulnerabilities across national contexts, and discuss how different regulatory environments, club ownership models, and financial oversight mechanisms shape the exposure of football clubs to criminal risks. With the involvement of Stefano Caneppele (Uni Lausanne) as Discussant, the roundtable will also address implications for supervisory authorities (national leagues, UEFA, FIFA) in terms of regulation and transparency, and future research directions on the relationship between sport governance and financial crime.

Chair:

Hans Nelen, Maastricht University

Discussants:

Michele Riccardi, Transcrime - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Stefano Caneppele, University of Lausanne

Participants:

Staying Onside: English Football, Illicit Finance, and the Incoming anti-money laundering (AML) Regime *Nicholas Lord, The University of Manchester, UK*

This paper examines the intersection of English professional football and illicit finance, with a particular focus on club ownership structures and their potential to be misused for the management of illicit finances. While the sport generates unprecedented revenues and global influence, the 2025 UK National Risk Assessment has, for the first time, explicitly identified the football industry as vulnerable to money laundering and related financial crimes. However, systematic evidence remains absent, and policy debates often conflate qualitatively distinct risks, from kleptocracy and organised crime to tax evasion and money laundering. Building on our earlier research (Duncan and Lord, 2024), this study investigates the ownership networks of clubs across the Premier League and English Football League (Championship, League 1, and League 2) during the 2024–25 season. Using data triangulated from ORBIS, Kyckr, and numerous open sources, the analysis assesses the following characteristics of ownership structures: organisational complexity, use of secrecy jurisdictions, and obscuration of beneficial ownership. Findings show EPL and Championship clubs display higher levels of complexity and offshore incorporation than lower-league clubs, with frequent use of designated high-secrecy jurisdictions such as the United States, Cayman Islands, and British Virgin Islands. We argue these characteristics create conditions of possibility which could be exploited by motivated offenders. Their presence in the ownership structures of football clubs underscore the need for enhanced scrutiny of ownership arrangements, improved transparency around beneficial ownership, and proactive engagement from clubs and regulators alike.

Burying the head in the sand a bit deeper? How to enhance critical thinking on fraud and money laundering in European professional football *Hans Nelen, Maastricht University*

This presentation follows from the 2022 publication of a book by the same author on financial malpractices in the world of professional football, titled Ostrageous. As the title suggests, that book both covered the outrageous business patterns and habits – and the associated financial crime risks – that have manifested themselves in this line of industry and our inclination to turn a blind eye to these developments (portrayed by the image of the ostrich). The current presentation focusses on the aftermath of the publication of the book and addresses the main reasons why the image of the ostrich has turned out to be even more powerful than the author thought at first sight. While the book has led to a vivid debate in the academic world on the future of professional football, the professional football industry itself remained reluctant in accepting invitations to discuss the crime problems in the sector more in depth. In the meantime, many new financial scandals in the world of European football have emerged.

Palloni sgonfiati. An empirical investigation of the opacity of Italian football clubs as enabler of fraud and financial distress *Francesco Addesa, Leeds Beckett University, Carnegie School of Sport; Michele Riccardi, Transcrime - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore*

In recent years, the increasing volume of foreign investors, as well as concerns related to multi-property ownership, conflict of interests and collusion between football clubs and sponsors, or with footballers' agents, have called for a better understanding of who is behind football clubs. Despite these alerts, the empirical knowledge on the ownership of European football clubs remains weak. Few – merely descriptive - studies exist, mainly focused on English and Dutch football. This paper investigates 265 clubs enrolled in the top four Italian calcio leagues (Serie A, B, C and D) in order to (i) trace beneficial owners or ultimate beneficiaries of Italian clubs, (ii) identify indicators of opacity and anomalies in ownership structures, (iii) examine whether ownership opacity is correlated with cases of bankruptcies, point deductions, league exclusions, and criminal events. The study sheds light on the degree of foreign exposure of Italian football, especially in terms of owners from high-risk jurisdictions in the lower divisions. The results also show that the likelihood of point deductions or exclusion from the league is higher for those clubs involving investment funds or corporate vehicles that do not allow for the identification of beneficial owners, as well as for those with higher turnover in ownership and management. The paper eventually suggests policy recommendations on how to increase the transparency in football and how to better monitor movements of fraudulent investors from one club (or country) to another.

209. Working Group on Organized Crime and Criminal

Networks - Panel 1 - Mafias: Secrecy, Vulnerability and Resilience

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Organized Crime (Organized Crime WG)

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.130

Chair:

Clara Rondani, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Participants:

An Offer We Can Refuse: Criminal Governance and Civil Society: The Addiopizzo Model of Resilience *Salvatore COLUCCELLO, Universita' del Salento*

This paper examines how civil society can challenge criminal governance by focusing on the Addiopizzo movement in Palermo. Mafias such as Cosa Nostra are not only criminal organisations but also political actors that exercise territorial sovereignty, supply protection, mediate disputes, and penetrate legal and illegal markets, thereby offering governance services where the state is weak or complicit. Through intimidation, omertà, and dense networks operating in the grey zone between business and politics, they impose a parallel legal order in which the payment of pizzo functions as a routine tax of the shadow state. Against this background, Addiopizzo mobilises shopkeepers, professionals, students, consumers, and associations to refuse the protection racket and collectively denounce extortion. By transforming pizzo from a "normal" cost of doing business into a visible public wrong, the movement undermines the mafia's claim to legitimate authority, erodes its social capital, and begins to reallocate protection functions back to public institutions and horizontal civic networks. Addiopizzo thus operates as a counter-governance project that contests mafia sovereignty over territory, contracts, and votes, rather than as a purely moral or policing initiative. Using Addiopizzo as a case study, the talk conceptualises community resilience not only as survival under mafia rule but as the capacity to rebuild economic and civic life beyond the mafia's dual role as power and enterprise syndicate. It argues that dismantling mafia governance requires changing the incentive structures that sustain embeddedness—especially extortion, patronage, and brokerage—through organised consumer choices, business associations, and institutional reforms. The core claim is that the struggle against organised crime is a struggle over who governs: durable anti-mafia strategies must therefore empower civil society to reclaim regulatory, protective, and distributive functions from criminal organisations.

How criminal networks survive: Collapse, reconfiguration, and functional resilience in a temporal network analysis of a drug trafficking network *Deborah Manzi, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore – Transcrime*

Criminal networks operate under constant threat of disruption from law enforcement, making resilience a key concept for understanding their persistence and adaptive capacity. While prior research on case studies has largely relied on descriptive network measures, less attention has been devoted to the generative mechanisms underlying structural change over time. This study addresses this gap by examining the evolution of a Camorra clan involved in drug trafficking, employing Exponential Random Graph Models (ERGMs) and Temporal ERGMs (TERGMs) to capture both network structure and dynamics across multiple periods surrounding a major police intervention. ERGMs are used to assess how individual attributes and functional roles shape tie formation within each period, whereas TERGMs model the persistence, dissolution, and emergence of ties between periods. This combined approach enables a systematic analysis of both stability and transformation in the organization's relational structure. The results indicate that the network is primarily organized around functional roles, particularly drug-related activities, while managerial cohesion appears weaker and less stable. Prior to the intervention, the network exhibits relative structural stability. Following the intervention, however, the organization undergoes a marked transformation, characterized by the dissolution of pre-existing ties and the rapid formation of new connections, especially among operative actors. Overall, the findings suggest that resilience in criminal networks does not necessarily depend on structural continuity, but may instead emerge through processes of collapse and reconfiguration centered on core operational functions.

The role of secrecy in the reputation and self image of mafia-ridden communities *Alberto Vannucci, University of Pisa; Anna Sergi, University of Bologna*

This paper examines the role of secrecy in shaping the reputation and self-image of mafia-ridden communities. Drawing on existing literature regarding reputation, recognition, ambiguity, and defensiveness applied to mafia-dense environments in areas of scarce or contested political legitimisation, it investigates three core aspects: (1) the differentiation in how communities manage secrets—both unseen facts, untold information and information that are deliberately concealed; (2) the motivations behind the preservation of known secrets, exploring the fine line between omertà, the code of silence that supports mafias and other illicit activities, and a broader choice of silence rooted in self-protection; and (3) the dynamics of how secrets accumulates and travels across diaspora communities. Utilizing case studies from villages in the Aspromonte-Locride area of Calabria, Italy, and their corresponding 'double villages' in Australia—such as Griffith, NSW and Mildura, VIC—this research employs a qualitative approach, incorporating life-long interviews and archival data. An historical perspective links events from the 1970s to the 1990s current to attitudes within these populations, revealing the enduring effects of secrecy on community identity and social cohesion.

Organised Crime in Local Politics: Assessing Communities' Vulnerability and Collective Responses in Southern Italy *Clara Rondani, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore*

The establishment of cooperative relationships with political actors is crucial for organised criminal groups

that seek to expand their influence beyond the underworld. While the study of the mafia-politics relationship in Southern Italy has attracted significant attention, limited research has examined why territorial clustering persists even within regions traditionally associated with the presence of criminal organisations, and how these links affect local communities. This study focuses on organised crime infiltration in local politics in Southern Italian municipalities. First, it examines whether social and political dynamics of local communities are associated with infiltration in local politics. Second, it analyses the effects of infiltration on local communities once it becomes publicly known—namely, when the city council is dissolved by national authorities. The findings suggest that, net of stable territorial differences in institutional contexts, the likelihood of infiltration is associated with characteristics indicative of low social cohesion, disadvataged socioeconomic conditions, but also greater homogeneity among residents, lending support to the hypothesis that organised crime can benefit from forms of locally embedded social capital. Finally, the analysis of the social effects of intervention by national authorities suggests potentially negative consequences for local communities, with outmigration increasing in the year following the dissolution of the city council. Overall, the results highlight an association between the social structure of local communities and organised crime infiltration, suggesting that replacing corrupt members of the political establishment alone is unlikely to be sufficient to promote legality in the long run.

210. Crime in Legitimate Markets and Cultural Contexts

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Economic Crime and Property Crime

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.136

Chair:

Aiala Tejada García de Garayo, CRÍMINA Center, University Miguel Hernández of Elche

Participants:

Museum theft policing: Results from a scoping review of the international literature *IULIA ANDREEA VESCAN, KU Leuven*

The theft of cultural objects from museums constitutes a persistent problem. Yet it remains comparatively understudied within criminology, with the bulk of existing scholarship produced by art historians, archaeologists, and museologists. Given the interdisciplinary and fragmented nature of the evidence base, a scoping review is the most appropriate methodology to map available evidence prior to further research. In this way, the scoping review constitutes the first step of a broader research project on the policing of museum theft in Belgium and Romania. The review pursues four aims: (1) to identify the types of evidence available in the museum theft policing literature; (2) to examine how research on museum theft policing is conducted; (3) to identify key characteristics and factors related to museum theft policing; and (4) to identify knowledge gaps. Both academic and grey literature in English, Dutch, French, and Romanian will be included, with no lower time boundary applied. The review follows the JBI methodological framework (Peters et al., 2024) and will be reported using PRISMA-ScR guidelines (Tricco et al., 2018).

The Criminal Use of Licit Sectors: How Licit Structures in the Luxury Watch Sector Enable Illicit Profits *H. Konstantin Jänicke, Maastricht University, PRICELESS*

Luxury watches occupy a hybrid space between commodity, collectible, status symbol, and financial asset. Within the luxury watch sector, professional appraisers occupy a uniquely powerful position, as they are able to make authoritative statements about the value of watches at their professional discretion. These valuations are relied upon in a range of contexts, including insurance, resale, inheritance, and financial collateralization (assetization). This paper examines the criminogenic potential embedded in luxury watch appraisal practices. The appraisal process is inherently ambiguous, relying on discretionary interpretations of value and volatile markets. Appraisers may exercise their authority to inflate or deflate valuations, either intentionally or through the manipulation of appraisal criteria, enabling strategic misrepresentation and potential illicit gain. The ambiguity of appraisals allows criminals to engage in “appraiser shopping”, meaning that criminals may approach multiple appraisers and selectively use those whose valuations best serve their interests. Furthermore, the unique power position of appraisers allows them to enable different criminal schemes, making them powerful facilitators of crimes such as money laundering and tax evasion. One important source of criminal opportunity lies within the ontological ambiguity of luxury watches themselves. At any given moment, an appraiser may characterize a watch as a commodity or a luxury object. The ability to move between these spheres expands the range of possible value manipulation. This paper argues that the intersection of professional authority, discretionary valuation, and hybrid asset classification creates a largely overlooked opportunity structure for economic crime within the licit luxury watch sector. This paper draws on empirical research conducted within the PRICELESS research consortium and the COST Action GLITSS under the supervision of Donna Yates (UNESCO Chair for Global Heritage and Emerging Crime). The findings are based on in-depth interviews with appraisers and other actors in the luxury watch sector.

The Gentleman Thief in Polish Context: Cultural Narratives of Art Theft *Edyta Drzazga, Department of Criminology, Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland*

Western criminology has extensively documented the "gentleman thief" phenomenon of the romanticization of art criminals as sophisticated connoisseurs rather than common criminals. Research demonstrates how popular culture shapes public perception, creating cultural narratives where art thieves embody refinement and aesthetic appreciation. However, this body of research remains geographically concentrated in Western Europe and North America, leaving significant gaps in our understanding of how art crime

is culturally constructed in Central and Eastern European contexts. This study addresses this gap by examining whether and how Poland constructs cultural narratives around art theft. Poland presents a particularly compelling case: its twentieth-century history involved repeated cycles of art looting, concealment, and recovery. This historical context may produce distinct narrative frameworks compared to Western patterns centred on individual aestheticism and connoisseurship. This research employs content analysis of media discourse and cultural narratives, drawing on methodologies established in Western art crime scholarship. The study examines materials from 2015-2025, analyzing: media coverage of art crimes in major Polish newspapers and online media; cultural representations in film and popular media; and patterns of romanticization, vilification, or moral ambiguity in portrayals of art thieves. This ten-year timeframe allows for systematic analysis while remaining methodologically feasible. Findings will be compared with documented Western patterns to identify convergences and divergences. This exploratory study contributes to cultural criminology by testing whether established Western theories of cultural construction apply in Polish contexts, or whether Poland's distinct historical trajectory produces alternative frameworks for understanding art crime. The research brings Polish perspectives into dialogue with established Western scholarship, addressing calls for geographically diverse criminological knowledge production.

Beyond Loot Boxes: A Scoping Review about Predatory Monetization in Video Games *Aiala Tejada García de Garayo, CRÍMINA Center, University Miguel Hernández of Elche; Fernando Miró-Llinares, CRÍMINA Center, University Miguel Hernández of Elche*

The video game economy has undergone a profound structural transformation over the past decade and a half. The transition from the premium model, where players paid once for a finished product, to free-to-play schemes in which initial access is free but value is extracted recurrently through monetization systems embedded within game design has completely reconfigured both the industry and its relationship with audiences. Global revenue reached $177.9 billion in 2024, but its composition is revealing: in-game purchases and downloadable content account for 57% of revenue in the Spanish development sector, while loot boxes represent merely 1%. A scoping review, preregistered according to PRISMA-ScR protocols, reveals a problematic mismatch between studied phenomenon and actual phenomenon. Both academic literature and regulatory frameworks have converged almost exclusively on specific exploitation mechanisms, at the expense of substantially more prevalent forms of value extraction. This concentration has generated terminological fragmentation that hinders systematic knowledge accumulation: terms such as aggressive monetization, predatory monetization, and exploitative design lack homogeneous analytical criteria. Drawing on a harm-based criminological framework, specifically the Harm Assessment Framework developed by Paoli and Greenfield, this study proposes a reconceptualization of predatory monetization that analytically distinguishes between three inseparable dimensions: (1) monetization systems, which constitute the economic vehicles through which the industry structures value extraction; (2) dark patterns, which are the psychological and structural manipulation mechanisms embedded in those systems to exploit cognitive biases and vulnerabilities; and (3) harm, understood as the set of injurious consequences (economic, psychological, social) arising from exposure to these practices, particularly among vulnerable populations. The analysis examines how these three dimensions operate conjointly in practice, enabling a more systematic cartography of exploitation dynamics beyond isolated case studies. Implications extend to criminal policy, consumer protection, and safeguarding minors in multiplayer gaming environments.

211. Humanity and Its Boundaries: Governing Difference in Danish Prisons

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Imprisonment, Prisons, Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment (Prisons WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.156

Nordic prisons are widely portrayed as among the most humane in the world. Rooted in ideals of normalization, social reintegration, and comparatively low levels of coercion, the Danish penal system is frequently portrayed as a progressive alternative to more punitive models. Yet when we step inside the everyday life of these institutions, a more complex picture emerges – one where humanitarian ambition meet the practical realities of maintaining order, navigating difference, and safeguarding those who are most vulnerable. This panel brings that complexity to the forefront. Through four empirically grounded studies, we explore how "penal humanity" is not just articulated in policy but lived, negotiated, and sometimes stretched to its limits on the ground. The panel examines how institutional logics are experienced and operationalized in practice; through regimes targeting gang-affiliated prisoners, the management of prisoners deemed at risk, collective and non-violent forms of resistance , and the design of prison architecture. Taken together, the papers highlight how the core ideals of the Danish penal model – association, normalization, and humane treatment – can generate unintended tensions when confronted with diverse prisoner populations and competing institutional demands. By examining these dynamics empirically, the panel contributes to broader debates in criminology about the limits of penal exceptionalism and the everyday practices through which prison order and penal legitimacy are continually produced.

Chair:

Julie Laursen, University of Copenhagen

Participants:

Marked Prisoners: Gang Affiliation and the Experience of Penal Power *Julie Laursen, University of Copenhagen*

Gangs have increasingly moved to the centre of political and public debate in Denmark, and their members are often the targets of punitive policies. For example, section 81a of the Danish Penal Code allows for doubling the punishment if a serious crime is committed in connection within an ongoing conflict

between two gangs. Inside prisons, shifting governments have implemented policies, which actively prevent prisoners affiliated with known gangs from participating in any offer of rehabilitative initiatives. Moreover, prisoners affiliated with gangs are often subjected to extended periods of isolation and they are often segregated on designated wings, which sometimes deploy a strict regime where prisoners are locked in their cells for 23 hours a day. These measures are alien to an otherwise exceptionally humane philosophy and practice of punishment (but see Lönnquist & Smith 2025; Taxhjelm 2025), and hence grant important insight into both the changing make-up of the prison population and the ways in which the prison service adapt their approach accordingly. Despite the prominence of this issue, little is known about how these prisoners themselves experience incarceration under such conditions. This paper examines how gang-affiliated prisoners interpret and navigate these regimes and how targeted forms of control shape their understanding of punishment, legitimacy, and the state. Drawing on qualitative data, the paper explores how the enforcement of gang-specific restrictions influences prisoners' experiences of prison life and their broader perceptions of authority and justice.

Humane for Whom? Vulnerability and Protection in Danish Prisons *Frederik Rom Taxhjelm, University of Copenhagen*

Danish prisons are widely recognized, historically and internationally, for their commitment to humane punishment. Yet this raises a fundamental question: whose humanity is being protected? In Denmark, prisoners who are considered at risk from other prisoners have limited formal avenues for protection. Authorities can isolate a prisoner for up to five days or transfer them to another unit or institution, but Denmark does not operate dedicated protective custody regimes or vulnerable prisoner units (VPUs), which are common in many other jurisdictions. Instead, the general population is assumed to provide the most appropriate environment, reflecting a strong institutional commitment to association and normalization. Drawing on qualitative material and comparative insights from prison systems that employ VPUs, the paper examines how this institutional configuration shapes the experiences of prisoners who cannot safely remain in the general population. It argues that the Danish commitment to normalization produces a distinctive mode of governing vulnerability. Rather than separating vulnerable prisoners through specialized regimes, responsibility for safety is often displaced onto the individual prisoner, who must navigate risk within a system that presumes association as the default condition of prison life.

Collective, Non-Violent, and Aiming for a Wider Audience – Acts of Resistance in Danish Prisons *Lise Løvschall-Warming, University of Copenhagen*

In early 2026, following the tragic death of a prisoner who was allegedly denied access to medical attention in a Danish prison, prisoners in several open prisons collectively organised a non-violent protest demanding dialogue and systemic change. The death was seen by many prisoners as the culmination of longtime frustrations on inadequate healthcare-access and other related issues, and the subsequent protest was organised through the Prisoners' Spokesmen. Empirically this paper draws on ethnographic fieldwork and interviews conducted over a six-month period in an open prison and a remand institution involving both prisoner and staff perspectives. Using the protest as an empirical lens and starting point, the paper examines how Danish prisoners both informally and formally collectively organise and enact resistance within and against the institutional and legal frameworks of the Danish Prison and Probation Service. These events should be understood in their context: a penal-welfare system in which the protection of prisoners' rights occupies a central and explicitly prioritised position. The paper analyses both classic (Mathiesen 1965) and new (Crewe & Laursen 2025) forms of prisoner resistance including the imagined audiences for these acts both within prison and in wider society.

Building the Penal Ethos: Prison Architecture and the Design of Humane Imprisonment *Astrid Witt Rosenberg, University of Copenhagen*

As part of the response to decades of instability and ongoing overcrowding, the Danish Prisons Service is currently undertaking a historically large number of construction projects, including expansions of existing prisons and the development of new facilities. Although the building of new and more 'efficient' establishments is often presented as a key political solution to the challenges facing correctional services in Denmark and elsewhere, research on prison construction, particularly in Nordic contexts, remains limited. The paper explores how commissioners, planners, and architects interpret and translate penal policy and correctional principles into architectural visions, including the four overarching values defined by the Danish Prison Service: 'humanity', 'inviolability', 'law enforcement' and 'sense of justice'. The study is based on observations and extended interactions with stakeholders from the Danish Prisons Service, as well as architects and planners involved in designing three new facilities intended to serve as future reference models for closed and open prisons in Denmark. Supplemented by textual analysis of documents related to prison construction, the paper examines how 'exceptional' Danish prisons are shaped through negotiations between practical constraints, normative commitments, and organizational visions of what imprisonment should accomplish.

212. PWG Panel 11: Alternatives, Remand and the Boundaries of Custody

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Imprisonment, Prisons, Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment (Prisons WG)
Paper Session
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.158
Chair:

Nicola Khadijiah Ceesay, The University of Glasgow

Participants:

Alternatives to detention in post-Soviet countries: What works? *Celina Nowak, Instutute of Law Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences; Anna Rybarczyk, Institute of Law Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences*

Over the decades, the Council of Europe has adopted numerous conventions and recommendations aimed at reducing the use of imprisonment by promoting a wide range of alternatives to custodial sanctions. The primary goal has been to develop common legal standards among member states and to steer criminal policy toward decreasing prison populations. Such efforts not only facilitate the rehabilitation of convicted individuals but also reduce the costs associated with operating the penitentiary system. Nevertheless, statistical data reveal significant disparities in the use of prison sentences among Council of Europe member states. These discrepancies are particularly pronounced between Eastern and Western Europe. In recent years, countries such as Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Latvia, and Estonia have joined nations like Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Albania, where incarceration rates exceed the European median by more than 25%. Despite being members of the European Union, these states rank alongside third countries regarding the scale of imprisonment. In 2024, the highest incarceration rates among EU countries were recorded in Poland (201.6), Hungary (195.4), the Czech Republic (179.5), Slovakia (179.3), Latvia (174.7), Lithuania (157.7), and Estonia (132.4). Romania's rate was somewhat lower at 125.3, yet it still differs significantly from countries like Sweden (92.4), Slovenia (85.0), and Germany (71.2). The paper presents the results of a comparative research project involving post-Soviet countries: Lithuania, Poland, Estonia, Romania, and Slovakia. Years of research conducted by national experts on the phenomenon of prisonization, combined with an in-depth analysis of legal systems and statistical data on alternatives to imprisonment, have enabled the identification of key issues, formulation of final conclusions, and development of recommendations for the effective implementation of criminal policies grounded in the principle of ultima ratio.

Guilty until proven innocent: Experiences of remand following acquittal *karin astrid maria wejmo, University of Westminster*

The negative consequences of short-term prison sentences are well documented. They often fail to prevent reoffending, as there is insufficient time for individuals to engage in rehabilitative programmes, education, or employment, yet enough time to lose housing, employment, and damage personal relationships. Imprisonment can also have a significant impact on mental health due to exposure to violence, overcrowding, and isolation. In addition, the stigma associated with imprisonment has been linked to poorer mental health and difficulties in resettling into the community. Despite this, there is very limited research on individuals who are remanded in custody and subsequently acquitted. While not convicted, they are still exposed to the same conditions of imprisonment and may experience similar harms. This study explores the experiences of remand among individuals who have been acquitted, using a grounded theory approach. The aim is to develop a deeper understanding of how remand is experienced and the impact it may have, and to contribute to discussions around policy and practice.

Sobering Up in Police Detention *Christine Graebsch, University of Dortmund*

A forensic medical study by the Institute of Forensic Medicine at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg analysed all deaths in police custody that were subjected to autopsy between 1993 and 2003 across all German federal states (Heide et al., 2009). It concluded that approximately three quarters of these deaths could have been prevented if police officers and consulted physicians had acted in a medically appropriate manner. Despite this striking finding, there has been little research or—apart from a few notable exceptions—practical effort to fully understand the problem and develop effective solutions. In many of the cases, deaths were linked to alcohol or drug intoxication or withdrawal. At the same time, individuals are not only placed in police custody for criminal procedural reasons; “sobering up” itself constitutes an independent legal basis for detaining individuals for their own protection. In 2006, the author conducted a largely unpublished qualitative study based on more than 50 interviews with stakeholders and individuals affected by police detention. The research was carried out in three cities, two of which operated specialised sobering-up facilities. Building on these findings, recent research has revisited questions derived from this study to assess developments over the past two decades. The results indicate that the core problems persist and continue to require innovative and practice-oriented solutions. The paper presents the limited state of knowledge on this subject, which has largely remained outside the scope of research, and highlights key problems and dilemmas identified.

“To See Oursels as Ithers See Us”: Indeterminacy, Hope, and Scotland’s Order for Lifelong Restriction *Nicola Khadijiah Ceesay, The University of Glasgow*

In invoking the lament of Robert Burns - “O wad some Pow’r the giftie gie us, to see oursels as ithers see us” - this paper invites reflection on the disjuncture between Scotland’s self-image as liberal and progressive (McAra, 2008;) and the lived realities produced by its ‘exceptional’ sentence (MacLean, 2000). Introduced around the same time as the Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) sentence in England and Wales, the Order for Lifelong Restriction (OLR) operates in the shadows of our penal system. Like the IPP, it is a form of indeterminate sentencing for those deemed to pose an ongoing risk to the public. The OLR’s relative obscurity may be contrasted with the sustained scrutiny of the IPP enabling this form of indeterminate sentencing to operate with limited public or scholarly interrogation. Drawing upon findings from my doctoral thesis, this paper offers a qualitative window into the experiences of labouring at the coalface of the OLR, and while mediated through professionals, what it is

like to live its consequences. Foregrounding practitioner perspectives, this paper reveals how the OLR may actively erode what Brownlee (2021) has termed 'a hope standard' in punishment. Building on scholarly critiques that problematise narratives of Scottish penal exceptionalism (Brangan, 2019; Buchan and McNeill, 2023) this analysis extends these critiques by identifying their sharpest implication: the normalisation of lifelong exclusion within a penal culture that rhetorically endorses restraint.

213. Community Sanctions 6: Probation Systems: Development, History & Practice

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Community Sanctions (Community Sanctions WG)

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.164

Chair:

Gordana Lažetić, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje

Participants:

Between Prison Population Reduction and Rehabilitation: Re-entry Centers and Access to Probation Measures in Southern Italy *Andrea Procaccini, University of Naples "Federico II"*

Prison overcrowding constitutes a structural issue within the Italian penitentiary system, with significant repercussions on detainees' living conditions and on the effectiveness of the rehabilitative function of punishment. In early 2026, the national overcrowding rate ranges between 140% and 145%. In response to repeated condemnations by the European Court of Human Rights, Italian policymakers have implemented front-end and back-end measures aimed at reducing prison entries and facilitating early release. However, access to probation measures remains unequal, as these measures depend on discretionary judicial decision-making. This is particularly evident among short-term prisoners: approximately 30–35% of the prison population has less than three years remaining, a threshold that would, in principle, allow access to probation measures. Yet, access is often denied not on grounds of risk, but due to the lack of suitable housing.This issue is situated within a broader framework of penal selectivity, whereby housing requirements operate as mechanisms of social stratification, selectively affecting marginalised groups, especially foreign nationals. This presentation reports on the findings of a qualitative study conducted within a project aimed at establishing re-entry centers for detainees in the Campania region (Southern Italy), designed to enable access to probation measures for individuals lacking adequate housing. The research is based on semi-structured interviews with residents and staff members, with the aim of analysing individual trajectories and patterns of access to alternative sanctions. The study aims to assess whether such initiatives primarily serve a function aimed at reducing the prison population as part of broader strategies to manage prison overcrowding, or whether they may constitute a meaningful rehabilitative intervention, capable of supporting reintegration and effective social re-entry. In doing so, the presentation seeks to contribute to ongoing debates on community sanctions, social inequality, and the limits and opportunities of decarceration policies.

The Probation Imaginary in Ireland: Reflections from a Historical Analysis of Probation (1960s-2010s) *Deirdre Healy, University College Dublin; Louise Kennefick, University of Glasgow*

This paper explores the 'probation imaginary' in Ireland through an analysis of qualitative accounts from probation officers and clients spanning the 1960s to 2010s. Addressing the relative scarcity of such empirical accounts internationally, it draws on the concept of 'imaginary penalities' (Carlen, 2009) to examine how probation supervision has been constructed, perceived and negotiated in practice over time, including through its articulation in policy and professional discourse. In particular, it highlights tensions between officer reflections, which often frame probation as supportive, (focusing on care, assistance and friendship/co-operation), and client experiences, which may at times affirm these narratives, but also reveal probation as an apparatus of state control, indifference and, at times, harm. This disjuncture between an idealised narrative and everyday experience reflects broader tensions identified in probation scholarship (e.g. McNeill, 2009; Durnescu, 2011), and points to the ways in which probation operates, not only as a system of supervision, but as a socially constructed set of beliefs, expectations and institutional narratives. Overall, our findings suggest that the probation imaginary is shaped (and reshaped) not only by the supervision relationship, but by a wider set of organisational, institutional, and socio-political contexts.

Who Cares for the Carers? Organisational Staff Care as a Governance and Performance Imperative in Probation *Ioan Durnescu, University of Bucherest*

The wellbeing of probation officers is routinely framed as a human resources concern — something to be managed through employee assistance programmes, supervision protocols, and occupational health policies. This paper argues that such a framing is not merely incomplete; it is, in fact, a governance failure. When staff care is siloed within HR, it becomes invisible to those who actually shape service quality: senior managers, inspectorates, funders, and policymakers. The cost of that invisibility is borne, ultimately, by the clients probation is meant to serve. Drawing on a comparative analysis of probation governance arrangements across European jurisdictions and a systematic review of evidence linking staff wellbeing to client outcomes, this paper develops and tests the concept of "Organisational Staff Care Capability" — the degree to which an organisation can systematically attend to the emotional, relational, and professional needs of its workforce in ways that are structurally embedded rather than discretionary. Where this capability is absent or weak, the evidence suggests practitioners exhibit higher rates of emotional exhaustion, reduced use of evidence-based skills, and

measurably poorer outcomes for their clients, including lower compliance, lower therapeutic alliance quality, and reduced desistance-supporting interactions. The argument is simple but uncomfortable: investing in staff wellbeing is not a concession to softness. It is a performance decision. Organisational care belongs on the same governance agenda as risk assessment standards, case management protocols, and sentence compliance metrics. The paper concludes by proposing a framework for embedding staff care as a measurable dimension of organisational performance in community supervision, with implications for inspection regimes and policy design.

Strengthening Probation Services in North Macedonia: A Strategic Approach to Reducing Incarceration *Elena Mujoska Trpevska, Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts*

Probation is an essential component of modern criminal justice systems, providing an effective alternative to incarceration while promoting offender rehabilitation and reintegration. In North Macedonia, despite legislative efforts to develop the probation service, its practical implementation remains limited. The country's criminal justice system continues to rely heavily on custodial sentences, leading to challenges such as prison overcrowding, high recidivism rates, and insufficient rehabilitation programs. Recognizing these issues, the government adopted the Strategy for the Development of the Probation Service in North Macedonia (2021-2025) to expand the use of probation and ensure its effectiveness as a viable sentencing alternative. This paper critically examines the current state of probation services in North Macedonia, evaluates the progress in implementing the strategic objectives outlined in the national strategy, and provides policy recommendations to strengthen probation practices. By addressing institutional limitations, judicial reluctance, and financial constraints, this study underscores the urgent need for comprehensive reform to create a sustainable and effective probation system aligned with European standards.

Probation as a Path to Reintegration: A Case Study of North Macedonia *Gordana Lažetić, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje*

The probation system in the Republic of North Macedonia was established in 2013 with the first Strategy for the Development of the Probation System and the 2015 Law on Probation. The probation sector is located in the Directorate for the Execution of Sanctions, a body of the Ministry of Justice. The probation system focuses on supervision, rehabilitation and reintegration into society. It encourages judges to impose alternatives to imprisonment more often. The need to raise awareness about the benefits of the probation system remains very significant. In order to address important issues for the improvement of the probation system, a new Probation Law is being drafted as of November 2025. The procedure for its adoption in Parliament is still ongoing. The main features of the newly drafted law have been related to clearer powers of probation officers (multidisciplinary approach, trained staff, risk assessment of convicts). In North Macedonia, there is no probation for minors, so the probation system is focused only on adults. To improve the probation system, it is necessary to emphasize the following principles: impartiality, prohibition of discrimination, protection from torture and inhumane treatment, as well as cooperation/networking with civil society organizations. Probation includes the assessment of the defendant's risk during criminal proceedings (with the possibility of proposing a sanction by the probation officer), supervision of a convict with an alternative sanction, as well as supervision of a person on parole. Individual treatment program is of utmost importance for each person under probation. An individual treatment program is of utmost importance for each person on probation. It is developed in cooperation with the person after assessing all necessary issues related to personal circumstances, health status, professional qualifications, risk assessment and needs of the person on probation. The new draft law is in line with the EU Victims Directive regarding their rights to be informed of any decision that is important for their safety and protection as a victim. However, beyond the legislative framework, there are many challenging issues regarding the attitudes of judges, improving the training of probation staff, improving their skills and knowledge.

214. Moral Norms and Development: Developmental Trajectories and Social Influences

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Development and Life Course Perspectives (Development and Life Course Criminology WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.170

Grounded in Situational Action Theory and its Developmental Ecological Action Model (DEA), this panel explores the developmental dynamics between moral norm orientations and delinquent behaviour from adolescence into early adulthood. Drawing on data from China, Germany, and the United Kingdom, the panel examines how personal morality shapes and how it changes alongside criminal trajectories. The four papers extend current research by testing the cross-cultural applicability of this theoretical framework in a non-Western setting, and by revealing how moral orientations vary across specific types of rule violations. Furthermore, the panel unpacks the moral contexts driving intimate partner violence and highlights the crucial role of changing norm orientations in the desistance from intensive offending.

Chair:

Gabriela D Roman, University of Cambridge

Participants:

The parallel development of norm orientations and delinquency *Jasper Bendler, University of Münster*

Legal norm orientations are widely recognized as a key correlate of delinquent behavior. Within Situational Action Theory (SAT) and its developmental extension, the Developmental Ecological Action Model (DEA; Wikström, 2004, 2005), norm orientations, as a core component of personal morality, are further

conceptualized as a central causal factor in offending. While SAT primarily seeks to explain individual delinquent acts, DEA extends this perspective to the study of criminal careers, thereby emphasizing the importance of developmental dynamics. Empirical research provides initial support for DEA's core assumptions (e.g., Wikström et al., 2024). However, existing studies largely conceptualize norm orientation as a general, unidimensional construct and examine its association with overall delinquency trajectories. This approach overlooks the possibility that individuals exhibit normative heterogeneity, such that norm orientations vary systematically across different types of rule violations. Therefore, the co-development of norms and delinquency may be misrepresented when offence-specific dynamics are not considered. Using adolescent data from the panel study Crime in the Modern City (CrimoC), conducted in Duisburg (West Germany), Bayesian parallel process latent growth models are employed to capture these processes. The results indicate more differentiated and dynamically intertwined co-developments than previously assumed. Keywords: Life-Course, Measurement and Methodology

The development of moral norms and behavior in intimate partner violence *Gabriela D Roman, University of Cambridge; Kyle Treiber, University of Cambridge*

This paper draws on the Peterborough Adolescent and Young Adult Development Study (PADS+) and applies longitudinal structural equation modeling to examine key propositions of the Situational Action Theory (SAT). The paper tests research questions about the development of intimate partner violence (IPV) in the context of IPV-related motivation, moral rules and moral contexts. Keywords: Life-Course, Measurement and Methodology

Desistance, norm orientations and their social correlates. A multinomial trajectory analysis. *Klaus Boers, University of Muenster; Saskia Esser, University of Muenster; Jost Reinecke, Professor*

According to an integrative explanatory model, the desistance from intensive offending is linked equally to individual and social changes during late adolescence and early adulthood. Just as with the development of intensive offending, norm orientations also play a significant role in the desistance from offending. This process is examined using panel data from participants aged 13 to 20 from Duisburg, a West German industrial city. Keywords: Desistance, Life-Course

The development of morality and delinquency in Chinese adolescence: A longitudinal analysis *Xiaoya Xun, Shenzhen University*

The development of moral norm orientations and delinquent behavior has been a central concern within Situational Action Theory (SAT) and its developmental extension, the Developmental Ecological Action Model (DEA). However, empirical evidence remains largely confined to Western European contexts. This study extends this line of research to China by drawing on ten-year panel data from 588 adolescents in Anyi. Using parallel process latent growth models, we examine the developmental trajectories of morality and delinquency and their dynamic interplay from early adolescence into early adulthood. The results speak to the cross-cultural applicability of DEA propositions and offer new insight into how moral norm orientations and offending co-evolve in a non-Western developmental and institutional context. Keywords: morality, delinquency, Situational Action Theory, Chinese adolescents

215. A Conversation Marking the Launch of The Research Handbook on Penal Policy (Edward Elgar, 2026)

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Criminal Policy, Criminalization, Policy of Criminal Sanctions (Criminal Law Making Policy WG)
Author meets critics
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.014

This roundtable engages with the themes and contributions of the Research Handbook on Penal Policy, edited by Alessandro Corda (Edward Elgar, 2026). The volume defines the notion of penal policy and examines how penal policies are shaped, contested, and transformed across diverse national and institutional contexts. Bringing together leading and emerging scholars in the field, the volume explores why penal systems converge in some areas while diverging in others, and highlights emerging trends and challenges in contemporary penal governance. Collectively, the contributions in the book interrogate the role and positioning of penal measures within contemporary policymaking, offering a fresh, critical lens on the creation and development of penal strategies. The roundtable features three commentators, as well as a few of the contributors to the volume. The session will open a broader discussion on the politics of crime and punishment, the values and interests that shape penal decision making, and the practical constraints that influence policy choices. The roundtable aims to foster public engagement and critical dialogue by bridging theoretical perspectives with real world policy debates. It will offer an opportunity to reflect on the complex forces shaping penal policy today and to consider future directions for research and reform.

Critics:

Claire E Hamilton, Prof. Claire Hamilton
Maximo Sozzo, Universidad de A Coruña / Universidad Nacional del Litoral
Emily Gray, University of Warwick

Book Authors:

Alessandro Corda, Queen's University Belfast
Sonja Snacken, Free Universsity of Brussels
Bertha Prado-Manrique, Universidad de Málaga
Jose A. Brandariz, University of A Coruna

216. Minor attracted people and persistent child sexual offenders

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Sex Crimes, Sex Work and Sex Trafficking
Paper Session
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.015

Chair:

Laura Sibret, University of Portsmouth

Participants:

Adults Sexually Attracted to Children: A Systematic Review of Prevalence, Characteristics, Risk and Protective Factors *Irene Vergara Martín, University of Barcelona; Alba Marsol, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya; Laura Campo-Tena, University of Barcelona; Pablo Romero Seseña, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya; Noemí Pereda, Universitat de Barcelona*

Sexual attraction to minors among adults and offending behaviors against minors constitute a complex and heterogeneous phenomenon whose risk and protective factors remain insufficiently understood in community populations. Most existing research has relied on forensic, clinical, or incarcerated samples, limiting the generalizability of findings to the broader population. In addition, variability in definitions, measurement strategies, and levels of disclosure—particularly in self-reported data—has led to inconsistent and fragmented prevalence estimates. Evidence on associated factors is also scattered, with a predominant focus on risk and comparatively limited attention to protective processes that may reduce the likelihood of offending. To address these gaps, a systematic review was conducted with the aim of synthesizing empirical evidence on (1) the prevalence of sexual attraction to minors and/or sexual offending against minors in adult community samples, and (2) the associated risk and protective factors. Inclusion criteria comprised peer-reviewed quantitative and mixed-methods studies published in English or Spanish, involving adult (≥18 years) community samples, and employing self-reported measures of sexual attraction to minors, offending behaviors, and/or related risk and protective factors. This review provides a comprehensive synthesis of the available empirical evidence from community samples, contributing to a clearer understanding of the phenomenon and informing future research and prevention efforts.

Attraction Elasticity and Age-Preference Gradients in Minor-Directed Sexual Interests: A Comparative Analysis of Forensic and Community Samples in the United States. *Shawn M Rolfe, William A Percy Foundation for Social and Historical Studies*

Sexual attraction among individuals who commit sexual offenses against minors is often conceptualized categorically; however, growing evidence suggests that attraction patterns may be better represented along a continuum. The present study examines attraction elasticity—defined as the breadth of age-preference gradients—using data from individuals convicted of sexual offenses against minors (PCSOM; N = 892) and a community-based sample of non-offending minor-attracted persons (MAP; N = 156). Across both samples, attraction followed a consistent gradient pattern, with the highest endorsement in the primary age group and a systematic decline as developmental distance increased. A substantial proportion of minor-primary individuals reported some level of adult-directed attraction, challenging the assumption of exclusively minor-focused sexual interest among offenders. Comparative analyses indicated that MAP respondents exhibited significantly broader age-preference gradients than the PCSOM sample, suggesting greater variability in attraction structure. Multivariate regression models identified primary chronophilia and target sex as the strongest predictors of adult-directed attraction. In contrast, group membership (offending vs. non-offending) was not a significant independent predictor after adjustment. However, MAP respondents demonstrated significantly greater attraction elasticity in linear models, indicating a broader extension of age-directed attraction beyond the primary preference. These findings have important implications for criminological theory and practice, as they challenge categorical typologies of sexual offenders and support a dimensional framework of sexual interest, which may improve risk assessment, classification, and treatment approaches. Incorporating attraction elasticity into assessment models may enhance the precision of interventions and contribute to more effective and individualized rehabilitation strategies.

From Behavior to Disorder? Developmental Heterogeneity in Persistent CSAM Offending *Aleksandra Krasowska, Polish Association of Forensic Sexology, Medical University of Warsaw*

Persistent child sexual abuse material (CSAM) offending is often interpreted within overly uniform clinical and criminological frameworks. Yet forensic case material suggests substantial heterogeneity in psychosexual history, sexual interests, behavioural organisation, and the function of CSAM use. This presentation draws on an exploratory retrospective dataset of sixty CSAM-related forensic cases to examine whether persistent CSAM offending may follow different developmental pathways rather than reflecting a single underlying condition. The analysis focuses on behavioural patterns, content selectivity, masturbatory reinforcement, inferred function of use, and indicators of paraphilic consolidation. Preliminary findings suggest at least three recurring pathways: an early-emerging pathway with clear pedohebephilic interest, a later-consolidating pathway without clear evidence of pedohebephilic disorder prior to persistent CSAM use, and a pathway of persistent CSAM use without clear pedohebephilic disorder consolidation. Particular attention is given to the later-consolidating pathway. In these cases, prolonged, selective, and masturbation-reinforced CSAM use may become increasingly integrated into a clinically significant pedohebephilic pattern, even where adult-oriented sexuality remains preserved. This raises an important interpretive possibility: in some offenders, clinically relevant pedohebephilic organisation may need to be understood not simply as longstanding and previously hidden, but as gradually consolidating in the course of persistent CSAM use. The presentation argues that forensic assessment should not assume either a fully formed lifelong disorder or a purely compulsive or transgressive pattern in all persistent cases. A developmental approach may better capture meaningful differences between offenders and has implications for offender differentiation, clinical assessment, risk formulation, treatment planning, and prevention.

Preliminary Insights into Resource Gaps and Support Needs for Minor Attracted Persons: Early Findings from an Ongoing Qualitative Study *Laura Sibret, University of Portsmouth*

Minor Attracted People (MAPs) remain a highly stigmatised population, and little is known about their self-identified support needs. Limited qualitative research has examined MAPs' lived experiences in the context of creating a user-led support program. This paper presents preliminary insights from an ongoing doctoral study, based on 23 interviews with participants recruited through online peer-support platforms. Several consistent themes were observed, such as early awareness of attraction, reliance on peer communities, ambivalence around disclosure, and significant mental health struggles. Fear of discovery was described as a major barrier to seeking support, and participants highlighted the need for accurate, non-stigmatising information to help with safe coping mechanisms and support positive identity development. These early findings suggest a need for the development of targeted services for MAPs.

217. WG Criminology of Mobility. Panel 4. Beyond the Border: Media, Populism, and Lived Experiences of Control

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Crime Control and the Immigration System (Immigration, Crime and Citizenship WG)

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.025

Chair:

Inga Markiewicz, Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology, Department of Forensic Psychiatry

Participants:

From electoral arena to policy-making: comparing populist penal politics of migration under Meloni and Trump II *Nicola Montagna, University of Salerno; Maristella Cacciapaglia, University of Milan*

This article examines how penal populism has evolved into a mode of migration governance in contemporary far-right governments, focusing on a comparison between Italy under Giorgia Meloni and the United States under Donald Trump's second administration. It argues that penal populism has moved beyond electoral rhetoric to become Populist penal politics (PPP), a governing logic that frames migration as a security threat requiring punitive and exceptional measures. Drawing on fieldwork, policy analysis, and secondary sources, the article highlights a key divergence between the two cases. While both governments share anti-migration rhetoric and belong to the same ideological family, their policies differ significantly. Trump II's approach is direct, highly coercive, and largely unconstrained, mainly characterised by the tightening of external flows and the militarisation of domestic control. In contrast, Meloni's strategy is more indirect and institutionally mediated, combining restrictive measures with selective openness to labour migration. Such a difference is here explained through ideological differences and structural constraints, including domestic legal systems, coalition politics, and international frameworks such as the European Union. It concludes that PPP manifests differently across contexts, revealing how similar populist agendas are reshaped by institutional environments, producing distinct models of migration governance within liberal democracies.

Not So Welcome: Croatian Students' Views about Migrant Workers from Asia *Sanja Kutnjak Ivković, Michigan State University; Valerio Baćak, School of Criminal Justice, Rutgers University; Krunoslav Borovec, Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia; Irena Cajner Mraović, University of Zagreb; Marica Marinović Golubić, University of Zagreb; Ana Marija Dunaj, University of Zagreb; Ivan Perkov, University of Zagreb*

Since Croatia joined the European Union in 2013, a significant emigration of Croatian workers to Western Europe has created substantial labor shortages, particularly in construction, hospitality, and tourism. In response, companies in Croatia have increasingly turned to Asian migrant workers to fill in the shortages. The increasing reliance on foreign workers, as is now the case in Croatia, poses important questions about safety and security, social inclusion, workplace protection, and the integration of migrant populations. This study examines the extent to which migrant workers from Asia are perceived as welcome in Croatian society, focusing specifically on the attitudes of university students. Drawing on survey data collected from 400 students at the University of Zagreb, we analyze students' openness to the social inclusion of Asian migrant workers. Preliminary findings suggest that respondents perceive prevailing public attitudes in Croatia as largely negative toward these migrant groups. A substantial proportion of students believe that most Croatian citizens would be unwilling to accept migrant workers from Asia as residents in their city, neighborhood, or immediate vicinity, as well as in more personal relationships such as friendship or marriage. Although students themselves express somewhat more favorable views compared to their perceptions of the general population, notable levels of social distance remain. Approximately half of the respondents report strong opposition to having migrant workers from Asia as neighbors, while a majority express reluctance toward forming close personal ties, including friendships or familial relationships through marriage. Overall, the findings point to persistent barriers to social acceptance and highlight the challenges associated with the integration of migrant workers in contemporary Croatian society.

Anomie in Real Time: Community Experiences During Federal Immigration Enforcement in Minnesota *Jolene R Sundlie, Saint Paul College*

Abstract: This study examines how individuals experienced the recent period of intensified federal immigration enforcement in the Minneapolis–Saint Paul metropolitan area. Drawing on the concept of anomie, the project explores how large-scale enforcement activity is reflected in everyday life, including shifts in routines, social relationships, community participation, and perceptions of

institutional trust. Data were collected through a survey distributed via snowball sampling across the Twin Cities region and surrounding communities. The instrument includes primarily structured questions alongside opportunities for respondents to describe their experiences in their own words, allowing for both patterned responses and more detailed accounts of lived experience. The timing of data collection—following a period of heightened enforcement activity—invites reflection on a recent and locally relevant social disruption. Data collection closed on March 31, and analysis is currently underway. The study is designed to capture variation in how individuals interpret and respond to enforcement activity, including potential changes in public engagement, interpersonal dynamics, and comfort in shared spaces. This research contributes to sociological and criminological discussions of anomie and community-level responses to policy implementation. It also reflects on the methodological challenges of capturing time-sensitive social phenomena using rapid, non-representative sampling strategies, particularly when balancing structured survey design with the need for qualitative depth.

Imigrants in Polish forensic psychiatry hospitals - a legal, clinical and ethical perspective *Inga Markiewicz, Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology, Department of Forensic Psychiatry*

In recent years, an increasing number of foreign patients have been admitted to forensic psychiatric units in Poland. These are individuals who have committed crimes within the territory of Poland, which were caused by a mental illness present at the time of the act, rendering them incapable of understanding its significance or controlling their behavior. This group includes immigrants, sometimes without legal residence status in Poland, as well as individuals who did not intend to remain in the country but committed crimes during their stay while legally insane. As a consequence, Polish criminal courts have imposed an indefinite preventive measure in the form of psychiatric detention and treatment in a forensic unit. These individuals are embedded in complex legal and clinical trajectories. This poses a significant challenge for professionals in forensic psychiatry and psychology, who must reconcile the provision of treatment and care for migrant patients with restrictive legal and political frameworks. Treating culturally diverse patients requires specialized knowledge, tailored approaches, and heightened ethical sensitivity among forensic staff. Based on a clinical case study, this presentation will demonstrate how Polish professionals address the challenges associated with migrant patients in forensic psychiatric settings, where no formal guidelines exist for the treatment of culturally diverse individuals, and where practitioners must navigate between ethical, clinical, and legal standards. The presentation will also address the difficulties associated with transferring patients to their countries of origin (when they express such a wish), arising from differences in forensic psychiatric systems and legal regulations across countries.

218. Measuring the Hard to Measure: Indicators, Comparison and Hidden Populations

Topic 8: Methodologies in Criminology/Advances in Comparative Methodology (Qantitative Methods WG)
Paper Session
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.110

Chair:
Jose Becerra, Institute of Criminology. University of Malaga

Participants:

Crime Scene Analysis, Behavioral Patterns and Forensic Psychiatric Implications *Claudio Terranova, University of Padova; Pasquale Padalino, University of Padova; Rocco Miazzi, Sapienza University of Rome; Alessandro Sarzetto, Park Villa Napoleon; Cristina Scarpazza, University of Padova*

Aims This study aims to explore the possible correlations between behavioral indicators observed at the crime scene, clinical and forensic-psychiatric variables, and the outcome of criminal responsibility assessments. In an exploratory perspective, it also seeks to develop a preliminary predictive model capable of estimating the probability of partial or total insanity and identifying a potential cut-off value to quantitatively guide forensic and behavioral evaluations. Materials and methods From a national database of forensic psychiatric evaluations, cases involving homicide, attempted homicide, and personal injury were selected. For each case, observable indicators (dichotomous or ordinal) related to the crime scene, post-offense behavior, and clinical profile of the offender were collected. Descriptive and univariate analyses were conducted. Variables significantly associated with incapacity were included in a binary logistic regression model to identify independent predictors and to construct a composite score (Incapacity Index). Results Forty-eight judicial cases were analyzed (26 offenders deemed fully responsible and 22 with partial or total insanity). Statistical analysis revealed significant associations between incapacity and several clinical-behavioral variables (e.g., psychotic episodes, bizarre behavior, and post-crime disorganization). The multivariate model identified two main predictors: the use of occasional blunt objects (protective factor) and spatio-temporal confusion/dissociative fugue (risk factor). Based on the β (B) coefficients obtained, an incapacity index was developed to represent the estimated probability of total or partial mental incapacity. Given the limitations of the available data and the dichotomous nature of the original variables, this assessment has an exclusively exploratory and demonstrative purpose from a methodological standpoint. Conclusions Despite methodological limitations, this quantitative approach represents an innovative attempt to develop empirical criteria capable of translating behavioral patterns into objective and reproducible parameters useful for forensic psychiatric evaluation, advancing objective criteria in the national forensic practice.

Mapping Lethality: Identifying Jurisdictional Divergence in Violent Assault Outcomes *Michael C. Walker, Passaic*

County Community College, New Jersey, United States

While violent crime is often aggregated into broad categories, the ratio of fatal to non-fatal outcomes varies significantly by jurisdiction. This study examines international and U.S. data to isolate "high-lethality" outliers—regions where murder accounts for an unexpectedly high percentage of total violent assaults. The analysis seeks to determine if these discrepancies are products of reporting practices, environmental factors, or systemic policy differences.

Measurement Issues of Victim-Offender Overlap *Dirk Enzmann, University of Hamburg*

Based on first results of the ISRD4 data (21 countries) the presentation will address the problem of the measurement of victim-offender overlap. Already in 1912, presenting a coefficient of association known as Yule's Y, Udny Yule did show that his previously developed measure of association (Yule's Q, also known as Goodman & Kruskal's Gamma) for two dichotomous variables is not well suited to compare the association (or overlap) when comparing groups. More recent work did demonstrate that Loevinger's H, which has also been used for the development of scales with dichotomous items, is a promising alternative, especially when the focus is on a positive association (such as the victim-offender overlap). Demonstrating the advantage of using H instead of simple percentages of overlap the presentation will compare the victim-offender overlap in different countries. Additionally, we look at the association of victimization by parental violence and violent vs. non-violent offending. Results show that in the case of juvenile delinquency, the idea that "violence begets violence", which seems obvious at first glance, is far too simple.

Surveying Dark Web Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) Forum Contributors *Carter Smith, Anglia Ruskin; Samantha Lundrigan, Policing Institute for the Eastern Region*

The Onion Router (Tor) (a.k.a Dark Web) is an attractive tool for communities of an illicit nature due to the perceived privacy advantages and ability to evade law enforcement. Because the goal of these forums is to remain anonymous, conducting primary research directly with participants of these forums is challenging. Using an online survey is a useful approach to gain rich data with little burden to participants and the researcher; however, communities that wish to remain anonymous can be anxious to share their views and experiences. By gaining the trust of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) forum administrators, we were able to create a self-complete, semi-structured survey that would satisfy the privacy needs of the community while still gaining rich primary data. This session will demonstrate the full process that was taken to secure ethical approval, engage CSAM forum administrators, and create a privacy-focused survey and deploy it on two CSAM forums. This talk will also explore the reactions to the survey - as evidenced by the comments posted in response to it by some forum contributors.

International crime-related indexes compared: measuring what and how? *Jose Becerra, Institute of Criminology. University of Malaga*

This study aims to evaluate composite indices that measure Criminal Policy from a comparative perspective. Grounded in a qualitative research paradigm, it relies on a systematic search to identify the indices that will constitute the analytical sample. Each index will be examined in terms of its characteristics and results, using a set of rigorously validated evaluative criteria. The overarching goal is to assess the RIMES Index within its conceptual context and to provide a reasoned argument regarding its quality. This includes an examination of its theoretical framework, item selection and definition, application protocols, and results analysis. To structure this assessment, the research first clarifies the meanings of "composite index" and "Criminal Policy" as applied in this work, complemented by a concise overview of the RIMES Index. The methodology section then specifies what is meant by systematic search and evaluative criteria, establishing the foundations for the analytical process.

219. Advances in Quantitative Methods Panel 3: Automated Analysis and Quantitative Evidence in Criminal Justice

Topic 8: Methodologies in Criminology/Advances in Quantitative Methods (Qantitative Methods WG)

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.120

Chair:

Brittany Martin, The University of Rhode Island

Participants:

Engaging Young Citizens in Urban Security Design Through Serious Games *Wael Mahlous, University College London; Hervé Borrion, University College London; Daniel Cooper, University College London; Congyu Fan, University College London; Juliana Gómez Quintero, University College London; Angelina Magal, University College London; Eleanor Wong, University College London*

Cities are rapidly evolving into smart urban environments where interconnected technologies increasingly shape everyday experiences. Within this landscape, security risk management becomes more complex, spanning diverse challenges such as prevention, threat detection, and threat neutralisation. Among these, threat detection is particularly sensitive: while essential for public safety, it can introduce intrusive practices and unintended negative consequences for citizens. Navigating these tensions requires immense thought and a nuanced approach. We believe young people deserve to engage with these questions early to develop the critical thinking required to interrogate, question and meaningfully participate in decisions that govern the environment they live in. To support critical examination of how security systems are designed and operated in urban spaces, we adopted a simulation-based approach. We developed a serious game that enables users to design and manage a museum security system, allowing them to explore the interplay between technological capability (including artificial intelligence), operational decision-making, and societal impact. This interactive environment

provides a low-stakes and accessible space for experimenting with security configurations, revealing how different choices influence both risk outcomes and user experience. Piloting the game across two outreach events with London-based students aged 13-15 (n=21) demonstrated how game-based simulation can foster informed dialogue about urban security and support more transparent, human-centred approaches to urban risk management.

Crime assessment using artificial intelligence systems *Camil Tanasescu, "Dimitrie Cantemir" Christian University Bucharest, Faculty of Law*

The digital transformation of crime assessment marks a transition from subjective analyses based on human intuition to objective, reproducible and driven by BigData approaches. The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into crime assessment processes represents an optimization of existing resources and the way in which criminal acts are understood, prevented and sanctioned. By using machine learning algorithms and Graph Neural Networks, complex typologies of criminals can be identified. Thus, it is necessary to respond to increasingly sophisticated transnational threats, such as cybercrime, human trafficking networks and large-scale financial fraud, by analyzing, with the help of advanced technological support, these phenomena that generate large volumes of data. The evaluation of judicial decisions, with the help of artificial intelligence, focuses on extracting and structuring the legal reasoning contained in the texts of final sentences. This approach allows the identification of the criteria by which courts establish guilt and the severity of the sentence, providing a statistical perspective on the uniformity or disparity of the act of justice. Artificial intelligence systems use specific parameters to assess the quality of sentencing decisions. The analysis extends to the way in which judges weigh mitigating and aggravating factors, transforming the text into structured data that can be compared for certain areas and time periods. A major contribution of artificial intelligence is the ability to generate typologies of offenders based on the textual analysis of court decisions, with algorithms being able to identify behavioural characteristics, motivations and association networks. This research highlights the potential of artificial intelligence to enhance judicial transparency, with artificial intelligence systems using a series of parameters to classify offenders into distinct categories, which are extracted from loose descriptions of the facts and include elements that go beyond simple demographic data, focusing on the dynamics of the action.

The Digital Face of Punitiveness: Social Media, Crime Talk, and Automated Content Analysis *Pablo Andres Ezquerra Silva, Nisien.ai*

Citizen dispositions toward harsher punishment carry significant consequences: they shape the legitimacy of political institutions, drive the adoption of ineffective criminal policies, and fuel vigilante justice. Accurate measurement of punitive sentiment is therefore a core challenge for criminological research. Yet the field has relied almost exclusively on surveys that offer statistical representativeness but produce static snapshots, study individuals in isolation, and remain vulnerable to social desirability bias. Surveys cannot capture the communicative networks through which punitive attitudes actually form and circulate. Social media data offer a compelling alternative: large-scale, dynamic, and unobtrusive. They also raise an urgent methodological question. Should researchers invest in labelled datasets and fine-tuned transformer models, or can Large Language Models (LLMs), deployed zero-shot or with minimal prompting, bypass the costly annotation pipeline altogether? Recent scholarship suggests LLMs can augment but not yet replace fine-tuned classifiers for social science tasks, while outperforming crowd-workers on annotation reliability. This paper addresses that debate directly. Drawing on approximately 10,000 labelled crime-related tweets from the United Kingdom — part of a larger comparative study of punitive discourse in the UK and Uruguay — three model families are benchmarked: fine-tuned transformers (DistilBERT, RoBERTa, BERTweet), open-source LLMs run locally via Ollama, and a commercial API (Gemini). Evaluation focuses on performance under the severe class imbalance characteristic of organic social media data. Fine-tuned, domain-adapted encoders retain a clear performance advantage for this minority-class detection task; LLMs, however, emerge as a viable lower-cost alternative where annotation resources are scarce. We discuss the implications for measuring punitive attitudes at scale and for the broader integration of computational methods into criminological practice.

Towards evidence-based lookback periods for judicial background checks: estimating long-term remaining recidivism risk in the Netherlands *Nikolaj Tollenaar, WODC*

In recent years, the Netherlands has seen a significant increase in applications for the Certificate of Conduct (VOG). This surge has highlighted a need within Dutch criminal policy for empirically grounded lookback periods during judicial background checks. Currently, a wide variety of risk profiles exist for different professions, yet many of these periods appear to lack a clear empirical basis. This paper presents a methodology for calculating long-term recidivism risks across eight distinct crime types using comprehensive Dutch conviction data of a cohort of persons convicted in 1997. To overcome the limitations of the maximal follow-up window, we employ survival analysis models from the class of Royston-Parmar spline models to extrapolate recidivism risks over an extended period. The predictive accuracy these models and the variability of their predictions over time is validated using additional later cohorts. Furthermore, we demonstrate how to arrive at life table probability estimates of individuals becoming first-time offenders, by combining conviction data of persons at the age of criminal responsibility in 1997 with census data. These can provide a possible criterion for establishing redemption times. We conclude by discussing the methodological challenges, limitations, and the practical implications of using conviction data to

substantiate the lookback terms applied in judicial screening processes.

Beyond the Legal Financial Obligations "Package": How Distinct Monetary Penalties Unevenly Impact Defendants *Brittany Martin, The University of Rhode Island; Timothy Edgemon, University of Birmingham; Andrea Giuffre, California State University, San Bernardino*

Legal financial obligations (LFOs), including fines, fees, surcharges, and restitution, have become a central mechanism of punishment and revenue generation in the United States (Harris, 2016; Martin et al., 2018). Scholarship has documented how LFOs contribute to the criminalization of poverty, extend supervisory reach, and operate through contradictory penal–fiscal logics (Friendman et al., 2022; Martin et al., 2018). Yet despite extensive qualitative evidence that monetary sanctions are heterogeneous in purpose, structure, and meaning, most quantitative research continues to treat LFOs as a single "package." This study interrogates that assumption by disaggregating fines, fees, and restitution to examine whether they respond to distinct legal, organizational, and demographic determinants. Using nearly two decades of administrative court data from Kentucky (2005–2023), covering 3.5 million sentenced felony and misdemeanor charges, we analyze both the likelihood of each sanction being imposed and the dollar amounts assessed. Our findings reveal substantial heterogeneity across types of legal financial obligation, with fines, fees, and restitution imposed under different conditions and on different populations. For example, Hispanic defendants face significantly higher odds of receiving fines, while women are more often required to pay court costs and restitution. We find that having a public defender mitigates the imposition of fines but not other sanctions. Restitution, in particular, displays patterned racial and gender disparities and is imposed far more frequently in felony cases. These results demonstrate how the "package" view obscures the varied decision processes through which courts distribute punishment and reproduce inequality. We argue that understanding LFOs as distinct penal practices is essential for theorizing the criminalization of poverty and for designing meaningful policy reforms.

220. The relationship between individual forms of abuse and State authority. Romanian study cases

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Criminal Justice Policy (Crime, Science and Politics WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.128

This panel aims to provide an insight into the Romanian criminal policies which deal with five of the most pressing criminal phenomena in this national setting at this moment: domestic violence, tax evasion, hate crimes, sexual abuse and forced marriages. While they focus on the specific relation established between the abuse committed by the individual and the exercise of the State authority as a reactions, each of the five presentations includes a general overview of the main coordinates of the topic, the social and economic implications of the crimes and the legal instruments created by the Romanian legislator as a response. Taken as a whole, the presentations offer an overview of key criminal patterns in modern-day Romania, providing researchers across diverse disciplines with multiple tools and resources to enrich their studies. As both legal theorists and practitioners themselves, the authors—two of whom are judges, two prosecutors, and one a lawyer—aim to create a forum for discussion that facilitates a multidisciplinary analysis of applied criminology issues encountered in the practice of European judicial authorities within the aforementioned fields.

Chair:

Cătălin Nicolae Constantinescu-Mărunțel, Faculty of Law, Bucharest University of Economic Studies

Participants:

Protection of minors within family relations – means and limits *Ana-Maria Lupulescu, Bucharest University of Economic Studies*

Contemporary reality demonstrates an important increase in the incidence of domestic violence, which significantly affects children. Thus, there is a multiplication of forms of physical, sexual, psychological, emotional violence, etc. directed at children in the context of family relations, which generates serious individual, personal and social consequences. Abusive and violent behaviors cause victims trauma that is difficult to repair, especially since in the case of family relations children know their aggressor, who is a close person whom they should be able to trust. Such behaviors must be discouraged through appropriate legislative measures and sanctioned accordingly, any approach in this regard being based on the primary consideration of protecting the best interests of the child. In this context, this paper aims to analyze some means of protection of minors regulated by Romanian legislation, especially in circumstances where, in family relations, various events occur that lead to the deterioration of family life, with significant consequences from the perspective of the minor child. In many such situations, the child becomes a simple instrument in the context of the conflict and tension that arises and is perpetuated between his parents. The interest of the child fades progressively, until annihilation, and his protection becomes paramount, given the repercussions of such behavior on the child, which generates long-term psychological and psychic problems, behavioral disorders, school failure, loss of self-esteem, self-confidence, trust towards those close to him, etc. However, in such circumstances, neither legislative nor judicial intervention can be too intrusive, in order to avoid potential negative effects of the measures envisaged with regard to the minor.

Compliance with reasonable time in Tax Evasion cases. Romania's experience *Andrei Viorel Iugan, Bucharest Economic School, Faculty of Law*

Tax evasion is one of the most serious forms of organized crime and a major problem facing contemporary society. The growth of this type of crime is seriously undermining the confidence that every citizen has in the ability of state bodies to eliminate this plague from society. However, it should not be overlooked that criminal cases involving tax evasion

are complex. Additionally, this offense seriously affects the economic situation of each state. However, the complexity of the investigation is not only determined by the need to establish the involvement of a large number of suspects. In most cases, such acts are cross-border in nature. In these circumstances, the gathering of evidence requires cooperation with the authorities of other states. In these circumstances, it is necessary to strike a balance between the need to establish the facts while respecting the guarantees imposed by the right to a fair trial, on the one hand, and the need to resolve the case within a reasonable time. In this respect, we intend to observe in this study the number of cases concerning the crime of tax evasion that are brought before the Bucharest Tribunal (the largest court in Romania that has the competence to judge this crime in first instance) and the time required for the criminal investigation authorities to complete the criminal investigation and to decide on sending the case to trial

Surveillance and Consent: Sexual Consent, the Presumption of Vulnerability in Contemporary Romanian Biopolitical Discourse *Horia Serban Tiugan, Academia de Studii Economice București - Facultatea de Drept*

The present paper analyzes the applicability of biopolitical observations concerning sexuality to identify the mechanisms through which contemporary criminal policy discourse has transformed intimacy into an object of governance. In this context, the study initially establishes a criminal policy model that recontextualizes the protection of individuals presumed vulnerable, such as minors and persons with diminished discernment, by introducing a presumption of vulnerability rather than the presumption of a lack of sexual consent. This approach allows for the gradual recognition of sexual self-determination based on the specific circumstances of each case. Furthermore, the analysis integrates a critical reflection on the risk of diverting protective criminal policy through symbolic victimization, viewed as a biopolitical instrument employed to legitimize repressive measures and mass surveillance. Ultimately, the research advocates for a coherent model for criminal law intervention that prevents the legal norm from becoming an instance of censorship, seeking an equilibrium between the structural protection of vulnerable subjects and the preservation of the subjective dimension of human autonomy.

Forced Marriages – Between Reality, the Need to Combat the Issue, and Proposals to Criminalize the Phenomenon in Romania *Teodor Manea, Faculty of Law, Bucharest University of Economic Studies*

The issue of forced marriages has been on Romania's social agenda for some time, particularly considering the harmful effects they have, but also as a result of a social shift toward rejecting the centuries-old traditions associated with them in certain communities. Among the relevant negative effects are the forcing of young girls to drop out of school, or a very high prevalence of the phenomenon among mothers of young children. As a result of Directive (EU) 2024/1385 of the European Parliament and of the Council on combating violence against women and domestic violence, a draft law aimed at criminalizing the phenomenon has appeared on the Parliament's schedule. Our paper aims to provide an overview of the scale of the phenomenon in Romania, as well as to analyse the legislative proposal from the perspective of the reliability of criminalization provisions in effectively combating the phenomenon.

Profiling the victims of online hate crimes in post-truth Romania. Key insights provided by Romanian jurisprudence *Cătălin Nicolae Constantinescu-Mărunțel, Faculty of Law, Bucharest University of Economic Studies*

In order to outline the profile of the victims of online hate crimes in Romania, this paper begins with the results of an analysis of the records of the decisions pronounced by the criminal and civil courts during the last 10 years. Given that the legislator adopted multiple legal instruments, some more effective than others, this fragmentary legislative approach produced a rather heterogenous jurisprudence which is rather unknown both at a national and international level. Secondly, this paper provides a critical analysis of the elements taken under consideration by the Romanian judges in order to decide if the perpetrator acted based on hate and/or prejudice against a specific type of victim. It will be analyzed when and if these elements are described in detail, given that they have to be proved beyond any reasonable doubt. Knowing why a specific victim was targeted is crucial in order to understand which elements of the identity of the victim make it more vulnerable. Finally, this paper places the results in the context of post-truth theory, arguing that Romanian authorities, including the courts of justice, erroneously treat these forms of abuse as isolated incidents, failing to seek or promote a comprehensive understanding of how the perpetrators are, in fact, interconnected within a broader phenomenon, an approach which in turn creates a culture of impunity which facilitates the perpetration of such crimes.

221. Strengthening Evidence-Based Policy on Radicalisation and Extremism: Lessons from Systematic Reviews

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Terrorism and Terrorism Financing, Radicalization, Extremism (Radicalization, Extremism, Terrorism WG)

Roundtable

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.132

Systematic reviews play a key role in developing cumulative and policy-relevant knowledge. In the field of radicalisation and violent extremism, research has expanded rapidly in recent years across multiple disciplines and policy areas. Despite this growth, the evidence base remains fragmented, with studies examining different aspects of radicalisation processes and prevention strategies using diverse methods and conceptual approaches. Systematic reviews offer an opportunity to consolidate this growing body of research, identify knowledge gaps, and strengthen the empirical foundations for both scholarship and policy. This roundtable brings together a set of ongoing systematic reviews conducted within the Campbell Collaboration that address complementary dimensions of radicalisation and extremism prevention. Collectively, these projects synthesise evidence on key issues including the

prevalence and drivers of youth radicalisation, the effectiveness of educational and communication-based prevention initiatives, and the impact of a broad range of interventions designed to prevent, reduce, or counter violent extremism. The reviews also examine how programme design, implementation, and contextual factors influence outcomes across different prevention settings. By bringing together these complementary projects, the roundtable aims to foster discussion on how systematic reviews can advance knowledge in the field. Specifically, it seeks to: (1) share insights from ongoing systematic reviews on radicalisation and extremism prevention; (2) discuss methodological challenges and opportunities in synthesising evidence across diverse interventions and contexts; and (3) explore how systematic reviews can inform more effective, evidence-based policy and practice. We invite scholars interested in strengthening the evidence base on radicalisation and extremism prevention to join this roundtable and engage in a discussion on how systematic reviews can support more coherent, cumulative, and policy-relevant research in this area.

Chair:

Alex Trinidad, Department of Sociology and Social Psychology, University of Cologne

Discussants:

Bethan Davies, Cardiff University
Sara Valdebenito, University of Cambridge
Mia Doolan, University of Galway

222. Crime, Criminal behaviour and the justice system Panel 1. A child's story.

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Criminal Justice Policy (Crime, Science and Politics WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.146

In the village of Cenei in Timișoara, Romania, on January 2026, a 15-year-old boy and a 13-year-old boy, were accused for having a pre-established plan that they had made a month ago and waiting for the right moment, killed a 15-year-old boy by repeatedly hitting him with an axe and a knife while they were in the 13-year-old boy's house. The victim was envied because he had things that others wanted, such as an electric scooter or an ATV. In turn, the aggressors claimed that the victim had terrorized them for a long time, that he had threatened to beat them and even hit them on several occasions. That's why they decided to take revenge, they called the boy to the 13-year-old's house, telling him they wanted to show him a new ATV. After killing the victim, the two boys called a third to help them get rid of the body, as well as to erase the traces of the crime. Together, the 15-year-old and 13-year-old boys set fire to and then buried the victim in the back garden of the 13-year-old boy's house. In the case of the 13-year-old boy, toxicological analyses indicated the consumption of prohibited substances. The case is still under investigation. The accused enjoy the presumption of innocence. The panel aims to answer to the questions risen from the influence of social media and substance abuse over the violent conducts of children and from the application of criminal law in what concerns their conducts, based on legislative changes and the bias the judiciary actors might have in what concerns juvenile deliquents.

Chairs:

Lavinia Valeria Lefterache, Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest
Dorel Herinean, Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest

Participants:

The Gamification of Violence in Youth Culture *Ștefana-Iuliana Sorohan, Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest*

After Cenei Crime, children violent behaviour was under a close scrutiny. In contemporary digital culture, violent behaviour is increasingly normalized among a part of the youth, not only through exposure to graphic content, but also through social interaction within social media and gaming platforms. This paper examines how children engage with violent video games and online platforms, where interactive play, user-generated (or AI-generated) content and social mechanics create environments in which risky behaviours can appear harmless, trivial, or even entertaining. Within these virtual spaces, children often form closed communities or peer groups that reinforce certain behaviours, including roleplay of violent scenarios, competitive edgy challenges or adherence to group norms that may encourage risky or harmful actions. Additionally, viral online challenges amplify this phenomenon by framing dangerous acts as games or tests of skill and loyalty, further blurring the line between online play and real-world risk. In this way, digital platforms can act as both incubators and amplifiers of normalized violence, raising critical questions about youth vulnerability, social influence, and criminal liability in the online environment.

Psychoactive Substance Use among Minors: Between Protection and Criminal Liability *Mihail Tofan, Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest*

Cenei Crime, among many issues, rise also the problem of Psychoactive substance use among minors. Against the backdrop of the steady increase in drug consumption, often correlated with the commission of other offenses, the national legislator has intervened by both tightening the punitive framework and criminalizing new drug-related acts. In this context, young people frequently become indirect victims of the phenomenon, being particularly vulnerable to peer pressure and the pressure to fit in socially. This study analyzes the effectiveness of the criminal law instruments adopted to combat drug use among minors and the manner in which the legislature defines their criminal liability. Can the commission of a crime by a minor under the influence of drugs be considered an aggravating circumstance? To what extent do the manner of obtaining the drugs and the motivation for their use affect the minor's criminal liability?

The reform of the criminal liability of minors in Romanian law. The conflict between the behavioral element and the age limit in criminal liability *Cosmin-Ionuț Tudor, Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest*

After Cenei crime, in Romanian society ask many questions about age of criminal liability. Each person develops in a unique way cognitive and moral qualities, depending on a whole variety of factors. Among these, access to formal and informal education, the quality of the family environment, participation in extracurricular activities, self-taught capacity, exposure to information and, last but not least, the individual psychological

structure. Accelerated access to information, diversification of forms of education and the early exposure of children to complex realities create the premises for a lowering the age of responsibility?

What can we expect? The implications of cognitive biases in how we treat criminal cases concerning minors *George-Cristian Ioan, Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest*

Since the 70s', there have been numerous experiments that have proved that cognitive biases have a tangible and direct impact in the way we view crime and in how the judicial system handles crime. Whilst these biases are, for the most part, a product of how humans evolved, both as individuals and as communities, they can lead to improper assessment of the question of guilt, responsibility and sentencing in criminal law. When it comes to minors, these biases have particular implications. That they can lead us to not consider several important factors that must be taken into account when addressing a crime committed by a minor. Such factors include natural expectations concerning brain development, psychological patterns and the particular social role of minors. Hindsight bias, confirmation bias or the illusory truth bias, amongst others, can make us blind to these factors and lead to an improper assessment. In order to analyse this topic, we will first delve into how cognitive biases influence our perception in judicial settings, particularly referencing cases concerning crimes committed by minors. We will reference the most important experiments proving how cognitive biases can influence judges' perception in criminal cases. Based on these premises, we will discuss the particular risks in the case of minors in the justice system. Finally, we will address how we can mediate our heuristic approach in such cases, in order to achieve better judgments.

223. Perceptions of crime and Justice II

Topic 6: Perceptions of Crime and Justice/Media and social construction of crime

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.150

Chair:

Marc Salat, University of Lleida

Participants:

Bias in Police Communication: How Press Releases Shape Crime Narratives *Thomas Hestermann, Macromedia University, Hamburg; Marius Behret, University of Leipzig; Andreas Niekler, University of Leipzig; Kilian Foth, Langtec, Germany; Patrick McCrae, Langtec, Germany*

Police press releases wield substantial influence in shaping public perceptions of law enforcement activities, yet the potential for perpetuating bias, particularly against minority suspects, remains insufficiently examined. In the European context, where minority status is typically operationalized in terms of nationality rather than race or ethnicity, this study aims to examine whether and how foreign suspects are disproportionately represented in police press releases. As police press releases serve as a primary source for media reporting, they play a crucial role in the social construction of crime. Our study is based on a dataset of approximately 1.6 million press releases from the German police between 2014 and 2025, which we analyze using computational linguistics methods, complemented by a manually coded subsample of about 7,000 press releases providing deeper insights into framing and narrative structures. Our results reveal a systematic overrepresentation of foreign suspects in police press releases compared to official crime statistics. These findings point to the importance of selection mechanisms in police communication, suggesting that the construction of crime narratives is shaped not only by media reporting but also by upstream institutional practices that provide the basis for media coverage. This highlights the need to critically reassess police press releases as a key source in the construction of public knowledge about crime.

In and out of love: The perception of physical and sexual violence within and outside intimate relationships *Martyna Sekulak, Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Faculty of Management and Social Communication; Kaja Glomb, Jagiellonian University in Krakow*

The present research investigates how the perception of violence, both physical and sexual, is shaped by information about the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator. Intimate partner violence (IPV) can be socially legitimized and normalized through mechanisms such as downplaying or victim-blaming. The main objective was to identify statements about a described act of violence that carry the highest legitimizing potential—namely, those that participants are more likely to endorse as true when the violence occurs between individuals in a romantic relationship compared to those not involved in such a relationship. We conducted an experimental study in which participants (N = 201) were first presented with a vignette depicting violent acts (physical or sexual) occurring either within an intimate relationship or between individuals who were not in a relationship. They were then provided with a broad set of statements addressing perceptions of the violent acts. The results allowed us to identify 11 statements that showed the greatest differences depending on whether the violence was framed as occurring within a romantic relationship versus between non-partners. Notably, perceptions of sexual violence appeared to be particularly sensitive to relational framing. The findings are discussed through the lens of moral disengagement theory.

Honour-based violence as an "invisible" category: gaps between conceptual knowledge and recognised practices among young people in Spain *Marc Salat, University of Lleida; Clàudia Torres-Ferrer, University of Lleida; Carolina Villacampa, University of Lleida*

Honour-based violence (HBV) is increasingly recognised in European policy and academic debates as a specific category of violence against women. However, its effectiveness as a framework for prevention and victim-centred responses depends on whether it is socially recognised as such. This research examines the extent to which HBV functions as a meaningful category for young people in Spain,

focusing on the gap between conceptual knowledge of HBV and recognition of its concrete manifestations. Using survey data from 3,005 university students in northeastern Spain, the study analyses levels of familiarity with HBV as a general concept compared to awareness of specific practices commonly associated with it, including restrictions on autonomy, family control, and coercive behaviours linked to notions of honour. Results show a marked discrepancy: while respondents are often familiar with individual practices, they frequently fail to identify them as part of a broader category of honour-based violence. The analysis further explores how gender, academic field and level, origin, and religiosity shape this fragmented understanding, while variables such as residential environment, traditional upbringing, or having experienced subtle forms of HBV show no significant impact. These findings suggest that HBV remains a partially "invisible" category for young populations, despite awareness of its manifestations. The paper argues that this conceptual fragmentation has important implications for prevention policies and awareness strategies, calling for a rethinking of how honour-based violence is framed, named, and communicated within educational and institutional contexts.

224. Gender, Crime and Justice Working Group Panel 8: Disclosing and accessing support for victimisation

Topic 3: Crime Correlates/Gender and Crime (Gender, Crime and Justice WG)

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.110

Chair:

Jacqueline Désirée Oppers, University of Wuppertal

Participants:

A Call for Help: Examining Expert Perspectives on the Role of Law Enforcement Officers Responding to Intimate Partner Violence Calls *Melanie Worsley, Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas, USA*

Researchers have identified law enforcement's response to intimate partner violence (IPV) as a critical component of society's overall response to IPV. There is, however, little empirical research regarding what law enforcement's response should entail. During semi-structured interviews of victim/survivors, those who have battered, law enforcement officers, police trainers, attorneys, victim advocates, and batterer intervention program providers, participants identified three key roles for officers: safety and security, investigation, and connecting parties to resources. The interviews reveal that there is a tension between these roles which can make it difficult for officers to be effective. The interviews also highlight the unique challenges officers face when trying to navigate these roles as well as the overall challenges of engaging in modern policing. The results emphasize the importance of developing police training aimed at preparing officers for IPV calls and for examining the larger societal response to IPV.

Breaking the silence: A study of women and their help-seeking behaviors in Pakistan *HAIQA Asif, Deakin University, Australia*

Abstract Despite evidence that marital rape occurs in Pakistan, there remains a profound public silence about it, It is broadly treated as something that does not exist, and even when women share their experiences with family or friends, it rarely reaches the broader public sphere. Some women have managed to contact formal support networks or navigate the criminal justice system, yet little is known about how these processes are experienced by the women themselves or how the institutions respond. Drawing on fieldwork conducted across multiple regions in Pakistan, this paper seeks to shed light on the women and these institutions, through original research that includes in-depth interviews with victim-survivors, state prosecutors, judges, lawyers, social activists, civil society organizations, and religious scholars. It situates its contributions through a discussion of how consent is understood within marriage, particularly through an analysis of Pakistan's plural legal framework, which is based on the intersection of statutory law, Islamic jurisprudence, and customary norms. The paper asks how it is possible for women to describe what has happened when the language to name it does not exist? By focusing on women's help-seeking, this paper highlights what happens after the violence - when women try to speak, to name the violence, to report it, or ask for support. It considers their encounters with family, police, lawyers, religious authorities, and support organizations, showing how many face disbelief, institutional indifference, and advice to 'adjust' sometimes for the sake of children and other times to preserve the family honor. Breaking the silence around marital rape is therefore not only about recognizing the harm itself, but also about understanding the structural, social, and cultural obstacles that prevent women from being heard.

Closing the Margin: Sex workers' and practitioners' experiences of accessing statutory financial support *Sikiya Adekanye, Cardiff University*

Women involved in street-based sex work are among the most victimised groups in society. Unlike other vulnerable populations, such as people experiencing homelessness, sex workers are often met with limited sympathy or understanding, despite frequently facing significant disadvantage and complex support needs. This qualitative study explores the experiences of women engaged in street sex work, alongside practitioners who support them, in accessing statutory financial assistance. In Wales, UK, a harm reduction approach underpins formal responses to sex work, shaping the work of police and specialist support organisations. Practitioners within these organisations provide a broad range of services, including outreach to women working on the street. The presentation examines the barriers and enablers encountered by women seeking to exit sex work, pursue alternative employment, or access state-provided financial support. Findings highlight the importance of supportive advocacy relationships between practitioners and service users, as well as certain enabling practices within statutory agencies

responsible for financial assistance. However, the study also identifies persistent challenges. Human factors, including experiences of judgement and discrimination, intersect with technological barriers and wider contextual constraints to limit access to support. These challenges not only impact women directly but also create ongoing frustrations for practitioners attempting to navigate and advocate within these systems. The presentation concludes with recommendations aimed at improving access to financial support and enhancing service experiences for women involved in street sex work, as well as the practitioners who support them.

Examining the Motivations for Victimization Reporting: A comparison of Cisgender and Transgender/Gender Non-Conforming Victims *Brian Lawton, John Jay College of Criminal Justice; Frank S. Pezzella, John Jay College of Criminal Justice; Elias Taylor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY Graduate Center*

Ample evidence has demonstrated that Transgender and Gender Nonconforming (TGNC) citizens are at exacerbated risk to be the victims of violence. Quantitative research has only recently been able to document this finding, as much of the prior research was required to utilize qualitative methodology. This is due, in part, to the limited information available on victim's gender identity. Gender identity had frequently only been a focus for studies of hate crime, but now is more often incorporated into victimization studies. The lack of visibility, as well as the underreporting of these incidents to law enforcement bodies, raises concerns about our understanding of these topics. Our current study seeks to examine the reasons for these underreporting as we examine data from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) to examine trends in the reasons for reporting, or failure to report, between cisgender and TGNC victims. Using data from 2017 to 2024, we demonstrate key differences between these groups and examine longitudinal and regional variation around these victimizations.

Intimate Partner Violence and Trust in the Police: Potentials and Limitations of Culturally and Religiously Sensitive Policing *Jacqueline Désirée Oppers, University of Wuppertal; Tim Lukas, University of Wuppertal*

Trust in the police represents a precondition for effective police intervention in cases of intimate partner violence (IPV). When such trust is absent, incidents often remain unreported and victims may refrain from seeking protection measures, preventing subsequent intervention and support mechanisms from being activated. In this context, international studies indicate that Muslim women are significantly less likely to seek police assistance in situations of IPV compared to other victim groups (Ammar et al. 2024). This pattern has been linked to barriers including perceived institutional racism, experiences of discrimination, and a lack of trust in state institutions (DeZIM 2023; Hulley et al. 2023; Stockmann 2023). While studies from Anglo-American contexts have begun to examine Muslim women's experiences with police responses to domestic violence, empirical evidence for Germany remains limited. At the same time, recent victimisation research points to disparities in trust in the police along ethnic and social categories, particularly among individuals with a Turkish migration background (Birkel et al. 2022). Despite these findings, little is known about how Muslim women in Germany experience police responses to IPV and which factors shape trust or mistrust in these encounters. Drawing on ongoing qualitative research within the project DIALOGisch conducted in the German city of Düsseldorf, this talk examines how cultural and religious norms, individual protection needs, and institutional practices intersect with Muslim women's trust in the police in IPV contexts. Based on a workshop and semi-structured interviews with Muslim women, police officers, and practitioners from women's shelters and counselling services, the talk discusses institutional perceptions, structural barriers, and the specific needs of affected women in the local context. The findings are discussed in light of the potentials and limitations of culturally and religiously sensitive policing for strengthening trust in cases of IPV and their implications for prevention, professional practice, and dialogue-based interventions.

225. EHC-WG Panel 5. Policing, Security and State Authority

Topic 7: Comparative and Historical Perspectives/Historical Comparisons of Crime (Historical Criminology WG)

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.120

Chair:

Pieter Leloup, Ghent University/Free University of Brussels

Participants:

Legacies of Coal and Conflict: Policing, Memory, and Community After the Miners' Strike in the 1980s (England and Wales) *Emily Gray, University of Warwick; Kate Moss, University of Derby*

The decline of Britain's coal industry reshaped not only local economies and landscapes, but also social and familial relations and collective memory in former coalfield communities. The policing of the 1984–85 Miners' Strike- most visibly at the coking plant in Orgreave, South Yorkshire - remains deeply contentious, with a public inquiry announced in 2025 following evidence of serious wrongdoing at senior institutional levels. At the same time, the experiences of rank-and-file police constables present on the ground have largely remained unheard, despite their historical value. Drawing on a new AHRC-funded project, this paper presents analysis from newly collected oral histories with (now retired) police officers who were present on the day of the 'Battle of Orgreave', alongside photographs and personal mementos donated by participants. These materials will form the basis of a future public exhibition. The paper examines how constables recall and reinterpret the events some forty years later, reflecting on uncertainty, empathy, regret, fear, a sense of being unprepared, and the enduring sensory imprint of the experience. Rather than revisiting questions of institutional responsibility, the paper treats these accounts as historically significant

evidence of how industrial conflict was experienced and remembered at the local level. It explores police officers' family connections to mining communities and their subsequent experiences policing coalfield areas after pit closures, illuminating the longer afterlives of deindustrialisation in everyday community relations and collective memory.

The history of private security: scandals, controversies and legitimacy in an emerging industry *Pieter Leloup, Ghent University/Free University of Brussels; Antonia Milzkott, Ghent University*

While criminological scholarship on private security has increasingly addressed contemporary scandals and controversies within the industry, historical analyses have often remained limited to describing unlawful or unethical activities by commercial security actors. As a result, much less attention has been paid to their broader significance in shaping the legitimacy, public image and institutional development of earlier forms of private security. This paper presents the results of comparative historical criminological research on early forms of private security in Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany, during the first half of the twentieth century. As an introduction, the paper briefly situates the emergence of private security within wider transformations in policing, governance and social control. It then provides a more comprehensive analysis of scandals and controversies surrounding the commercial security industry. More specifically, the paper aims to examine two developments. First, it describes the nature, extent and consequences of scandals, political ties and controversial activities involving private security organisations and actors, and considers how such developments affected their legitimacy, corporate image and public positioning. Second, by analysing the emergence and impact of scandals and controversies, our study reflects on the early development of governance mechanisms, regulatory responses and contracting practices within an emerging private security sector. In doing so, this study explores how scandals and controversies did not merely expose problematic practices, but also constituted important conditions through which the role, involvement and historical trajectory of private security were shaped. The findings contribute to a more critical historical understanding of the development of private security and of the processes through which non-state security actors acquired, contested or lost legitimacy.

International Police Cooperation and International Crime 1930-1945: Finnish and Nordic perspective *Juho Pitkänen, University of Turku*

This presentation is based on an ongoing doctoral research project examining Finnish international police cooperation between 1930 and 1945. Despite its significance, the history of this cooperation remains relatively understudied. The project examines the developments of the police cooperation through personal letters of police officers and archival materials of the Finnish criminal police, mainly the Bureau for Criminal Investigation (Rikostutkimuskeskus). The first demonstrates the deep connections with Nordic police officers and the latter document the scale and nature of information (e.g. criminal data) exchanged between foreign police authorities. The material of the Bureau for Criminal Investigation is coded into quantitative data to analyze the extent and patterns of Finnish international police connections between 1930 and 1945. The presentation will be focused on this part of the analyzes. Ideas about cooperation and transnational crime that developed in Europe during 1920s were reflected in the Finnish police and the Nordics. Influenced by their European counterparts, officers promoted closer regional cooperation based on shared traditions and practical needs. Systematic Nordic police cooperation was established by the early 1930s. At the same time in 1928 Finland joined the International Criminal Police Commission, later known as Interpol, and connections with many other countries were established. The Second World War altered the conditions for this cooperation. During the war, the ICPC headquarters were moved to Berlin. The organization was placed under the thumb of Nazi Germany already in 1938. This weakened international cooperation, but connections between Nordic police authorities and the Commission continued until the end of the war. During the war, the nature of cooperation in Finland in many ways shifted from practical collaboration toward maintaining relationships with close Nordic colleagues and mutual support through personal networks and established forums. The war did not halt the cooperation, but it significantly changed its possibilities.

226. European perspectives on femicide

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence (Gender, Crime and Justice WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.128

In recent years, European states have increasingly adapted their criminal law frameworks on gender-based violence in response to evolving supranational norms, including European Union legislation and case law from the European Court of Human Rights. These developments have prompted reforms in areas such as the criminalisation of coercive control, the recognition of gender-based motives, and obligations to investigate and prosecute violence more effectively. Despite this growing normative convergence, significant differences persist in how national systems define offences, structure prosecutions, and impose sentences. This panel brings together scholars from various European countries to examine how these external legal pressures translate into domestic criminal justice responses to femicide and to what extent they produce meaningful change in practice. How do legal frameworks conceptualize this form of gender-based violence, and what are the consequences of these approaches for criminal law enforcement? Drawing on comparative perspectives from Italy, Spain, Croatia, North-Macedonia and the Netherlands, the panel will examine differences in legal definitions, evidentiary challenges and sentencing practices. The panel is linked to NextGenerationEU initiative within the framework National Recovery and Resilience Plan project "Femicide and Gender-Based Violence in the Republic of Croatia – A Systematic Analysis of the Legal

Framework and Judicial Practice".

Chair:

Mojan Samadi, Utrecht University

Participants:

Sentencing of femicide cases in the Netherlands *Ellen Gijselaar, Leiden University; Marloes van Noorloos, Leiden University; Mojan Samadi, Utrecht University; Sigrid van Wingerden, Leiden University*

This presentation discusses the results of a study by the authors on sentencing practices in femicide cases before Dutch courts over a nineteen-year period (2006–2025), offering a systematic analysis of how gender-based killings are addressed within a legal framework that does not formally recognise femicide as a distinct criminal offence. Drawing on a dataset of published judgments, the study investigates how courts classify these cases, which factors are considered in sentencing, and whether the gendered nature of the violence is explicitly acknowledged in judicial reasoning. The analysis focuses on key sentencing determinants, including the relationship between victim and perpetrator, the presence of prior domestic violence, motives such as jealousy or separation, and evidence of coercive control. Particular attention is paid to the extent to which such factors function as aggravating circumstances in practice, and whether they lead to sentencing outcomes that differ from other forms of homicide. The paper also examines the role of mitigating factors, such as diminished responsibility, and how these interact with narratives of gender-based violence. Preliminary findings suggest a degree of consistency in sentencing ranges, but also reveal important ambiguities in how courts articulate the context of intimate partner killings. While elements of gender-based violence are often present in the facts of the case, they are not always explicitly framed as such in legal reasoning. This raises the question whether current frameworks adequately capture the structural dimensions of femicide

Femicide in Spain *Bárbara Lirios Monllor Taltavull, Autonomous University of Barcelona*

This study provides a case law analysis of the aggravating circumstance of discrimination on the grounds of gender within the Spanish criminal legal system. Focusing on case law from the Supreme Court of Spain, the research examines how this aggravating circumstance has been interpreted and applied in practice, particularly in homicide cases. The analysis shows that aggravation based on gender is applied predominantly in contexts of intimate-partner violence, especially in murders committed within conjugal or affective relationships. As a result, judicial reasoning tends to associate "gender" primarily with the relational sphere of the couple. This recurring interpretative pattern reveals an implicit legal construction in which the "gender dimension" of the crime is recognized mainly when the victim is positioned as a wife or sentimental partner, rather than as an autonomous citizen subjected to gender-based discrimination. In practice, the aggravating circumstance of gender discrimination thus operates as the jurisprudential mechanism through which courts identify and characterize certain killings as femicide. Ultimately, the research highlights the need for greater conceptual precision, methodological rigor, and a gender-sensitive interpretative framework in criminal adjudication. Strengthening these dimensions would improve the effectiveness of anti-discrimination mechanisms and reinforce the constitutional foundations of the political order and social peace.

Challenges in prosecuting femicide and gender based violence in Croatia *Maja Munivrana, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb; Aleksandar Marsavelski, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb*

In 2024, Croatia introduced femicide as a distinct criminal offence (Article 111a of the Criminal Code), becoming the third EU country to explicitly criminalise the gender-based killing of women. At the same time, gender-based motivation was introduced as an ex lege aggravating factor applicable to all criminal offences (Article 87(32)). This shift from a gender-neutral to a gender-sensitive criminal justice framework resulted from both external pressures, particularly from GREVIO, and sustained advocacy by civil society organisations. In its 2023 Baseline Report on Croatia, GREVIO highlighted that the previously dominant gender-neutral approach had negatively affected the effective implementation of the Istanbul Convention and the prosecution of violence against women. This paper examines the early implementation of this legislative reform through a systematic analysis of emerging Croatian case law. The findings point to several practical challenges. These include persistent uncertainty within the judiciary regarding the definition of gender-based violence, resulting in femicide charges often being replaced by charges of ordinary or aggravated murder. At the same time, some cases have been classified as femicide despite the absence of clear evidence of gender-based motivation. Additionally, the general aggravating circumstance of gender-based motivation remains rarely invoked in judicial practice. The Croatian experience demonstrates that legislative reform alone is insufficient to ensure a gender-sensitive criminal justice response. Based on the findings from the case analysis, the paper proposes solutions and contributes to broader policy discussions on the limits of legal reform in addressing gender-based violence.

Femicide in Republic of North Macedonia *Aleksandra Gruevska Drakulevski, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Iustinianus Primus Law Faculty in Skopje; Aleksandra Deanoska Trendafilova, Professor, University Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Law "Iustinianus Primus" - Skopje; Boban Misoski, Misoski, Faculty of Law "Iustinianus Primus" Skopje*

Femicide is a growing issue in the Republic of North Macedonia, reflecting broader global patterns of violence against women. In March 2023 the Criminal Code was amended and femicide was criminalized, due to the accepted obligations from the Istanbul Convention. This novelty established femicide as the killing of a woman or a girl in the context of gender-based violence. This definition is considered as a starting point for determining femicide as a severe form of murder with prescribed sentence of at least 10 years

in prison, with the possibility of imposing a life imprisonment sentence. Besides the legislative amendments, a decrease in the femicide cases is still unobservable in court's practice. In most cases femicide has resulted upon long-term domestic abuse by the intimate partner. According to the relevant institutions, there are more than 20 femicide cases from 2019-2025. This situation leads to the conclusion that further legislative improvements need to be undertaken in order to adequately protect victims of domestic abuse. Due to the systemic distrust of victims of domestic abuse there is a low number of reported cases. This is caused by insufficient and often improper institutional response or lack of institutional capacities to protect victims. For determining of the most suitable possible solutions, the authors are also exploring the prevalence and causes of the recorded court femicide cases in North Macedonia. These cases considered as case studies may provide possible suggestions for determining the systematic gaps and pitfalls for proper addressing femicide in our society.

Femicide in the Italian Criminal Code *Francesca Rocchi, University of Teramo*

This presentation examines the recent Italian legislative initiative to create a separate criminal offense, that of femicide, analyzing its substantive and procedural innovations and highlighting practical and constitutional issues. It retraces the political debate that led to bill A.S. 1433 and its subsequent approval by Parliament, as well as the criticisms of the almost unanimous legal doctrine that accompanied its adoption. The Italian initiative is contextualized internationally to attempt to explain the reasons for its sudden and pressing reemergence in the Italian public debate. The law creates a distinct offence of femminicidio (art. 577-bis c.p.) defined by the victim's sex and a set of alternative contextual elements, elevating the penalty framework and restricting the room for mitigating circumstances. Parallel "gender" aggravations are extended to several "codice rosso" offences, with consequences for procedural classification, prosecutorial discretion, and the regime of prosecutability. Procedural reforms strengthen victim-centred measures: mandatory personal hearing by the public prosecutor upon a timely request, limits on delegation, expanded information and participation rights, stricter rules on measures, and enhanced communication about electronic monitoring. The law also introduces targeted confiscation of instruments used in domestic abuse and broadens preventive seizure powers to secure victims' civil claims. The presentation flags critical issues: definitional vagueness and evidentiary burdens for the new offence and aggravations; potential disproportionate penalization and redundancy with existing provisions; organizational strains on prosecutorial offices; fragmentation of interception rules; and risks of secondary victimization embedded in some preventive provisions. The piece calls for careful judicial interpretation and empirical monitoring to calibrate effectiveness, proportionality, and resource allocation. It recommends legislative refinement, targeted training for magistrates and operators, and data-driven evaluation to assess impacts on victims and justice outcomes

227. Rehabilitation Stories: Four variations on common European themes?

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Narrative Criminology

Pre-arranged Panel

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.141

This panel comprises four papers from members of the recently established ERC-funded Rehabilitation and Reintegration in Europe (RaRiE) project. While that project aims to compare contemporary rehabilitation and reintegration in the Netherlands, Norway and Scotland, this panel represents some 'first fruits' of our initial explorations of the nature and meaning of the rehabilitative ideal, and of its historical antecedents and cultural representations. More specifically, our panelists will examine how the rehabilitative ideal has been conceived and communicated in four very different 'stories' or 'tellings'. Amy Cullen (University of Glasgow) will examine how rehabilitation was imagined in medieval European morality plays. Dina Kolliakou Ginzburg (University of Glasgow) will explore the contemporary use of Stoic philosophy in and as prison-based rehabilitation in England. Fergus McNeill (also Glasgow) will discuss how rehabilitation is represented (and how it can be communicated) via Scottish folktales. Finally, Thomas Ugelvik (University of Oslo) will focus on how the same topic is addressed in three Norwegian novels. By exploring these different constructions and representations of rehabilitation, we hope to discern both common, recurring threads, and instructive divergences.

Chair:

Fergus McNeill, University of Glasgow

Participants:

What Everyman wants: Morality, performance, and rehabilitation narrative(s) *Amy Cullen, University of Glasgow*

European medieval morality plays were civic technologies as much as dramatic entertainments, designed to produce shared moral understanding through public performance. The structural logic they established (transgression, suffering, contrition, redemption), epitomised by the archetypal figure of Everyman, has proved remarkably durable. This paper argues that it continues to shape how rehabilitation narratives are constructed, consumed, and judged, as a genre rooted in religious instruction found its way into secular storytelling traditions that persist to the present day. Tracing the persistence of this redemptive arc across literary and popular cultural forms, it then turns to the civic and performative dimensions of morality drama. These were stories told for communities, calibrated to meet collective anxieties. Contemporary rehabilitation narratives, this paper argues, operate under comparable pressures, constraining what rehabilitation is permitted to look like. Drawing on David Lyndsay's Ane Satire of the Thrie Estaitis, the only surviving pre-Reformation Scottish morality play, it recovers a subversion of the form, one in which the target of reform is the social order, not the individual. That subversion, this paper suggests, still has

something to offer contemporary thinking about rehabilitation.

Meditations on a Rehabilitative Prison Programme Based on Stoic Philosophy *Dina Ariadne Kolliakou Ginzburg, University of Glasgow*

This paper explores the philosophical underpinnings of a rehabilitative prison programme based on Stoic philosophy, and critically examines how rehabilitation is designed and conceptualised in England and Wales. In a contemporary penal landscape marked by overcrowding and the growing erosion of welfare provision, rehabilitation is increasingly constructed as a matter of individual responsibility (Bosworth, 2007). This idea, I argue, is clearly illustrated by the Stoicism and Self-Mastery programme, a popular self-help course which now runs in more than 15 prisons across England and Wales. Rooted in a narrow reading of Stoic philosophy, the programme reproduces some of the more punitive ideas on crime, criminality, and rehabilitation found in Ancient Greek philosophy, which have been moulded to fit the ideological framework of contemporary Stoicism. Yet, despite the implications of these philosophical underpinnings, and the increasing popularity of Stoic philosophy both within and outwith the criminal justice system, the Stoicism programme has so far evaded criminological attention. Through interviews with practitioners and analysis of the course documents provided to participants, I argue that despite its popularity, the programme's rehabilitative merits remain largely unclear. What is clear, I contend, is that the programme is decidedly valuable for the prison. By emphasising core 'Stoic principles' centred around individual responsibility, control, and emotional regulation, the programme functions as a tool of governance which attempts to construct obedient, self-governing subjects, thus absolving the prison (and the State) of the duty to provide any substantive welfare support. The 'rehabilitated subject' which the programme attempts to construct provides interesting insights into both the contemporary evolution of Stoic philosophy, and the current state of the rehabilitative ideal in England and Wales.

Rehabilitation: A Scottish folk-tale *Fergus McNeill, University of Glasgow*

In this paper, I aim to explore how the rehabilitative ideal has been and can be communicated in the form of folk or fairytales. The main part of the paper will be the reading of (newly written) criminological folk-tale: The Tale of Howp Lin, written as a sequel to an older folktale. This perhaps unusual mode of enquiry is partly motivated by engagement with the decolonisation of criminology; it arose initially from curiosity about what 'indigenous traditions' of punishment or conflict resolution might mean in my own Scottish context. But it also connects with Pat Carlen's critique of rehabilitation as an example of an 'imaginary penality'; a fiction that legitimates an unjust status quo. Both by learning from and by writing folk-tales, I hope to communicate something important about rehabilitation's meanings, prospects and possibilities.

Fictional Prisons and the Limits of Rehabilitation: Desistance and Penal Imaginaries in Three Norwegian Novels *Thomas Ugelvik, University of Oslo*

The use of narrative fiction as criminological data has grown steadily in recent years. An expanding body of scholarship suggests that narrative fiction can serve not only as engaging pedagogical tools that make dull research papers more lively but also as a valuable source of information about crime and justice in its own right. In this paper, I closely examine three Norwegian novels centred on crime, punishment, and (often frustrated) desistance. Two are contemporary works, while the third is a classic published in 1960. I will argue that all three reflect specific cultural and zeitgeist contexts accessible through these books. I ask what insights these fictional narratives can provide regarding the role and limits of rehabilitation as both an ideal and a practice within the Norwegian penal system. What do they reveal about the evolving status of rehabilitation and the lived experience of imprisonment?

228. Electronic monitoring: juveniles, victims and non-compliance

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Courts and Sentencing and Penal Decision Making (Sentencing and Penal Decisionmaking WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.147

This is one of two panels that brings together contributors to an edited collection on electronic monitoring ((A. Hucklesby (ed) Electronic monitoring and criminal justice in a globalised world, Routledge). It focusses on three issues juveniles, victims and non-compliance which have been neglected in debates about how EM should be used and how it is currently implemented. The paper on Belgium charts the development of a law which allows EM to be used with juveniles. It highlights the specific challenges of ensuring that EM is used appropriately with this group. Three papers discuss the challenges and benefits of using EM for victims. Victims are often cited as beneficiaries of EM, despite limited evidence of the impact of EM on their lives, sense of safety and well-being. The the final paper examines decision-making when non-compliance with EM bail is reported.

Chair:

Anthea Hucklesby, University of Birmingham

Participants:

Electronic Monitoring with youth offenders: reflections from Flanders (Belgium) *Kyana De Boeck, VUB; Els Dumortier, Vrije Universiteit Brussel; Stefaan Pleysier, LINC, KU Leuven*

Our contribution starts from a short genealogy of the history of Electronic Monitoring (EM) with youth offenders in Belgium. It will examine the legislative process leading to a new Youth Delinquency Decree in 2019 with the possibility to use EM in relation to youth offenders in the Flemish Community, the part of the country we will focus on. Conversely, drawing on the experiences of a recent pilot project and existing scientific insights into electronic monitoring (EM) for youth offenders, we examine key challenges, limitations, and critical questions associated with the use of EM in this context. Although empirical research

on EM for young offenders in Belgium remains limited, international studies identify four major concerns: (1) EM exemplifies the 'adultification' of youth justice and fails to accommodate the developmental needs and rights of children; (2) there is insufficient evidence that EM addresses the underlying causes of youth delinquency or effectively supports young people's reintegration into society; (3) EM effectively extends prison into the home, thereby privatising youth sanctions and imposing additional burdens on family members, particularly parents and siblings; and (4) young people often report feelings of being treated as 'dogs on a leash' and of being publicly exposed, raising serious concerns about their right to be treated with dignity. Preliminary findings from the pilot project indicate that both professionals and policymakers face considerable challenges in navigating these complexities and in striving to achieve an appropriate balance. We propose that adopting a children's rights-based approach may offer valuable guidance in addressing these tensions and informing future policy and practice.

Domestic Abuse and Electronic Monitoring: a challenge or an opportunity for a victim-centred approach? *Michele Jane Burman, University of Glasgow; Anthea Hucklesby, University of Birmingham; Joana Ferreira, Department of Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath*

Domestic abuse poses unique challenges for criminal justice systems. A high volume crime, it is often characterised by complex relationship dynamics between the perpetrator and victim-survivor who may often share material and affective concerns. Over the past two decades, many jurisdictions have introduced changes to criminal justice responses to domestic abuse, largely set in the context of ongoing challenges facing victim-survivors of domestic abuse in criminal justice processes. Some changes signal an attempted shift to victim-centredness – centering on the situated perspectives, rights, interests and experiences of victim-survivors – with interventions that aim not only to prevent offending but enable and empower victim-survivors by aiming to increase their feelings of autonomy, confidence and safety. Across many European states, electronic monitoring or 'tagging' technologies are increasingly used in cases of domestic abuse. Drawing on the (limited) available research evidence, this paper critically explores the value of electronic monitoring in such cases, and in particular the scope for this technological innovation to effectively address domestic abuse victimisation, increase safety, and empower victim-survivors.

Surveillance regimes and the sense of safety They provide to battered women: Comparing RF and GPS technologies employed in domestic violence cases *Peter Ibarra, University of Illinois at Chicago; Edna Erez, University of Illinois Chicago*

This study examines the perceived sense of safety among women whose abusive partners were enrolled in one of two electronic monitoring (EM) regimes: radio frequency (RF) monitoring and Global Positioning System (GPS) monitoring. Drawing on qualitative data collected through in-depth interviews with program participants, we compare how each technological and organizational arrangement shapes victims' experiences of protection, safety, and institutional responsiveness. Our analysis identifies two distinct safety models: a "moat" model associated with RF programs and an "archipelago" model associated with GPS programs. Women in moat type programs reported a more coherent and durable sense of safety, grounded in reliable in home alert systems and strong relational ties with program staff. In contrast, women in archipelago-type programs described uncertainty concerning boundaries between safe and unsafe spaces, limited contact with justice personnel, and a fragmented sense of protection despite the more extensive surveillance applied to offenders. These findings illuminate how technological design, spatial logics, and programmatic institutional practices jointly structure victims' lived experience of safety, underscoring the importance of relational and procedural dimensions of EM programs alongside technological capability.

Non-compliance and breaches of electronically monitored (EM) bail in England and Wales *Anthea Hucklesby, University of Birmingham*

This paper examines the enforcement of non-compliance and breaches of bail conditions which are electronically monitored in England and Wales. According to the Bail Act 1976, the police are responsible for arresting defendants and putting them before a court. The court decides if bail has been breached and what, if any, action to take as a result. The quantity of breaches reported to the police has increased as the number of defendants on EM bail has risen and the use of Global Positioning System (GPS) EM has spread. The police report being overwhelmed by the workload involved in managing these cases and responding appropriately. The paper explores initial findings of empirical research in two police forces which examined administrative processes and decision-making in cases of reported non-compliance. It uncovered a process which results in very few cases reaching courts and inconsistent decision-making. Decisions were more likely to be guided by instrumental and cultural factors rather than legal requirements, concerns for suspects' rights or the protection of victims.

229. POLWG Panel 9: Programmable Policing: Data, Infrastructure, and Organizational Change

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.152

Chair:

Helene Oppen Ingebrigtsen Gundhus, University of Oslo

Participants:

Border Control as Data Practice *Sanne Kruse-Becher, DHBW Stuttgart; Katharina Schüller, STAT-UP; Simon Egbert, Bielefeld University*

Security agencies decisively shape which forms of crime become visible to the public. This is particularly

pronounced in detection-dependent crime - offences that surface only through targeted enforcement activities. Yet little is known about how institutional practices and technological developments jointly determine what becomes visible and what remains obscured. Drawing on a unique research and development collaboration with the German airport customs service, this study examines how AI-based decision or support tools are conceptualized, developed, and transitioned into operational use. This setting allows us to observe, in real time, how enforcement practices, data collection, and risk assessment interact when control decisions are formalized or objectified. Our empirical material consists of 22 semi-structured interviews and extensive ethnographic observations across multiple workshops with customs officers and technical developers. We show that data literacy and enforcement behaviour are mutually constitutive: officers' understandings of data shape which technological solutions are deemed desirable, while emerging tools reconfigure perceptions of risk, relevance, and control. We further discuss the broader societal implications for technology providers whose designs influence what counts as a "risk" in the first place. Our findings highlight the potential of strengthening statistical literacy within security agencies: awareness of sampling bias can serve as a powerful means to systematically and constructively reflect on one's own decision-making in enforcement contexts.

Deploying data-driven policing: Police officers' perceptions of data-driven policing and engagement with data byproducts during policing activities *Leticia Simoes-Gomes, University of Sao Paulo*

Studies on data-driven policing implementation often portray police as a monolithic group with shared values and perceptions, reinforced by literature on police culture and ethos. Yet research on organizational structures and historical accounts suggest heterogeneity among officers in their perceptions of policing strategies, self-legitimacy, and citizen-officer interactions. Less is known regarding data-driven tools specifically. This paper analyzes a digital self-administered survey conducted in 2023 (n=120) with active NYPD officers on their use and perceptions of crime analysis byproducts. Using generalized linear models, we tested whether evaluating data-driven policing strategies (EDPS) determined assiduity in using digital technologies for intel packs, hotspot mapping, and first-response apps. We also tested what influences officers' EDPS: first, whether representations of crime analysis affect their overall evaluation; second, whether sociodemographic and situational variables influence their evaluation. Findings suggest EDPS is modestly explained by frequent use of digital systems for proactive policing (coeff=0.1733). Feelings of loss of autonomy and pressure for productivity negatively impact EDPS (=-0.3217), while time spent in proactive policing (=0.2110) and holding administrative or executive positions have a positive impact (=0.5647). EDPS was lower for officers in precincts with a higher proportion of Black communities (=-2.6314), whereas being self-categorized as Black had a positive impact on evaluating data-driven policing strategies (=0.6056). As such, greater integration of crime analysis into daily operations influences how much officers value it; if overwhelmed by reactive policing, they may see less utility in such tools and associate them with productivity and performance demands. Additionally, the positive relevance of self-categorization as Afro-descendant in valuing crime analysis may suggest that racialized personal experience—as citizen and within the organization—shapes expectations regarding crime analysis. This hypothesis, however, requires further investigation to explore what, in the racialized experience of being a Black officer, influences these perceptions.

Understanding the impact of digitalisation on local police forces *Nawal Bensaïd, National Institute for Criminalistics and Criminology (Belgium); Bertrand Renard, National Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology (NICC-INCC); Carrol Tange, National Institute for Criminology and Criminalistics (Belgium)*

Digitalisation broadly refers to the transformation of social processes, relations, and institutions through digital technologies. As demonstrated by Balbi (2024), there is a tension between the promises and realities of digitalisation. Police services increasingly focus on efficiency, calculability, and mechanisms for surveillance and enforcement, arguing that digitalisation will help them achieve these goals. However, potential changes may occur in work relations (communication and contact) between police officers and between officers and their chiefs. The increased reliance on IT in internal working relations enhances the formalisation of organisational and work processes, which can devalue professional knowledge, police craft, and discretion in handling practical situations and problems. This presentation questions what transformations are being caused within Belgian local police organisations by various technologies (hardware or software) that are identified by the back-office of local police forces in Belgium as being a form of digitalisation. Drawing on over 70 qualitative interviews with back-office personnel in five different local police forces (ranking officers, strategic analysts, ICT, HRM, and DPO), it thus answers questions such as: Why have these technologies been adopted, and what are the main challenges of this transformation on the police organisation? The study is part of the Digipol project, a collaborative effort between NICC, VUB, and ULB, aimed at understanding the impact of digitalisation on local police forces. Funded by BELSPO, the project seeks to provide a grounded perspective on the impact of digitalisation on local police forces and policing.

Datafication and discretion - early intervention and forecasting youth crime *Helene Oppen Ingebrigtsen Gundhus, University of Oslo*

This paper contributes empirical research on how datafication and data analysis alter decision-making when police implement risk assessment tools to identify young people who are the 'most suitable candidates' for crime prevention. To identify young

people early in their potential criminal careers, police preventers in Norway can request an intelligence report from the intelligence unit to map individuals at risk who have not yet come to police attention. Our findings show that more young people who have not committed crimes are registered in the police database, leading to net widening effects. The young person's background is assessed manually, and intelligence analysts' judgment in risk evaluation has greater influence on decision-making than the direct use of the system's quantified risk scores. However, crime prevention interventions include all targeted youth, such as through home visits and police conversations aimed at preventing crime for managerial reasons. The visibility created by digital architectures enhances socio-technical images and practices that are shaped and adapted within a police organization focused on efficiency and management by objectives.

230. Rethinking the Future of Police–Academic Relations within different local contexts in Europe

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)
Roundtable
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.158

This roundtable explores emerging insights from a new double special issue on police–academic relationships, grounded in the concept of "fragile alliances" (Bacon et al., 2021). Drawing together contributions from across Europe, the special issue broadens earlier work (Bacon et al., 2021) by examining both formal and informal collaborations and the cultural, political, and structural conditions that shape them. The roundtable reflects on findings generated through a year long series of international workshops held in Belgium, Greece, and Australia in 2025 as part of the ESC Policing Working Group. Key themes include differing expectations of research, power and trust dynamics, precarity for early career researchers, boundary negotiations, and challenges around data access, independence, and ethics. By comparing experiences across diverse jurisdictions, the roundtable offers a critical space to discuss how police–academic relationships can be strengthened, sustained, and ethically safeguarded in an evolving European policing landscape.

Chair:
Larissa Engelmann, University of Leeds

Discussants:
Marleen Easton, Universiteit Gent
Paweł Waszkiewicz, University of Warsaw, Faculty of Law and Administration
Jenny Maria Lundgaard, The Norwegian Police University College
Guðmundur Oddsson, University of Akureyri
Elizabeth Aston, Edinburgh Napier University
Daniela Hunold, HWR Berlin – Berlin School of Economics and Law
Denise Martin, Northumbria University

231. Digitized Victimhood: Cyber Violence, Youth Vulnerability, Online Hate and Honor-Based Violence

Topic 4: Victimology/Patterns and trends in Victimization (Victimology WG)
Paper Session
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.162

Chair:
Josep Tamarit, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Participants:

Cyber violence against women as part of the continuum of gender-based violence: evidence from a systematic review *Julia Méndez-Hernández, University of Lleida; Carolina Villacampa, University of Lleida; Clàudia Torres-Ferrer, University of Lleida*

Cyber violence against women has emerged as a growing concern within European criminal justice and policy agendas. Despite its increasing prevalence, its conceptualisation and social recognition remain fragmented. This contribution presents the results of a systematic review examining cyber violence against women as a manifestation of gender-based violence and situating it within the broader continuum of violence against women. Following PRISMA guidelines, the review applies the PICoS strategy to define inclusion criteria and the ROBINS-I tool to assess risk of bias. Twenty-eight empirical studies published between 2014 and 2024 were analysed to identify patterns of victimisation and perpetration, associated risk factors, and prevailing social perceptions. The findings reveal a high prevalence of digital violence across different contexts, with women consistently identified as primary victims and men as primary perpetrators, reflecting the persistence of traditional gender roles in online environments. The analysis further highlights the widespread presence of myths and beliefs that trivialise, normalise, or justify cyber violence, contributing to its social invisibility and underreporting. These perceptions mirror those historically associated with offline forms of gender-based violence. This contribution argues that cyber violence against women should not be treated as an isolated or purely technological phenomenon, but as an adaptation of gender-based violence to contemporary digital dynamics. Recognising this continuity is essential for developing coherent prevention strategies and institutional responses that integrate online and offline forms of violence.

Victimology & Digitization: Let's start the dialogue on victimization in a digitized society *Remco Spithoven, Saxion University of Applied Sciences; Susanne van 't Hoff-de Goede, The Hague University of Applied Sciences*

Criminology has a strong victimological tradition with high policy relevance. This tradition—rooted in scientific and political calls for greater attention to and strengthening the position of crime victims—is particularly relevant for victims today in a highly digitized era. Each year, there are millions of victims of online crime. Victimological scholarly attention is, however, lacking. Initial research into the impact of this victimization shows that it is equal to or even greater than the impact of victimization from traditional, offline crime. Victims of online crime need practical, financial, emotional, and legal assistance, but the landscape of public and private support organizations is highly fragmented. Also little is known about

resilience against victimization of online crime: how do end-users protect themselves against, react on and recover from online crime and what are protective factors? In this presentation, we will introduce our strive towards a digitized victimology. We will present on the following topics: • A short overview of the known nature, extent, and impact of victimization from online crime; • Our recent research on victims of online crime and resilience against online crime; • The necessity for scholarly and policy attention for victims of online crime; • Our joint research agenda for the next four years.

Honor-Based Violence From A Global Perspective *Auzeen Shariati, George Mason University; Mangai Natarajan, John Jay College of Criminal Justice; Yasemin Irvin Erickson, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA*

In the name of "honor," individuals may be victimized—through killing, torture, stalking, abuse, or coercion—most often by members of their own family or community. These acts, known as honor-based violence (HBV), are often not clearly defined in law, which can lead to them being overlooked or underreported. Researchers have commonly considered certain subcategories of domestic violence and gender-based violence (including but not limited to forced marriages, female virginity testing, and honor killings) as forms of HBV; however, we have yet to reach a common understanding on what constitutes HBV and patterns and drivers of HBV. In this presentation, we will provide our insights on definitional issues on HBV, risk factors for HBV, consequences of HBV, and programmatic efforts to prevent HBV based on our scoping review of the literature on this topic in the past two decades. We will conclude by identifying the key gaps in the literature and providing conceptual and methodological suggestions to improve the research on HBV.

Haters gonna hate? Exploring hate incidents and victim-offender overlap in online gaming communities in Spain *Pablo Romero Seseña, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya; Josep Tamarit, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya*

Hate crimes and social victimization within online gaming environments have received increasing attention due to their potential psychological and social impact. This study, conducted within the framework of a major research project, examines the prevalence of victimization and perpetration of hate crimes in online video games and related communities, as well as the overlap between victim and offender roles. Using survey data from 1,812 Spanish adult gamers (N = 1812), we analyze experiences of hate victimization and perpetration based on race, gender/sexuality, and political ideology. Results indicate that a substantial proportion of players report being subjected to hate-based insults, with political and racial victimization being the most frequent. Perpetration rates are significantly lower but show strong associations between different types of offenses. Moreover, the study identifies a significant victim-offender overlap, showing that individuals who experience victimization are more likely to engage in perpetration. These findings point towards the cyclical nature of online hate behaviors and highlight the need for targeted interventions to address both victimization and perpetration within gaming communities.

232. Protecting public spaces by better understanding firearms trafficking and violence: Insights from Project VISTA

Topic 3: Crime Correlates/Weapons
Pre-arranged Panel
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.168

Gun violence and firearms trafficking are important threats to security in Europa. Public spaces in Europe have become the target of criminal violence, terrorist attacks, and other types of violence with firearms. As emphasised in the EU's Security Union Strategy, the EU made addressing this issue and the protection of its public spaces one of its foremost strategic priorities for action between 2020-2025. In the past decade, various legislative measures and policy initiatives have been taken at the European and national levels to safeguard the licit firearms market by limiting diversion risks and to combat firearms trafficking by strengthening the operational capacities of relevant government agencies. Despite these efforts, new and shifting modus operandi in firearms trafficking have been identified by Europol and national law enforcement agencies. The EU Action Plan on Firearms Trafficking 2020-2025 highlights that developing an adequate intelligence picture is crucial for effectively and efficiently combatting firearms trafficking and preventing gun violence. In 2025, Project VISTA – funded by the Internal Security Fund of the European Commission – was established to support the EU and national governments in their initiatives to improve the intelligence picture on firearms trafficking and gun violence. In this panel we will present various aspects of this international research project such as the challenges for harmonizing firearms seizure data, new trends in firearms trafficking and the various ways in which perpetrators of criminal, terrorist and other types of gun violence acquire their weapons.

Chair:
Nils Duquet, Flemish Peace Institute

Participants:

Challenges for Collection and Harmonization of Firearms Seizure Data in Europe *Callum Lloyd, Arquebus Europe*

The proliferation of illicit firearms in the EU and its Neighbourhood increases the risk of their use in organised crime, terrorist attacks, and other acts of violence. Yet, despite sustained efforts, the intelligence picture in Europe remains patchy. The lack of systematic and harmonized firearms seizure data collection is a key constraint in the efforts of law enforcement agencies, policymakers and researchers to counter firearms trafficking. To support ongoing efforts to enhance firearms seizure data at the EU level, Project VISTA's research focuses upon the European state of play regarding firearms seizures data collection, analysis and dissemination. Initial research has revealed a number of challenges at the national and subnational levels, which can be categorised into issues relating to data, framework, personnel and resources, and technology. Further compounding these issues, firearms seizure data ecosystem stakeholders may have varying purposes for collecting, using, or exchanging

seizure data. Crucially, these purposes shape the attributes of the data that stakeholders produce or require, particularly influencing prioritisation of the accuracy, precision, completeness, and timeliness of the seizure data. Developing a common minimum dataset will therefore need to carefully balance the requirements of national, regional and international data ecosystem stakeholders. This intervention introduces Project VISTA's research, outlines the significance of firearms seizure data and discuses common challenges within the context of ongoing EU efforts to improve the intelligence picture through harmonizing and standardizing firearms seizure data.

Monitoring and analysing firearm seizures and flows: case studies *Nicolas Florquin, Small Arms Survey, Switzerland; Aline Shaban, Small Arms Survey*

Effective evidence-based policy to combat illicit firearm trafficking relies heavily on the systematic collection and analysis of seizure data. However, researchers and law enforcement continue to face significant hurdles in harmonizing these datasets across diverse jurisdictions. This intervention explores the practical challenges of monitoring firearm flows and identifies emerging good practices drawing from recent case studies in Europe, Ukraine, and the Caribbean. A central focus of the discussion is the rapid proliferation of previously emerging firearm threats that bypass traditional arms control mechanisms. We analyse the specific challenges posed by privately made firearms (PMFs), including 3D-printed weapons and converted firearms. These weapons often lack serial numbers and traditional manufacturing marks, rendering standard tracing protocols obsolete and necessitating new forensic and data-entry standards. By synthesizing insights from these diverse contexts, this intervention highlights good practices in data integration, such as the use of harmonized indicators and cross-border information sharing. Ultimately, we argue that while technical and legal obstacles to data harmonization remain, a multi-stakeholder approach to monitoring—combining civil society research with law enforcement data—is essential for understanding the evolving landscape of illicit firearm flows.

From Access to Attack: Firearm Types, Acquisition, and Usage Patterns in European Mass Shootings (2000–2025) *Louise Macours, Flemish Peace Institute; Nils Duquet, Flemish Peace Institute*

Mass shootings are a global phenomenon, yet their consequences unfold across multiple levels: they profoundly affect local communities, reverberate within national political debates, and generate significant international media attention. Despite growing global concern and intensified public discourse, research and policy debates have largely focused on the United States, while systematic research on mass shootings in Europe remains limited. This study seeks to address this gap by advancing understanding of the scope, characteristics, and firearm-related dimensions of European mass shootings between 2000 and 2025. A dataset of 92 mass shooting incidents was compiled through extensive web-based searches, including the GunViolence.eu Incident Monitor, which is part of Project VISTA, to identify cases that meet the study's definitional criteria. This data collection is followed by in-depth case studies. Particular attention is given to firearm types and, where possible, the acquisition pathways of the perpetrator(s), providing a comprehensive and comparative account of how these attacks are carried out and how weapons are obtained. Although research on European mass shootings is limited, existing findings suggest they are usually carried out by a single (male) perpetrator. A minority are terrorist-motivated, while most stem from personal grievances, sometimes involving acquaintances but often targeting strangers. Perpetrators typically use one or two firearms, most commonly pistols or rifles, fully automatic rifles are more often linked to terrorist attacks, whereas semi-automatic firearms dominate non-terrorist cases. Building on these insights, our analysis aims to contribute to a more nuanced understanding of firearm-enabled mass violence in Europe and to underscore the importance of examining weapon access pathways alongside broader motivational and contextual factors. Given the significant threat these attacks pose to public safety and social cohesion, the research provides a critical empirical foundation for prevention strategies and evidence-based policy development.

Patterns of Firearm Acquisition and Use among Right-Wing Extremists in Europe *Annelies Pauwels, Flemish Peace Institute; Merlina Herbach, International Centre for Counter Terrorism*

In recent years, firearms have increasingly been used in violent attacks by right-wing extremists (RWE) in Western Europe. Compared to other types of attacks, firearm attacks are on average the most lethal, which makes understanding access to firearms by RWE actors a key policy and security concern. Our analysis examines how right-wing extremists in Europe acquired, attempted to acquire, possessed or used firearms between 2019 and 2024.The analysis is based on a database of 118 cases involving RWE individuals or groups. This dataset was complemented with case law analysis, existing academic research, and in-depth interviews with experts from law enforcement, intelligence services and research institutions across several EU Member States. This mixed-method approach allowed for the identification of recurring patterns in firearm acquisition and use. The findings show that right-wing extremists rely on a combination of legal and illegal acquisition pathways. These include illicit markets, legal firearm ownership, theft from military or law enforcement sources, and private manufacturing, including emerging technologies such as 3D printing. The research also assesses current EU policy measures and highlights gaps in regulation and enforcement, particularly regarding background checks for firearm licences, screening procedures within security services, and oversight of new production technologies. The study underlines the need for further research to better understand the relationship between right-wing extremism and firearm use. Strengthening this knowledge base is essential for developing targeted, proportionate and rule-of-law-based prevention strategies.

233. Policing domestic abuse

Topic 4: Victimology/Policy and Prevention of Victimization (Victimology WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.172

This panel looks at policing and domestic abuse from different angles with different research methods. It demonstrates the complexity involved in researching domestic abuse and policing and has an equal focus on methods and findings. Centring the lived experiences of victim-survivors is crucial to ensuring research that is informed and grounded in the reality of those experiencing violence. This is the case in the first paper (Couto et al.) which draws upon qualitative analysis of open-ended responses from police officers and staff who have themselves experienced domestic abuse. Victim-survivor voice is also centred in the second paper (Westmarland et al.) which includes a short film detailing one participant's experience of domestic abuse and the police process once she had used a forensic marking spray. In paper three (Erol et al.) victim-survivor voices are used as an important part of a series of case studies which also uses interviews with police officers and police case notes to understand the breadth of ways in which forensic marking evidence can be used in the quest to bring perpetrators of domestic abuse to justice. Finally, paper four takes a wider lens view, based on police incident data. The paper shows how attempts to conduct a trial-based study of a domestic abuse intervention is fraught with layers upon layers of difficulties and makes the case for the importance a mixed methods approach.

Chair:

Nicole Westmarland, Durham University Centre for Research into Violence and Abuse

Participants:

Policing Harm: Institutional Betrayal and the Police-Victim Overlap *Leticia Couto, University of Hull; Nicola O'Leary, University of Hull; Iain Brennan, University of Hull*

Domestic abuse within the police workforce remains largely hidden, despite victim-survivors occupying a uniquely constrained position, often afforded fewer protections, facing heightened reputational risks, and, in some cases, experiencing abuse within the very institution tasked with protection. This paper examines what happens when police personnel disclose domestic abuse, drawing on qualitative analysis of open-ended responses from officers and staff in a police force in England and Wales. By taking an ecological lens through which to analyse institutional betrayal, several themes were identified from the data, including workplace as a site of risk, fragmented institutional responses, absence of organisational care and experiences of blame and disbelief. These findings reveal a striking contradiction: an institution publicly positioned as a protector of victims may internally reproduce conditions that silence, expose, and re-harm its own. Disclosure is not simply a personal act but a professional risk, shaped by identity, loyalty, and organisational norms. By foregrounding the police-victim overlap, this paper challenges dominant assumptions about who victims are within criminal justice institutions. It argues that without meaningful cultural and structural change, policing risks perpetuating the very harms it seeks to prevent.

A victim-survivor's journey using forensic marking against a perpetrator of domestic abuse *Nicole Westmarland, Durham University Centre for Research into Violence and Abuse; Rachel Oughton, Durham University; Rosie Erol, College of Policing; Alishya Dhir, Open University*

This paper gives an overview of what forensic marking is and how it has been used in England and Wales in cases of domestic abuse. The aims of forensic marking are three-fold: to deter perpetrators of domestic abuse from reoffending, to improve feelings of safety and freedom for victim-survivors and to provide evidence to bring more perpetrators to justice. After the overview, a short film (12 minutes) is shown which includes police body worn camera footage and an interview with the victim-survivor. Excerpts from the interview with the perpetrator are also shown. The case resulted in a conviction and a prison sentence. Please note that this session includes descriptions of violence, images of injuries and a woman distressed in the immediate aftermath of domestic abuse.

A case study approach to understanding the effectiveness of forensic marking *Rosie Erol, College of Policing; Nicole Westmarland, Durham University Centre for Research into Violence and Abuse; Rachel Oughton, Durham University; Alishya Dhir, Open University*

One of the aims of the forensic marking evaluation was to understand if the intervention was effective in supporting the detection of crime. We wanted to explore how forensic marking evidence was used in the investigation and prosecution process following the activation of the forensic marking products. There were relatively few activations of forensic marking products, with only 12 cases reported to the police over the whole evaluation period. We used a case study approach to understand each case in detail. The case studies were based on semi-structured interviews with police officers involved in each case, along with victim interviews where possible, to understand their experience of the incident, and how they felt about having and using the forensic marking spray. Further information was obtained from recorded crime data. Each case study covered the background to the case, details about the activation incident, the police response and the outcome. This paper will present the findings from the case study analysis, drawing on similarities and differences between the cases, exploring the victim's decision to use the spray and how the forensic marking evidence influenced the police investigation. We will discuss the implications of these findings for future policy and police practice.

A trial-based design to understanding the impact of forensic marking *Rachel Oughton, Durham University; Nicole Westmarland, Durham University Centre for Research into Violence and Abuse; Rosie Erol, College of Policing; Alishya Dhir, Open University*

This paper provides an overview of the challenges faced in establishing a trial based on police data to evaluate the impact of forensic marking on future offending. We used probability sampling to generate

roughly matched comparison and intervention groups that had similar distributions of risk assessments, incident categories and number of suspect previous incidents. The method favoured retaining as much as possible of the intervention group, but some intervention cases were lost in intersections that are underrepresented in the comparison data. The findings are presented but caveated with layers of challenges. These challenges are described including the accuracy of police data such as protection order and bail conditions, difficulties with co-variates, as well as differences between forces in terms of intervention integrity. In conclusion to the panel, a case is made for the importance of honesty and integrity when working with the messiness and complexity of police data and of the importance of mixed methods approaches to understanding the effectiveness of policing domestic abuse interventions.

234. DRUGS Panel 2. Digital Transformation of Drug Markets

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Drugs and Crime (European Drug Policies WG)

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.510

Chair:

Meropi Tzanetakis, Vienna University of Economics and Business

Participants:

From social supply to bot trading - the reconfiguration of the polish drug market *Adam Stasiak, Polish Academy of Sciences*

This paper presents the findings of a study on drug trafficking conducted through social media platforms. The analysis builds on the classical concept of "social supply," developed in criminological research, according to which access to psychoactive substances is structurally embedded in social relationships. This model has been particularly prominent in Eastern European contexts, including Poland, where access to illicit drugs traditionally depended on participation in trust-based social networks. Drawing on empirical analysis of drug trading practices on social media platforms, the paper confirms that the model is undergoing significant transformation. In particular, algorithmic recommendation systems and platform infrastructures play a central role in shaping access to drug markets. These mechanisms partially substitute for traditional trust networks by facilitating visibility and connectivity between actors who may not share prior social ties. The Polish case provides especially clear evidence of this shift. The findings highlight the growing influence of algorithms, automated accounts such as bots, and influencer-driven promotion in structuring access to drug-related content. These elements contribute to amplifying visibility, normalizing certain substances, and directing users toward specific sellers or networks, thereby reshaping pathways of access beyond conventional interpersonal connections.

Hybrid Drug Markets and Online Evidence: What Narcotics Cases Reveal About the Everyday Use of Social Media and Messaging Content in Criminal Proceedings *Joanna Weronika Wójcik, University of Warsaw; Piotr Lewulis, University of Warsaw*

This paper presents preliminary findings from an ongoing file-based study of Polish criminal cases concerning the offence of introducing narcotic drugs into illegal circulation. Drawing on court-file analysis, it examines the structure of illegal drug markets, the modes of acquisition and distribution of substances, and the growing importance of digital communication in the organisation of supply networks. Reports and studies from recent years suggest that contemporary drug markets are increasingly hybrid in nature: traditional face-to-face distribution coexists with digital communication, which often plays a central role in establishing contact, negotiating transactions, and organising supply networks. Court files show that materials obtained from social media platforms and online communication tools play a very significant role in drug trafficking cases and are increasingly used in criminal proceedings. The analysis presented in this paper is linked to the broader NCN SONATA project Social Media Evidence: Towards a Unified Legal and Forensic Perspective on Presenting Online Content in Court Proceedings (2024/55/D/HS5/00635). The project aims to develop high-level interdisciplinary principles for handling social media content and other online data as evidence in a way that reconciles forensic soundness with practical feasibility in routine legal practice. This presentation offers a case-based illustration of why these questions matter. Drug trafficking cases show particularly clearly that online communication may be central to proving patterns of contact, organisation, and distribution, while at the same time raising questions about authenticity, context, and the routine evidentiary use of screenshots or printed records. By focusing on narcotics cases as a concrete example of digitally mediated offending, the paper contributes to criminological debates on the transformation of drug markets in Central and Eastern Europe and to the wider inquiry into the evidentiary role of online content in routine criminal cases.

Gender, power and drug acquisition in hybrid socio-technical markets *Alexandra Karden, checkit! - Vienna Addiction Services; Medical University of Vienna; Meropi Tzanetakis, Vienna University of Economics and Business*

The role of gender in drug acquisition remains comparatively understudied within criminological research. At the same time, drug markets are increasingly moving beyond binary distinctions between online and offline, or digital and physical domains, and are instead unfolding within hybrid socio-technical environments. This study addresses this gap by examining how gender attentive to other intersecting forms of marginalisation (e.g., ethnicity, age, education, socio-economic status, care-responsibilities) shapes participation in, and navigation of, such hybrid drug acquisition practices. Drug acquisition is increasingly embedded in environments that cut across face-to-face interactions, messaging services, social media platforms, and both clearnet and

darknet markets. Rather than constituting separate places, these settings form fluid arrangements in which digital infrastructures, institutional contexts, and social relations are mutually constitutive. Focusing on women and gender-diverse people in Vienna, Austria, this paper explores how trust, safety, and risk are negotiated within these hybrid configurations. The analysis draws on semi-structured interviews conducted in cooperation with checkit!, Addiction Services Vienna, examining everyday acquisition practices across offline settings and multiple digital platforms. Particular attention is paid to non-commercial and semi-commercial exchanges, such as social supply and sharing, which complicate conventional understandings of drug markets as purely transactional. Empirically, the paper demonstrates how gendered and intersectional positions shape access to information, risk perception, and conflict navigation. It further examines strategies of selective visibility, reputational management, and platform choice, alongside indirect forms of conflict management. The findings contribute to ongoing debates on gender, power, and hybrid criminality, and inform the development of gender-sensitive harm reduction interventions.

Marketing Strategies of Webshops Selling New Psychoactive Substances - Preliminary Results from an Online Ethnographic Study *Jessica Noack, Maastricht University*

This paper examines the online retail environment of new psychoactive substances (NPS), which, due to their often ambiguous legal status, are frequently marketed and distributed via (clearnet) websites. Drawing on an online ethnographic study conducted across the Netherlands, Belgium, and Germany, the study explores how different types of webshops present and promote these substances. The analysis focuses on a range of vendors, including smartshops and research chemical shops, and presents preliminary findings on their marketing practices. To systematically assess these practices, the 4 Ps of the marketing mix — product, price, place, and promotion — were used as an analytical framework. This approach enables a structured comparison of how NPS are framed, priced, distributed, and advertised across different webshop types. Preliminary results indicate that while smartshops and research chemical shops share some common marketing strategies they also diverge in significant ways. Notably, differences emerge in how the products on offer are framed, which in turn influences the additional amount of product information provided by these websites. These distinctions suggest that webshop types target different consumer segments and navigate regulatory uncertainties in distinct ways. Overall, the findings contribute to a more nuanced understanding of the online NPS market and highlight the importance of marketing strategies in shaping consumer perceptions and access. Further research will expand on these initial insights to better understand the implications for policy and public health.

235. Misinformation and Social Media: From Individual Susceptibility to Judicial Decision-Making

Topic 6: Perceptions of Crime and Justice/Media and social construction of crime
Pre-arranged Panel
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.511

Misinformation and social media have become central to understanding how information is produced, circulated, and interpreted in contemporary digital environments. Digital platforms facilitate the rapid diffusion of false or misleading content, while also shaping the conditions under which individuals assess credibility, form opinions, and decide whether to share information with others. Examining susceptibility to misinformation and willingness to disseminate it is therefore essential for understanding broader transformations in public communication, social trust, and democratic life. At the same time, social media have altered the informational context surrounding crime and justice. Public reactions to criminal cases are now more visible, immediate, and intense, creating online environments in which support, outrage, and condemnation can become highly salient. These dynamics raise important questions about whether such communicative settings may influence legal perceptions, professional practice, and judicial decision-making. The papers included in this panel address these issues from complementary perspectives. Some focus on the individual-level factors associated with believing and sharing mis/disinformation, including personality, digital habits, and perceived competencies. Others examine how social media environments may affect legal actors and criminal justice processes. Taken together, they highlight the need to analyse misinformation not only as a problem of truth and falsity, but also as a phenomenon with broader implications for institutional neutrality, criminal justice, and democratic life.

Chair:

Raquel Botía López, Miguel Hernández University

Participants:

Psychological and Individual Predictors of Susceptibility to and Sharing of Online Mis/Disinformation: Evidence from a Representative Portuguese Sample *Inês Sousa Guedes, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice, School of Criminology, Faculty of Law of the University of Porto; Carla Sofia Cardoso, CIJ-Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice; CEJEIA - Center for Legal, Economic, International and Environmental Studies; School of Criminology, Faculty of Law of the University of Porto; Josefina Castro, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research On Justice, Faculty of Law, University of Porto, Portugal; Faculty of Law, Lusiada University- Porto, Portugal. CEJEIA-Center for Legal, Economic, International and Environmental, Studies, Lusíada University; Bruno Silva, Faculty of Law of the University of Porto; Gilda Santos, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice; School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto; Margarida A. Santos, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice; School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto; Samuel Moreira, CIJ (Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice) - School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto, Portugal | CEJEIA (Center for Legal, Economic, International and Environmental Studies) - Lusíada*

University, Portugal

Dis/Misinformation are not only a challenge for democracy and informed debate, they can also contribute to hostile climates by legitimising suspicion, outrage, and perceptions of threat, thereby facilitating the diffusion of harmful narratives in digital ecosystems shaped by incidental exposure and AI-enabled content production. This study, developed within FACTCHECK – Knowledge is Power: Towards a Comprehensive Approach to Diminish Fake News Spread and Susceptibility (funded by Fundação "la Caixa"), examines psychological, social, and contextual predictors of (i) susceptibility to fake news and (ii) willingness to share false content online. Data were collected through an online questionnaire administered to a representative sample of the Portuguese population (N = 2,500). Participants evaluated 36 news-like photographic stimuli spanning national politics, international politics, health, and trivia, reporting perceived accuracy as well as their intention to share each item. Predictors include personality traits (Big Five and Dark Triad), need for cognition, impulsivity, fear of missing out (FOMO), fear of crime, and sociodemographic characteristics, alongside self-perceived confidence in distinguishing true from false news. Results will be presented and discussed in terms of how dispositional traits, perceived competence, and literacy-related factors may shape both belief and sharing of mis/disinformation.

Social Media and Judicial Decision-Making: An Experimental Study on the Influence of Online Communication Environments *Raquel Botía López, Miguel Hernández University; Sandra Pérez, Universidad Miguel Hernandez - Crímina; Fernando Miró-Llinares, CRÍMINA Center, University Miguel Hernández of Elche*

Although judicial decision-making is ideally based on legal criteria, prior research has shown that judges may be influenced by extralegal factors such as social context and public opinion. In contemporary settings, social media have intensified the visibility and immediacy of public reactions to criminal cases, creating communicative environments where support or opposition to judicial decisions becomes highly salient. This raises the question of whether such digitally mediated opinion climates can shape the evaluation of cases and the decisions adopted by future legal professionals. To address this issue, the present study reports an exploratory experiment with a sample of law students, designed to examine whether a simulated social media debate environment influences these decisions, as well as to explore whether attitudinal stability is affected when the information encountered is congruent with participants' prior beliefs. Overall, the study aims to provide evidence on the interaction between digital communicative environments, public opinion, and judicial decision-making, offering empirical insights into the extent to which criminal justice processes may be susceptible to social pressure dynamics characteristic of social media.

Understanding susceptibility and willingness to disseminate mis/disinformation: The role of digital habits and perceptions *Gilda Santos, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice; School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto; Carla Sofia Cardoso, CIJ-Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice; CEJEIA - Center for Legal, Economic, International and Environmental Studies; School of Criminology, Faculty of Law of the University of Porto; Josefina Castro, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research On Justice, Faculty of Law, University of Porto, Portugal; Faculty of Law, Lusiada University- Porto, Portugal. CEJEIA-Center for Legal, Economic, International and Environmental, Studies, Lusíada University; Bruno Silva, Faculty of Law of the University of Porto; Margarida A. Santos, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice; School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto; Samuel Moreira, CIJ (Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice) - School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto, Portugal | CEJEIA (Center for Legal, Economic, International and Environmental Studies) - Lusíada University, Portugal; Inês Sousa Guedes, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice, School of Criminology, Faculty of Law of the University of Porto*

Since disinformation has been labelled the "disease of the century" by the European Commission in 2020, its prevalence has intensified, posing a critical global challenge. The crisis in journalism and the swift expansion of artificial intelligence have accelerated the spread of fake news, particularly within digital ecosystems where passive news consumption is rising. Despite relatively high trust in news, evidence points to growing disengagement and exposure to misinformation, with a significant proportion of media channels having conveyed false content originating from social media. Given its impact on domains such as health, politics or conflict reporting, it is essential to scientifically examine how individuals assess information accuracy and what drives the dissemination of disinformation (i.e., false or misleading content disseminated with the intent to deceive). Thus, the current study seeks to analyze how digital context habits and perceptions (i.e., frequency of Internet use and access to news, trust in news, frequency of seeing false or misleading information, news avoidance and frequency of sharing news, media literacy, self-reported digital competencies) influence the individual's susceptibility and willingness to disseminate mis/disinformation. Furthermore, the study aims to explore whether these relationships vary as a function of individuals' sex and age, thereby assessing potential differences across these demographic variables. To do so, this quantitative study uses data driven from the "FACTCHECK - Knowledge is Power: Towards a Comprehensive Approach to Diminish Fake News Spread and Susceptibility" project. Data were collected using an online questionnaire administered to a representative sample of the Portuguese population (n = 2500), including fake and real news as stimuli. The results of this study will be presented and discussed in light of existing literature, highlighting their potential to inform practical strategies aimed at reducing susceptibility to and the dissemination of disinformation across diverse populations.

Between Media Noise and Judicial Neutrality: Social Media's Role in Criminal Justice Practice *Sandra Pérez, Universidad Miguel Hernandez - Crímina; Isabel García, University of Salamanca; Fernando Miró-Llinares, CRÍMINA Center, University Miguel Hernández of Elche*

The ideal of judicial impartiality presupposes that decision-making is grounded exclusively in legal criteria. Nevertheless, for decades, the literature has shown that the actions of judges and prosecutors may be influenced by extralegal factors, such as the social context, public opinion, or the media coverage of certain cases. In this scenario, the growing centrality of social media in shaping public debate has intensified the visibility of so-called "parallel trials," raising new questions about their potential impact on the professional performance of legal practitioners. Despite this, within the Spanish context, existing studies have focused primarily on judges' participation in digital platforms and on the ethical limits of such presence. This highlights the need to analyze how criminal court judges and prosecutors perceive the role of social media in their professional practice, particularly in cases of high public impact. To this end, semi-structured interviews were conducted with legal practitioners selected through snowball sampling. The results point to the existence of two distinct positions: on the one hand, those who isolate themselves from media noise, acknowledging the possibility of indirect influences; and, on the other hand, those who assert that, in their adjudicative role, they are capable of distancing themselves from the "parallel trials" taking place on social media, thereby denying any form of influence. These findings suggest the need, from a criminal policy perspective, to develop strategies aimed at mitigating the potential impact of social media on judicial decision-making, in order to safeguard the guarantees of the criminal process.

Personality and dis/misinformation: results from a systematic review *Bruno Silva, Faculty of Law of the University of Porto; Carla Sofia Cardoso, CIJ-Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice; CEJEIA - Center for Legal, Economic, International and Environmental Studies; School of Criminology, Faculty of Law of the University of Porto; Josefina Castro, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research On Justice, Faculty of Law, University of Porto, Portugal; Faculty of Law, Lusiada University- Porto, Portugal. CEJEIA-Center for Legal, Economic, International and Environmental, Studies, Lusíada University; Gilda Santos, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice; School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto; Margarida A. Santos, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice; School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto; Samuel Moreira, CIJ (Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice) - School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto, Portugal | CEJEIA (Center for Legal, Economic, International and Environmental Studies) - Lusíada University, Portugal; Inês Sousa Guedes, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice, School of Criminology, Faculty of Law of the University of Porto*

The spread of false and misleading information is a public and global concern, undermining trust in institutions, polarizing public opinion, and affecting democratic processes. Scientific evidence suggests that personality might play a role in how individuals evaluate news accuracy and engage with information online which underscores the need to understand how these psychological factors influence the susceptibility and dissemination of fake news. Research has been showing that certain traits, such as Agreeableness, Conscientiousness and Openness, are related to the perceived accuracy of news items, while others (e.g., Extraversion, Neuroticism and Openness) associate with fake news dissemination. Nevertheless, results are mixed and scarcely systematized. Therefore, a systematic review was conducted following PRISMA 2020 guidelines to understand the personality traits related to the susceptibility and dissemination of false information. Five major bibliographic databases were searched for empirical studies published from 2015 onwards – Web of Science, APA PsycINFO, Scopus, SAGE, and PubMed. After duplicate removal and initial screening of titles, abstracts, and keywords, 33 articles investigating the association between personality traits, belief in fake news, and dissemination behaviors met the inclusion criteria. In sum, this review identifies key personality-based predictors of misinformation engagement, contributing to a broader understanding of individual-level drivers of fake news. The findings will be discussed and implications for evidence-based strategies, including targeted interventions and media literacy initiatives, will be outlined.

236. Digital Methods in Criminological Research II.

Topic 8: Methodologies in Criminology/Advances in Qualitative Methods (Qualitative Methods WG)
Roundtable
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.516

This roundtable examines the methodological requirements of criminology when research is conducted in digital environments where crime, harm, and governance are shaped by platform infrastructures and data systems. Recent developments such as the proliferation of toxic communication across multilingual platforms, the governance effects of welfare-technology infrastructures, and the organisation of illicit markets in encrypted or anonymity-oriented environments demonstrate that our research inquiry must address more than observable online content. Contributors offer brief interventions on methodological distinctions and constraints that arise in these contexts, including the difference between online and digital methods, the implications of platform-controlled data access, and the limits of studying actors who deliberately evade surveillance. The roundtable aims to clarify what forms of methodological literacy are needed to study digitally mediated harm, coordination, and regulation, and how criminology can strengthen its methodological toolkit in environments defined by opacity, fragmentation, and rapid technological change.

Chair:

Piotr Siuda, Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz

Discussants:

Rosamunde Van Brakel, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Kristoffer Aagesen, University of Copenhagen

Participants:

Why online methods are not digital methods? *Veronika Nagy, VU Amsterdam*

This contribution highlights a critical methodological distinction that is often blurred in criminological and socio-legal research, exposing the difference between online methods and digital methods. Online methods enjoy growing popularity among kwalitative researchers, typically using techniques such as website analysis, online document collection, or platform observation. However, despite their digital setting, these studies remain largely continuous with classical qualitative approaches, as they operate at the level of visible content and institutional representation. Digital methods, by contrast, shift attention from content to infrastructure. They treat digital environments not as neutral repositories of information, but as structured systems that shape what becomes visible, searchable, and traceable in the first place. This distinction is illustrated through a case study on Dutch healthcare governance under the PGB financing schemes, where administrative data circulates across municipal platforms, procurement systems, and private software infrastructures. Using the search as research approach of Rogers, it will be discussed how digital methods enable the reconstruction of relational infrastructures and discriminatory economies that remain inaccessible through online methods alone. Lastly, the speaker calls for greater methodological precision in criminology, distinguishing not just between online and offline data, but between fundamentally different ways of producing knowledge about digital systems, their infrastructures, and their governance effects.

Complementary digital methods in the eDeTox project *Anita Lavorgna, University of Bologna*

This roundtable contribution introduces selected digital methods from eDeTox: Deconstructing Antisocial Behaviour and Toxic Communication Online, a project that examines ABTCO as a wide spectrum of digital practices that intentionally or unintentionally generate social harm. While the broader project includes several analytical dimensions, this contribution focuses on the complementarity and integration of digital approaches used to study the sociotechnical environments in which ABTCO emerges and circulates. These approaches range from longitudinal analyses of platform regulatory changes to computational techniques for data collection, network visualisation, and content analysis. They support the identification of multilingual ABTCO hotspots, the mapping of relational structures where harmful interactions proliferate, and the unpacking of conversational frames and narrative patterns. Complementing these computational tools, passive online ethnography and qualitative content and visual analysis provide deeper insights into meaning making and user interactions. Across these components, we discuss key opportunities and challenges associated with digital methods for the study of online harm. Particular attention is given to issues of data representativeness, platform opacity, and methodological scalability, as well as to the significant ethical challenges that arise when researching digital environments, including concerns around consent, traceability, and the potential risk of harm to online communities and researchers alike.

Studying Those Who Evade Surveillance: A Methodological tension *Tove Westberg, Lund University*

This abstract draws on my digital ethnographic fieldwork in cryptoforums on the Darknet, online spaces that form a key part of the social economy surrounding cryptomarkets. Conducting ethnography in encrypted, anonymityoriented environments raises distinct ethical challenges. These forums are protected by multiple layers of encryption, and over years of fieldwork I found that many participants choose them as platforms for social interactions for this reason. This creates a dilemma: whether it is ethically defensible to study the social practices of individuals who have intentionally sought an environment designed to shield them from surveillance. I argue that such settings require methodological caution. For me this has involved a strategy of data minimization, where I used manual scraping rather than web crawling, collecting only what is analytically necessary and avoiding the storage of excessive material. When presenting interactions, I introduce slight anonymizing alterations to protect participants, such as the removal of usernames and paraphrasing the interactions. These measures, however, generate a methodological tension: they uphold participants' privacy yet weakens scientific transparency. My approach therefore highlights the need to rethink transparency norms in digital ethnography conducted in spaces explicitly built to evade surveillance.

237. Radical Right, Authoritarianism, and Penality (I)

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Penology and Theories Punishment (Crime, Science and Politics WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.517

Over the past four decades, scholarship on punishment and society has centrally engaged with contemporary penal change, particularly the so-called punitive turn. While early work focused on the United States and the rise in punitiveness since the 1970s, this concern has since extended to diverse national contexts across the Global North and South. From the outset, debates have examined the role of governmental rationalities in shaping penal transformations. The concept of neoliberalism—variously understood as governmentality or a phase of capitalist development—has featured prominently since the 1990s, albeit with divergent theoretical inflections. By the late twentieth century, authors such as O'Malley (1999) highlighted the hybridisation of neoliberalism with neoconservatism within concrete political alliances, often articulated through the notion of the 'new right'. More recently, across Europe and the Americas, right-wing radicalisation has produced new political formations and realignments, achieving significant electoral success. Terms such as 'far right', 'radical right', and 'alt-right' seek to capture these developments. In this climate, penal discourses and policies are increasingly connected to emergent authoritarianisms, inviting renewed engagement with concepts

like 'authoritarian populism' (Hall et al., 1978; Hall, 1985) and 'socially implanted authoritarianism' (Pinheiro, 1991). Despite these shifts, existing literature remains limited, with analyses of cases such as Trump-era US being relatively superficial and lacking comparative depth. This panel series addresses that gap by bringing together cross-national research on the penal impact of new radical right coalitions and agendas, exploring ruptures with prior penal trends, the relationship between rhetoric and practice, carceral expansion, and the emergence of resistance to punitive proposals.

Chair:

José A. Brandariz, University of A Coruna

Participants:

Punishment and policing strategies from the concept of cultural warfare *ANDRE RIBEIRO GIAMBERARDINO, Federal University of Paranà (Brazil)*

This paper delves into the concept of cultural warfare to investigate its impact on penal policies and policing strategies in Brazil. The category of cultural war has been central to the rise of the new right and its populist expression: it frames perceived threats, such as 'cultural Marxism', and constructs imaginary enemies, thereby fostering polarizing narratives that fundamentally challenge democratic values and human rights. A central hypothesis under examination is whether the reverberations of this perspective actively shape policing strategies rooted in state violence and police lethality, alongside a carceral logic predicated on neutralization and increasingly distant from the correctional strategies characteristic of the 20th century. Ultimately, the paper seeks to outline how state violence and cultural battles become intertwined elements at the core of the new right's agenda in the Brazilian context.

The Eighteenth Brumaire of Cognitive Capitalism: a class analysis reconstruction of developments around the issue "law and order" *Dario Melossi, University of Bologna*

This paper reconstructs the history of "security" in Italy and "law and order" in English-speaking countries by examining their relationship with class composition. Adopting a personal perspective, the analysis spans from post-war Italy to the current United States under the second Trump presidency. The central transformation identified is the destruction of the early twentieth-century working class—defined by experiences of equality and scarcity—through its own struggles against the Fordist factory. This process resulted in class fragmentation, polarising society into a consumer-integrated majority and a minority of outsiders, a division captured in mid-century sociology. From the 1970s onward, "law and order" discourse shifted from addressing actual danger to managing perceived insecurity among a public structurally predisposed to fear. This shift was intensified by deliberate conservative policies, beginning with Goldwater and Nixon, continuing through Reagan, Thatcher, and the centrism of Clinton and Blair, and culminating in Trumpian authoritarianism. Such policies exploited the anthropological transformation of the (largely white) middle class, using law and order to target minorities in pursuit of conservative hegemony—a dynamic analysed by Stuart Hall and others in Policing the Crisis. The paper concludes by connecting these themes to cognitive capitalism in the United States and the Bonapartist reaction of Trump's second presidency. This reaction emerged in opposition to the movements that developed between the 2010s and the pandemic—movements in which class issues intersected with aspirations for what W. E. B. Du Bois termed "abolition democracy."

Authoritarianism and prison. Understanding penal persistence and metamorphosis in Argentina *Maximo Sozzo, Universidad de A Coruña / Universidad Nacional del Litoral*

This work examines the rise of authoritarian discourses and practices in the contemporary Latin American penal field, beginning with recent prison events in an Argentine province. It emphasises authoritarianism as a deep-rooted governmental rationality in the region, present both within and beyond dictatorial regimes. The analysis traces the historical formation of prison services and their enduring ties to police and military institutions, which embedded authoritarian organisational and cultural features that persist today. Democratic transitions did not yield structural prison reform; despite varied transformation efforts by social and political actors, these had only limited effects. Against path-dependence accounts, this article argues that authoritarian control persists not merely through initial conditions and feedback effects but through an agentic process. Prison authorities and guards are key actors who resist transformation, even during critical junctures generated by external shocks, within a field defined by ongoing struggle. These control practices do not remain static layers. Instead, they mutate over time, producing a palimpsestic configuration. The article shows how authoritarian practices became less visible and were sometimes outsourced during periods when democratisation efforts—such as monitoring mechanisms—gained traction. In the current era of authoritarian populism in parts of Latin America, such practices have re-emerged more openly, with controlled public visibility and strong support from the political arm of the state. The conclusion reflects on how punishment and society studies theorise continuity and the presence of the past in the present, challenging the field's earlier focus on change.

The Return of Incarceration: Right-Wing Government and Prison Trends in Italy *Giovanni Torrente, University of Turin, Italy*

In the years immediately following the pandemic, Italy was identified as one of the cases in which signs of a moderation in the use of imprisonment could be observed. The decline in incarceration rates, accompanied by a series of legislative reforms aimed at introducing new alternatives to custodial sentences, seemed to suggest that Italy might be entering a period of partial decline in the use of imprisonment. However, this has not been the case. This paper reflects on how the advent of the current right-wing government has resulted in a new punitive turn, which is here analysed on three main levels: the renewed increase in incarceration rates; an authoritarian shift in the regulation of prison daily life; and the expansion of the

penal control sphere through the gradual introduction of new criminal offences.

238. Attitudes about Punishment and Criminal Justice System I

Topic 6: Perceptions of Crime and Justice/Attitudes about Punishment and Criminal Justice System
Paper Session
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.610
Chair:
Fernando Guanarteme Sanchez Lazaro, Universidad de La Laguna, Islas Canarias, España
Participants:

How Criminology Affects Punishment: Analyzing Conditions under Which Scientific Information Affects Punishment Preferences *Malouke Kuiper, Erasmus University Rotterdam; Benjamin van Rooij, University of Amsterdam; Christopher P. Reinders Folmer, University of Amsterdam*

In times of rising penal populism, there is an important role for criminologists. In order to increase the influence of criminology on criminal justice policy, one obvious avenue is to inform the general public. This presentation will discuss the findings of multiple studies investigating whether criminological evidence can impact people's preferences for punitive criminal justice policies. The results show that criminological evidence about deterrence can reduce people's support for harsher punishment as a means to deter future crime under several conditions. These findings show that criminology can indeed influence the public opinion by making preferences more aligned with scientific findings. These findings will be discussed within the broader rise of penal populism and a new research agenda will be presented.

From Crime Stories to Penal Populism: How Media Events Script and Ritualise Understandings of Crime *Jianxuan Hu, Durham University Law School*

Penal populism is a form of populism characterised by support for harsher punishment, public anger about crime and perceived judicial leniency, and the privileging of common sense, community sentiment, and victim retribution over defendants' rights (Garland 2021; Pratt 2007). It is especially visible in mass communication, where offenders are portrayed as evil and fundamentally different from 'the people', while punishment is framed as obvious and deserved. These narratives circulate widely and become embedded in common sense, grounding punitive claims in the name of the majority. Building on and extending the concept of 'media events' (Dayan and Katz 1992), this paper reconceptualises high-profile, trend-driven crime reporting as recurrent 'crime media events' within contemporary media environments. It develops a processual framework in which the formation, circulation, and consolidation of punitive sentiments are generated through two interrelated mechanisms, scripting and ritualising. Scripting refers to the narrative structuring of crime as moral drama. Media assemble fragmented elements, including victims' or families' testimonies, police statements, protest voices, and offenders' accounts, into a coherent storyline of conflict between innocence and evil, culminating in the restoration of justice. In doing so, media events depict an idealised social order and organise attention around shared meanings and collective responses. Ritualising captures how these narratives are repeatedly enacted and normalised through everyday media practices. Routine engagement with news across platforms constitutes recurrent ritual acts through which audiences internalise familiar scripts of crime and punishment, embedding them within collective moral frameworks. In this process, media operate as a symbolic centre (Couldry 2005), which claims privileged access to social reality, reinforcing and stabilising punitive common sense. By linking penal populism to mediated events, this paper offers a theoretical account of how episodic public outrage becomes durable punitive common sense.

Why Do We Want to Punish AI? Retribution, Deterrence, and Social Utility in the Motivation to Punish Autonomous Vehicles *Avital Mentovich, University of Haifa; Michal Robinzon, University of Haifa; Yoel Behar, University of Haifa; Orna Rabinovich-Einy, Faculty of Law, University of Haifa*

Research on human punishment has consistently shown that punitive judgments are driven primarily by retributive concerns rather than by forward looking considerations such as deterrence or social utility. The rise of artificial intelligence raises a fundamental psychological question: do these motivational dynamics persist when wrongdoing is committed by non-human agents? We examined this question in the context of autonomous vehicles (AVs). Across three studies, we investigated the motivational structure underlying punishment judgments toward AI systems. In Studies 1a and 1b, we independently manipulated retributive and deterrence related factors. We found that although participants explicitly endorsed deterrence as an important principle for punishing AI, deterrence concerns had no effect on punishment severity. Punitive judgments were driven exclusively by retributive considerations and were fully mediated by moral outrage, indicating that punishment of AI engaged affective mechanisms similar to those observed in responses to human wrongdoing. Severe offenses also increased support for restricting autonomous vehicle technology more broadly. Study 2 examined whether social utility, operationalized as the degree to which AVs reduced net societal harm, moderated these impulses. Findings indicated that social utility exerted no influence on punitive judgments, even when AVs were described as reducing accidents by 90 percent. Retributive concerns remained the primary driver of the motivation to punish. Together, these findings suggest that retributive and affective processes continue to structure punishment judgments even when wrongdoing is attributed to artificial agents.

What does imprisonment communicate? *Fernando Guanarteme Sanchez Lazaro, Universidad de La Laguna, Islas Canarias, España*

This presentation sets out the results of a study on the

prison population's understanding of prison sentences, carried out in November 2024 in Spain, in which 0.9631% of the prison population classified as female and 0.1806% of the prison population classified as male within the General State Administration were interviewed. In contrast to penal theory and the academic constructs generally developed around hypothetical and simplified communicative processes tending towards monosemic forms of reception, prisoners—the recipients of such processes—exhibit forms of reception that are as diverse as they are complex. These forms of reception of the punitive message depend as much on the environment as on the specific individuals affected. The results point towards a communicative theory of polysemic punishment, in line with communicative reality, and, as a communicative theory, one of a perpetually provisional nature. Yet it is a theory that must be developed within the framework of a rational criminal policy.

239. EUROC Roundtable 1. Anti-Money Laundering Policy at a Crossroads: Which Direction for Measuring Effectiveness?

Topic 2: Types of Offending/White collar Crime, Organizational Crime, Corporate Crime, Financial Crime (EUROC)

Roundtable

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.611

Over the past three decades, anti-money laundering (AML) has developed into a far-reaching global regulatory regime, encompassing customer due diligence, suspicious transaction reporting, sanctions screening, beneficial ownership registries, and extensive supervisory frameworks. While formally sophisticated and near-universally adopted, evidence of its substantive impact on criminal activity remains limited. Current evaluation frameworks, most prominently those produced by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), focus on procedural compliance—whether rules are enacted, authorities established, and controls implemented—while saying little about whether these measures meaningfully disrupt criminal networks, deter predicate offenses, or reduce the social harms associated with crime. Although these limitations are widely recognized, scholars have proposed few alternative metrics capable of assessing substantive AML effectiveness. Beyond general calls for outcome-oriented evaluation, there is little consensus on how success should be defined, which indicators would be meaningful, or how effectiveness can be operationalized without reproducing compliance-based logics. This impasse places AML policy at a crossroads: whether to continue relying on compliance-focused metrics or to measure the effects the system is supposed to achieve—disrupting criminal networks and reducing the harms of crime. This roundtable brings together scholars to address this critical juncture, centering on the conceptualization and measurement of AML effectiveness. The session will feature the presentation of a research paper that critiques current evaluation practices and proposes a framework for assessing substantive outcomes, followed by comments from discussants and an open exchange with participants. The discussion aims to advance understanding of meaningful indicators, identify practical and methodological challenges, and explore directions for future research and policy reform.

Chair:

Mirko Nazzari, Università degli Studi di Sassari

Discussants:

Katie Benson, Lecturer in Criminology at the University of Manchester

Nicholas Lord, The University of Manchester, UK

Michele Riccardi, Transcrime - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Participant:

The False Labeling Problem of AML: Why Current Evaluations Are Misleading *Mirko Nazzari, Università degli Studi di Sassari; Peter Reuter, University of Maryland; Joras Ferwerda, Utrecht University School of Economics*

AML has become one of the most expansive regulatory regimes in the global financial system, yet evidence of its substantive impact on criminal activity remains elusive. This study argues that prevailing approaches to AML evaluation suffer from a fundamental conceptual flaw: the systematic conflation of procedural compliance with substantive effectiveness. Drawing on public policy literature on policy design and evaluation, the paper introduces the concept of the false labeling problem to describe an evaluative pathology whereby indicators of procedural activity—such as suspicious transaction reports filed, investigations opened, and assets confiscated—are routinely presented as evidence that the regime's underlying crime-control objectives are being achieved. This mislabeling has enabled the AML regime to expand continuously while the social harms it was designed to address remain largely unmitigated. At the same time, the regime's considerable costs—financial, institutional, and social, including the exclusion of vulnerable populations from formal financial services through de-risking—remain insufficiently scrutinized. To address this gap, the paper proposes a framework for conceptualizing and operationalizing substantive AML effectiveness, grounded in the regime's original rationale of disrupting illicit financial flows that sustain serious and organized crime. It outlines what meaningful indicators of substantive effectiveness would need to capture, assesses their data requirements and practical feasibility, and argues that reconnecting AML evaluation to its underlying objectives is a necessary precondition for any credible reform.

240. Political Activism, Indifferent Positivism and Organised Scepticism in Contemporary Criminology: Recent Turns in the Fact/Value Relationship

Topic 6: Perceptions of Crime and Justice/Political and Social Discourses about Crime and Justice (Crime, Science and Politics WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.616

Howard Becker's invitation to establish 'who's side are we on?' at the outset of the research process and in accordance with one's own personal and political value commitments provoked one of the signal controversies in social science. Nearly sixty years on, the panel recalls this controversy in the context of tendencies toward both a resurgent political activism and an

indifferent positivism in European criminology. Through case studies of the relations between politics and science in criminology, the panel recalls Merton's concept of science as a culture of organised scepticism contrasted with science as either a cannon of methodological procedures or a vehicle for personal and political sympathies. The panel questions what the concept of European criminology as a culture of organised scepticism can look like given current controversies over the colonial legacy of European thought, the politics of preventing violence against women and girls, the disruptive impact of emergent technologies on research and policy agendas and the contestation of harmful but legal threats to security.

Chair:

Adam Michael Edwards, Cardiff University

Participants:

Street Sex Work and Causal Complexity: A Critical Realist Analysis *Rachel Swann, Cardiff University*

Contemporary debates on and with street sex workers increasingly foreground participation and the authenticity of the sex worker's 'voice' and the authority of lived experience. While ethically important, this paper argues that such perspectives can risk flattening causal complexity when detached from explanatory frameworks. At the same time, global policy discourse has coalesced around claims that decriminalisation will resolve associated harms, often grounded in rights-based and public health approaches. However, these arguments frequently rely on evidence from indoor, managed, or less marginalised sectors, underrepresenting the acute and routine violence experienced in street-based contexts. Consequently, it is claimed that the harms faced by the most vulnerable women and girls risk being analytically and politically marginalised. This argument is premised on a critical realist framework and findings from a study in Cardiff (UK) of the trajectories of 50 sex workers that identified patterned pathways into street sex work characterised by childhood adversity, care experience, and structural marginalisation. The findings contrast surface-level accounts—whether voice-centred, method-driven, or policy-led—with the underlying generative mechanisms shaping entry and persistence. In doing so, it reasserts organised scepticism as essential: not to dismiss lived experience or policy claims, but to interrogate them systematically and produce more causally adequate accounts of violence against women and girls.

Disrupting the usual suspicions: critical realist reflections on policy and research agendas for urban security in 'smart cities' *Adam Michael Edwards, Cardiff University*

Comparative research into urban security agendas in Europe suggests the central tendency remains firmly fixated on offline volume street crime and disorder, notwithstanding threats accompanying the increasing migration of critical infrastructure online and, at the level of individuals and households, the increasing proportion of time that Europeans are spending online or simultaneously online/offline. Patterns of victimisation are starting to reflect this digital disruption with eFraud now the principal volume crime in countries with high internet penetration, a greater recognition of the harms to adolescent health posed by social media and of the vulnerabilities of major public and commercial organisations to ransomware attacks. The disconnect between these under-recognised (if not ignored) insecurities and the predominant policy and research agendas in urban criminology is explicable through the resilient politics of street crime but how sustainable is this disconnect? The paper takes this question as the basis for advancing critical realist reflections on the relationship between the 'thing itself' (crime and security in the smart city) and rival speculations about this thing that either prioritise or ignore how it could happen, so as to organise a more sceptical approach to urban security in Europe.

Dirty Hands and the Virtues of Trough Working: Against Zemiology and in Defence of Criminology as a Vocation *Simon Hallsworth, University of Suffolk*

Zemiology aspires not just to critique criminology but to replace it with what it conceives as an ethically superior science of harm. One tailored towards identifying harms of consequence as opposed to what it conceives as criminology's dangerous and parochial crime fixations. And which speaks to a higher moral vocation than that of the lowly criminologist feeding at the trough of the 'criminalising state'. In response, this paper defends criminology as a vocation; justifies dirty hands research; questions the need for a new imperial science of harm; and questions whether zemiology is politically equipped to deliver on its own normative promise even assuming such a case could be made.

241. Cross-National Comparisons of Crime and Justice

Topic 7: Comparative and Historical Perspectives/Cross-National Comparisons of Crime and Justice (Quantitative Methods WG)

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.014

Chair:

Koki YAMANASHI, Rissho University

Participants:

Legitimacy on Trial: Terrorism's Divergent Impact on Police Legitimacy Across Contexts *Felix Matthew Enterkin, Northwestern Univerity*

Police legitimacy is fundamental to police-community relations, although little is known about legitimacy during crisis. Research suggests terrorism can create a short increase in support for police often termed a rally effect, although this draws from evidence in liberal democracies. I present a theoretical argument that explains the effect of terrorism on police legitimacy as dependent on the context of policing and structure of legitimacy. I argue that legitimacy built upon shared values is resilient and can withstand, even benefit from, terrorism. In other contexts, fragile legitimacy built upon effectiveness leaves police vulnerable perceived failures. Using a quasi-experimental design, I evaluate this argument with a comparative analysis of terrorist attacks in Sweden and Russia. Findings reveal considerable variation between the two contexts, with a surge in legitimacy in Sweden but a decline in Russia. Results support the theoretical argument and question the generalizability of the rally effect to other contexts.

Routine Activities and Child-Focused National Policies: Explaining Victimization Among Youth in Cross-National Context *Emilie Falguieres, Northeastern University, USA; Ineke Haen Marshall, Northeastern University; Karen Heimer, University of Iowa, USA*

This paper deploys the third wave of data from the International Self-Report (ISRD3) (2012-2019) survey to develop and test an explanation of youth victimization (assault, extortion, cyberbullying, and theft) in a cross-national context. At the micro-level, we build and test an explanation that draws on routine activities/lifestyle theories to explain victimization risk using about 72,552 survey responses from youths aged 12 to 16 across 33 countries. Because national child-focused support policies play an important role in shaping child welfare outcomes (e.g.,Engster & Stensöta, 2011), we develop and test an explanation of how national-level indicators of child-focused social support (in addition to the more frequently used inequality indicator) set the stage for the micro-level processes we observe. We go beyond the usual regional clustering of countries, by empirically dividing the country samples based on levels of inequality (measured by a combination of HDI, Gini index, and gender inequality) and child-focused social support (% of families receiving child benefits, and % of GDP spent on education). We examine the unique and combined influence of national-level characteristics and individual-level processes on youths' risk of victimization, finding support for the generalizability of routine activities/lifestyle theories as well as observing the conditioning effects of national characteristics.

Testing Key Concepts of Three Delinquency Theories across 35 Countries *Michael Dumont, Northeastern University, Boston, USA; Ineke Haen Marshall, Northeastern University; Chris E. Marshall, University of Nebraska at Omaha, USA*

We test the generalizability of three mainstream delinquency theories across different national contexts by differentiating the core theoretical elements in general strain theory (economic stress, negative life events, victimization), social learning theory (deviant friends, beliefs), and social control theory (self-control, social bonds, parental supervision). We use data collected from 67,004 youth aged 12 to 16 years old from 33 countries in the International Self-Report Delinquency project (ISRD3). OLS regressions, focusing on the explained variance (R2) and the fit of the equations (BIC), are used to determine in which national context the respective theories appear to be most applicable. This paper responds to a call made in earlier work (Marshall, Kokkalera, and Marshall 2024) to focus more on between-country differences, rather than on between-grouped country clusters differences in order to specify the contingencies and scope conditions of the three theories. We conclude the paper with a discussion of the methodological as well as theoretical implications of your findings.

A Comparative Analysis of Gen-Z Protests and Digital Mobilization *Joselyne L. Chenane, University of Massachusetts, Lowell; Hillary Chakava, Department of Media Technology and Applied Communication, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya.; Rita Augustyn, Keene State College*

Since 2020, youth-led movements—often described as Gen-Z protests—have intensified worldwide, with particularly notable growth between 2024 and 2025 (Hess, 2021; Koirala, 2025; McCargo, 2021; Sombatpoonsiri, 2025; Twinomurinzi, 2024; Zheng, 2024). While these mobilizations have attracted increasing scholarly attention, they are typically examined in isolation. This paper addresses this gap by offering a comparative analysis of Gen-Z protests between 2020 and 2025, asking what these movements share, whether they represent a new phase of youth activism, and how they reflect evolving modes of political engagement. We examine the motivations, triggering events, trajectories, and outcomes of selected cases across diverse regional contexts to assess whether these protests are interconnected or largely independent phenomena. The analysis further considers whether these movements signal the emergence of a new wave of youth advocacy and political participation. Drawing on criminological theories, the paper also interrogates how and why youth protests—despite being predominantly non-criminal—are frequently framed and managed through criminalization. Methodologically, the study employs a comparative content analysis of social media posts to capture protest narratives, organizational strategies, and patterns of engagement. By situating Gen-Z protests within a comparative and theoretical framework, this study aims to provide insights relevant to scholars and policymakers concerned with youth activism and contemporary protest dynamics.

Cyber Deterrence Perceptions and Cyber Offending among Japanese Adolescents *Koki YAMANASHI, Rissho University*

In contemporary societies, adolescents spend an increasing amount of time in digital environments, where communication and social interaction often take place online. As opportunities for online interaction expand, concerns about cyber offending among young people have grown. However, many forms of cyber offending are difficult to detect and are often underreported, which makes it challenging to assess the extent to which adolescents engage in such behavior. As a result, little is known about the factors associated with adolescents' cyber offending. Drawing on insights from Perceptual Deterrence Theory, this study examines whether adolescents' perceptions of cybercrime enforcement and punishment are associated with their engagement in cyber offending. The analysis uses self-report survey data collected from 1,820 middle school students in Japan. Cyber offending is measured using several items that capture different types of online behavior. These include sharing private images without consent, posting hurtful messages or comments on social media, using the internet to dupe or deceive others, and hacking or breaking into a private account or computer. The main independent variables measure adolescents' perceptions of cybercrime enforcement and punishment. These

include perceived detectability of cyber offenses, perceptions of police ability to investigate cybercrime, the perceived likelihood of being caught, and perceived severity of punishment. Adolescents' moral evaluations of online misconduct are also included in the analysis together with several control variables. Logistic regression models are used to examine whether differences in deterrence-related perceptions and moral evaluations are associated with adolescents' engagement in cyber offending. The analysis explores whether stronger perceptions of cybercrime enforcement and punishment are associated with lower levels of cyber offending. By focusing on adolescents' perceptions of cybercrime regulation, this study contributes to discussions about deterrence and youth behavior in digital environments and provides empirical evidence on factors potentially associated with cyber offending among adolescents.

242. How to Access & Mobilise Occluded Data on Illegal and Unsustainable Wildlife Trade

Topic 8: Methodologies in Criminology/Advances in Comparative Methodology (Qantitative Methods WG)
Roundtable
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.110

The international wildlife trade is rapidly growing in terms of its volume, diversity of species and complexity of trade pathways. Nested within this large global trade involving thousands of species, the illegal or unsustainable trade of live animals for the exotic pet trade poses a persistent threat to the conservation of biodiversity, animal welfare, and human health via the risk of zoonotic diseases. This trade has become of prominent research interest to green criminologists and conservation biologists alike due to the complexity of motivations for harvesters, traffickers and end-buyers of live animals. Attempts to build a comprehensive understanding of the legal and illegal components of exotic pet trade have been hindered by the occluded or scarce nature of wildlife trade data. While similar challenges are encountered in other illicit marketplaces, wildlife trade has only recently been associated with organised criminal networks, financial crime, and greenlaundering. As wildlife trade operates worldwide at both the domestic and international scale, cross-jurisdictional and transdisciplinary collaboration is essential to identify common challenges, leverage a diversity of expertise, and to coordinate actions that can help mitigate the threats posed by illegal and unsustainable trade. This roundtable aims to bring together experts from the fields of green criminology and conservation biology to share experiential knowledge on various methods of wildlife trade data collection, including: 1) Accessing government seizure & prosecution data across multiple jurisdictions; 2) Collecting & cleaning large-scale e-commerce data; 3) Gaining ethical and effective access to occluded social media sub-groups; 4) Discussing sensitive topics during participant interviews; and 5) Conducting market surveys at large physical marketplaces such as expos. By providing a platform to share contemporary insights into best practices, key challenges and future advancements in each methodology, this roundtable seeks to facilitate further interdisciplinary research and contribute to evidence-informed management recommendations.

Chair:
Adam Toomes, Adelaide University
Discussants:
Rachel Boratto, GuArdean Centre for Conservation Research
Daan van Uhm, Utrecht University
Tanya Wyatt, UNODC
Ryan Almeida, Villanova University

243. Platform Crime, Digital Markets and Online Harms

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Cybercrime (Cybercrime WG)
Paper Session
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.116
Chair:
Florin Cosmin Bobei, University of Bucharest
Participants:

Contemporary Digital Piracy *Rajeev Gundur, Maynooth University; Zarina Vakhitova, Monash University; Harry Liu, Monash University*

Legal streaming initially curbed the piracy of digital media by making content easy and affordable to access. Since approximately 2020, however, digital piracy has had a resurgence globally, even as the number of available streaming platforms has grown. This paper argues that the resurgence, especially when considering video content, is not well explained by shifts in individual morality or weakened enforcement alone. Instead, it reflects structural changes in the streaming ecosystem itself: Content is now dispersed across competing subscription services and has varying access depending on geography and release window. Moreover, the cumulative cost for consumers to maintain legal access to a broad spectrum of content has risen. We propose that these platform-level access constraints operate through two reinforcing channels. The first is behavioral: As the effort required for legal viewing increases, users gravitate toward lower-friction alternatives. The second is normative: The same constraints that make legal access to a broad spectrum of media harder for consumers also make it feel less fair, giving users ready-made reasons to see piracy as reasonable rather than wrong. We test this framework using an experimental design that isolates the causal contribution of specific, modifiable access barriers to both piracy-related choices and users' perceptions of whether piracy is justified. The findings carry direct implications for how platforms and content licensors structure access to legal content.

Platform Crimes: Hybrid Organizational Forms in Digital Environments *Lorenzo Picarella, University of Bologna*

This presentation examines illegal online platforms—specifically child sexual abuse material (CSAM) communities, cryptomarkets, and illegal streaming services—as emergent organizational forms that reconfigure how crime is structured and governed in the digital age. Rather than fitting existing models of criminal organizations, these platforms represent a distinct organizational logic that combines fluid participation with stable systems of coordination and control. While often described either as decentralized environments or as coordinated enterprises, this

contribution argues that they simultaneously embody both features. Across cases, participation is open, transient, and highly replaceable, yet underpinned by relatively stable cores of administrators and moderators who perform key governance functions, including access control, rule enforcement, dispute resolution, and trust management. The analysis draws on a qualitative research design that integrates judicial materials with semi-structured interviews conducted with key informants, including law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and cybersecurity experts. This triangulation enables a grounded reconstruction of internal organizational dynamics, with particular attention to role differentiation, regulatory mechanisms, and the distribution of power. Building on sociological theories of organization, the paper conceptualizes these platforms—similarly to dominant legal digital platforms—as hybrid organizational forms that blur the boundaries between markets, networks, and hierarchies. By comparatively analysing three illicit domains, the paper identifies recurring organizational patterns alongside context-specific variations, offering a theoretically informed framework for understanding the evolving morphology of crime in platform-mediated settings.

Life on Tag: Digital Chains and Human Hosts *Carl Berry, UWE*

Electronic monitoring (EM), or 'tagging', is today a globally deployed sentencing measure. EM's emergence has accompanied concerns about increasing uses of surveillance and control within criminal justice, although it has been praised for allowing offenders to continue their lives away from prison and assisting rehabilitation. Nevertheless, user experiences remain hugely under-researched while detailed evaluative data on EM's functioning is lacking. This paper discusses ethnographic, doctoral research on 21 EM users serving EM in various settings/modalities in a location in England dubbed 'EM City' between 2015 and 2020. Using actor network theory (ANT), the study investigates how carceral technologies mediated their lives: to understand the pains of observation EM created and to evaluate EM's effectiveness in maintaining compliance and encouraging desistance among offenders. This paper discusses the main findings of this work in anticipation of its conversion into a monograph.

The Role of Knuckle and Fingernail Bed Biometrics for Identifying CSEA Offenders in Digital Evidence *Daniella Ferrante, Michigan State University; Thomas Swearingen, Michigan State University; Richard Guest, University of Southampton; Kathryn Seigfried-Spellar, Michigan State University*

Digital evidence is estimated to be a factor in about 90% of criminal cases, and mobile phones are the most seized devices. The popularity of smartphones has also increased the ease of sharing high-quality multimedia via social media and native texting. In CSEA criminal cases, images and videos can serve as important forms of digital evidence. As a part of the grooming process, CSEA offenders will send sexually explicit "sexts" to the minor, and although the offenders may try to conceal their faces, research has shown the validity of knuckles and fingernail beds as another form of unique biometrics. This presentation will discuss the research and development of the Suspect Hand Biometrics Tool – a digital forensics tool that automatically processes images and videos to extract knuckle and fingernail bed biometrics. First, we collected a novel dataset of unconstrained imagery to better reflect operational law enforcement data "in the wild." Using an iPhone and Android, 40 participants (19 to 62 years; M = 33.18, SD = 11.06) captured images and 15-second videos of each hand while interacting with four objects: a Superman stuffed toy, a blanket, a bee stuffed animal, and a therapy massage gun. During each video recording, the room lighting was gradually reduced at five-second intervals until the room reached complete darkness. We then evaluated an existing hand biometric forensic tool originally developed for more constrained capture conditions, which initially yielded low recognition performance on the hand dataset with less constrained capture conditions. To improve match performance, we implemented additional preprocessing methods (e.g., segmentation) and evaluated several state-of-the-art recognition models. These enhancements yielded meaningful improvements in match performance, demonstrating the potential for dorsal-hand (i.e., back of the hand) recognition even in operationally realistic, unconstrained imagery.

The body as data: control, exposure and non-consensual circulation of intimate images *Florin Cosmin Bobei, University of Bucharest*

The non-consensual circulation of intimate images has emerged as a significant form of intrusion into private life in contemporary digital environments. Drawing on the manner in which Romanian criminal law addresses this issue, as well as on insights derived from case law, this paper aims to examine the criminological implications of the phenomenon. The analysis focuses on identifying the underlying factors and the socio-cultural context in which such conduct develops in Romania. Particular attention is given to the interplay between interpersonal relationships, digital communication practices, and broader cultural attitudes towards privacy, sexuality, and gender. In this context, intimate images are approached not merely as representations, but as datafied extensions of the body, capable of being stored, reproduced, and circulated independently of the individual.

244. Working Group on Organized Crime and Criminal Networks - Panel 2 - Organised Crime Activities and Countermeasures

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Organized Crime (Organized Crime WG)

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.130

Chair:

Tetiana Melnychuk, National University "Odesa Law Academy", Ukraine

Participants:

Human Trafficking Enterprise: an Analysis & Typology of

US and International Cases *Jay Albanese, Virginia Commonwealth University*

A description and typology of serious cases of human trafficking and how traffickers, their victims, and consumers overlap and interact across locations. This study examines known human trafficking enterprises for which prosecution has occurred. A sample of US cases prosecuted 2021-2024, combined with an international sample of cases, are used to develop a typology of the structure and operation of these trafficking enterprises, the nature of the trafficking and exploitation, and the source of the demand. Examination of the nature of the trafficking enterprise chain is presented: recruitment, transit, demand, and the nature of victim exploitation at the destination. It is argued that two aspects of human trafficking have been undervalued: the need to assess risk to reduce both the pool of individuals at high risk of being trafficked, and reducing the demand pool of potential offenders and consumers who exploit these individuals for profit.

The local weak link? Anti-money laundering practices in Italian municipalities *Michael Victor Lo Giudice, Transcrime - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore; Giovanni Nicolazzo, Transcrime - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore; Marina Mancuso, Transcrime - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore*

Criminal infiltration into the legal economy is a central concern in organised crime research. By gaining control over otherwise legal enterprises, criminal actors can access public procurement contracts, European and national subsidisation schemes, and facilitates the laundering of illicit proceeds through lawful economic channels. This creates a situation where public administrations, who are often in need of soliciting private sector services, run the risk of empowering local crime syndicates and, are therefore, a critical site of prevention. In the Italian legal framework, public administrations are assigned a specific role in anti-money laundering. Yet little is known about whether, and to what extent, such obligations are actually implemented at the local level. We beg the question, by submitting a structured questionnaire to a representative sample of Italian municipalities through requests filed under accesso civico generalizzato (a citizen transparency guarantee). The questionnaire gathers information on the existence of anti-money laundering-related procedures, internal reporting arrangements, organisational safeguards, staff training, and other measures aimed at detecting suspicious transactions and mitigating the risk of criminal infiltration. The responses are examined through qualitative and comparative analysis in order to identify patterns of implementation, variation, and institutional weakness across municipalities. In doing so, this research, conducted within the framework of ISF project DATACROS III, contributes to the literature on organised crime prevention, public-sector integrity, and anti-money laundering governance by shifting attention from formal legal obligations to their concrete administrative uptake.

When rivals emerge: Strategic interaction between organised crime groups under policing pressure *Pedro Sousa, Interdisciplinary Research Center on Justice (CIJ/FDUP); School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto*

Organised crime groups in many urban environments often function as dominant, quasi-monopolistic suppliers of various illicit services, extracting payments from both businesses and local populations. Although the literature has extensively examined the internal structures of these organisations and their interactions with the authorities, comparatively little attention has been devoted to the strategic processes that unfold when a rival group attempts to challenge an established dominant organised crime group. This study seeks to fill that gap by proposing a game-theoretic model that captures the strategic interplay between an incumbent organised crime group and a potential entrant competing within the same illegal market. By situating this competitive interaction within a context of law enforcement characterised by varying levels of intensity, the paper analyses how policing efforts shape the strategic choices of organised crime groups, particularly with respect to extortion practices. It identifies the circumstances under which either cooperative arrangements or direct competition are likely to arise. Special emphasis is placed on understanding how the possibility of entry shapes the incumbent's behaviour, as well as how the entrant's decision to enter the market depends on both the incumbent's strategic response and the degree of enforcement pressure. Findings offer relevant insights for developing more effective policies to target extortion and enhance public security.

Investigating diversification of armed groups toward natural resources and criminal activities. *Lucas Tosi Rodriguez, Université de Lausanne; Stefano Caneppele, University of Lausanne*

Natural resources represent a highly profitable activity for armed groups around the world, particularly in conflict-affected areas. This paper examines how armed groups diversify across illicit markets, with a particular focus on natural resources. While research on armed groups has traditionally emphasized natural resource exploitation and its role on conflict dynamics, it has largely overlooked the criminal activities associated with conflict financing. Drawing on insights from green criminology and organized crime studies, this research investigates how different criminal activities coexist and overlap. The environmental crime continuum (Van Uhm, 2018) is used as a heuristic framework to situate armed groups along a spectrum of involvement in illicit natural resource markets. We rely on the Rebel Contraband Dataset (Walsh et al., 2018), a large-scale datasets on armed groups' criminal activities and their involvement in natural resource exploitation. Latent profile analysis is then used to identify distinct patterns of criminal diversification, complemented by external validation analyses. By shifting the focus from isolated resource exploitation to diversified criminal strategies, this paper contributes to bridging green criminology, organized crime, and conflict research. It provides a more comprehensive understanding of how armed groups operate within

complex illicit markets and offers insights into the financial and organizational structures that sustain violence.

Organised Crime as Structural Actor of Wartime Order: Rethinking Crime–Conflict Nexus *Tetiana Melnychuk, National University "Odesa Law Academy", Ukraine*

Classical conflict theory views war as a violent instrument of achieving political goals. Prevailing criminological theories tend to treat organised crime as an economically motivated deviant behaviour that exploits the chaos of armed conflict to maximise profits. The proposed study challenges this analytical distinction and offers an alternative perspective, conceptualising organised crime as a structural actor integrated into the war order. War produces conditions in which conventional normative structures and institutions of the rule of law are either absent or function in a modified form. This multidimensional 'state of socio-legal exception'destabilises the foundations of social order and creates fertile ground for criminality. In this crisis-exceptional configuration, organised crime performs quasi-regulatory functions: from providing logistics and access to resources to regulating illegal markets and establishing alternative governance regimes. The theoretical framework combines the criminology of war, the political economy of conflict, and an institutional approach. Empirically, the study focuses on Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. The findings indicate that organised crime not only demonstrates a strong capacity to adapt to social upheavals and exploits the 'windows of opportunity' presented by wartime, but also integrates into the economic and administrative infrastructure of wartime, contributing to the formation of resilient hybrid orders, thereby generating the states' asymmetric vulnerability in post-conflict settings. These findings necessitate a shift in the understanding of the link between conflict and crime from a situational, correlational coexistence in geographical space to a recognition of it as a recurring structural and functional characteristic of modern armed conflicts. Despite the unique empirical context of hybrid interstate war, the study expands the theoretical boundaries of organised crime research. It also contributes to the development of conflict studies, offering insights into the criminogenic consequences of armed conflict and outlining a roadmap for peacemaking that accounts for the embeddedness of organised crime.

245. Social Media and Crime

Topic 3: Crime Correlates/Social Media and Crime
Paper Session
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.136

Chair:
Agnieszka Izabela Włodarska, University of Warsaw

Participants:

Crowdsourcing the Hood: How gang members, the gang savvy, and the gang-curious map local territories in a global online community *Kate K. O'Neill, University of Iowa*

As research on gangs in online spaces expands, it is increasingly clear that participation in gang-oriented digital environments - i.e., the "digital streets" - extends beyond active gang members and operates across local and global contexts. The presence of a non-particularized audience, and the resulting loss of exclusive control over the "back regions" of gang life, has important implications for how literal and figurative group boundaries are co-constructed across analog and digital spaces. This study examines these dynamics in an online community where users design and discuss maps of gang territories worldwide. Drawing on over 8,000 user interactions (posts, comments, and replies) in a forum attracting around 13,000 weekly visitors, this project qualitatively explores how self-identified gang members, the "gang-savvy," and the "gang-curious" collaboratively construct "gang turf," and how these practices inform a global gang culture. Building on research on gang territoriality (e.g., Thrasher, Hagedorn) and the decoupling of place and interaction (e.g., Meyrowitz, boyd), this study explores how digital contexts blur boundaries between gang insiders and outsiders. It asks: (1) How do users negotiate the boundaries and legitimacy of gang territory online? (2) How are insiders and outsiders identified in digital gang spaces? and (3) How do the gang-curious accrue social capital in the digital streets? Preliminary findings suggest this platform attracts engagement from users with varying levels of gang knowledge. Gang-curious users frequently solicit feedback from gang members to enhance the legitimacy of their mapping projects, and users distinguish insiders from outsiders through demonstrations of local knowledge and map accuracy. Users also emphasize proper attribution of mapping projects, thus facilitating the accrual of social capital. This broader participation reshapes how territorial claims are constructed, contested, and legitimized in the digital streets, challenging analog understandings of gang territoriality and supporting the globally networked construction of gang territory and identity.

From Screens to Streets? Daily Online Misogyny and Police-Recorded Violence Against Women and Girls in Greater London *Matthew Williams, Cardiff University; Pablo Andres Ezquerra Silva, Nisien.ai*

This paper examines whether day-to-day variation in misogynistic discourse online is associated with day-to-day variation in police-recorded violence against women and girls, using Greater London as a city-level case study. We combine daily social media data from Platform X with police-recorded VaWG data for the observed Neutral Activity Index window from 23 September 2024 to 30 April 2025. The principal online measure is the daily share of posts classified as misogynistic within a targeted London collection stream, rather than raw post counts, allowing us to distinguish changes in the concentration of misogynistic discourse from changes in general platform activity. We estimate day-level Poisson count models with robust standard errors and controls for day of week, linear trend, general online activity, and daily case composition derived from linked police records. We find a positive same-day association between the

daily share of misogynistic posts and daily VaWG counts. The result remains stable across a wide range of checks, including exclusion of quote posts, lead falsification tests, distributed-lag models, month fixed effects, event-window controls for major media and policy moments, and alternative visibility and virality measures derived from impressions and repost activity. Exploratory subgroup analyses suggest that the association is more clearly visible in incidents involving suspects known to the victim, pointing away from a simple stranger-danger interpretation and towards relationship-based or domestic contexts. By contrast, comparable models of aggregate offline violence are broadly null, suggesting that the observed pattern is not simply a reflection of general violence or ambient online hostility. While the findings do not establish direct causation, they provide evidence of a temporally specific and substantively gendered same-day relationship between online misogyny and offline VaWG, with implications for online safety policy, platform governance, and violence prevention.

Online abuse of women in politics: an experimental vignette study *Isabelle van der Vegt, Utrecht University; Amy Nivette, Utrecht University*

Women in politics are increasingly targeted by online abuse, hate, and even threats of violence. The current study examines the drivers behind abuse towards women politicians on social media. Backlash theory suggests that women who transgress traditional gender norms become targets of abuse, for example when projecting dominance or rejecting conventional roles. In line with Online Disinhibition Theory, we consider whether online anonymity further exacerbates these dynamics. Using a vignette experiment (N=800) that systematically varies these mechanisms, we measure participants' willingness to respond abusively (and other related attitudes) to a social media post from a female local politician. In addition to measuring attitudes quantitatively, we also explore impressions of the politician through textual responses. All in all, this mixed method study addresses a notable gap in the literature. While research on gendered online abuse has grown considerably over the past years, it remains largely reliant on observational social media data. This study contributes experimental evidence on the conditions under which such abuse manifests, with implications that extend to the safety of women in politics and democratic representation more broadly.

Patterns of Vendor Neutralization in the Darknet Drug Trade *Tibor Kiss, University of Public Service; Ákos Szigeti, University of Public Service; Tünde A. Barabás, University of Public Service, Hungary*

Abstract How do offenders legitimize harmful activities in anonymous digital markets where trust must be artificially constructed? The expansion of darknet drug markets has transformed illicit drug distribution by creating decentralized, technologically mediated environments in which vendors actively shape perceptions of legality, safety, and morality. This study examines the criminological patterns of offender neutralization used by darknet vendors to justify their activities and reduce buyers' perceived risks. Building on Sykes and Matza's neutralization theory and Bandura's moral disengagement framework, the study adopts the latter as a more suitable model for digitally mediated contexts. The analysis is based on a qualitative content examination of 93 darknet vendor shops and 739 webpages, including vendor profiles, product descriptions, and transactional interfaces. Deductive coding was conducted using moral disengagement mechanisms. Findings show that vendors rely on a limited but strategic repertoire of neutralization techniques. Euphemistic labeling dominates, reframing illegal substances as safe and high-quality products. Advantageous comparison and moral justification further reinforce the perceived benefits of online purchasing, while responsibility is frequently shifted to consumers. The study also identifies emerging, digitally embedded neutralization patterns, including technological rationalization and the construction of a professional service-provider identity. These findings suggest that neutralization in darknet drug markets primarily serves market-oriented functions, especially trust-building and consumer persuasion. By linking moral disengagement theory to digital illicit economies, the study contributes to understanding how online environments reshape offender rationality and the social construction of trust in cyber-enabled drug markets.

Radicalization and Social Conflict in the Polish and Italian Manosphere *Agnieszka Izabela Włodarska, University of Warsaw*

In contemporary society, feeling like a failure is no longer just a personal issue, for some, it has become a political identity. This research explores the "manosphere" – a network of online groups uniting men – in Poland and Italy through the lens of failure studies. The study argues that these digital communities help men transform personal shame into collective anger.In the manosphere, personal failures in dating or social status are not seen as individual faults, but as the result of a "broken system". Using digital ethnography and text analysis of Polish and Italian forums, this study explores how these groups adapt global ideas like the "Red Pill" or "Black Pill" to their local cultures. Members of the manosphere do not try to cope with their failures in traditional ways. Instead, they use the feeling of being "left behind" to fight against modern changes in social norms and feminism. By framing their situation as systemic discrimination, they construct a new identity that rejects standard definitions of success. This research demonstrates how online perceptions of failure and a "broken system" can lead to radicalization and new forms of gender conflict in the digital age.

246. Part one: Prison Officer Roles and Responsibilities: International Perspectives

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Imprisonment, Prisons, Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment (Prisons WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.156

Part one, this panel situates prison officer work within a global

context, with a particular focus on the differences in the role and how those roles are enacted within diverse penal structures. While prison officers are central to the everyday functioning of prisons, their work often remains underexamined in comparative scholarship. This panel collates chapters from a new edited collection published later in 2026 with Routledge, titled; Prison Officer Roles and Responsibilities: International Perspectives. Drawing on contributions from multiple jurisdictions, this edited collection explores how prison officer roles extend beyond security and control to include care, communication, conflict management, and the facilitation of rehabilitation. The panel highlights how officers navigate complex and often contradictory expectations: maintaining order while supporting prisoner wellbeing, implementing policy while exercising discretion, and operating within resource-constrained and increasingly scrutinised environments. By bringing together international perspectives, the collection demonstrates both the diversity and commonality of prison officer work across different systems. The panel introduces the key themes that run throughout the volume and argues for greater comparative attention to the occupational realities of prison officers and their significance within contemporary penal governance.

Chair:

Matthew Maycock, Monash University

Participants:

Encouraging Compassion: Revising the Exceptional Escorted Day Absence (EEDA) Form and the Role of the Prison Officer in Bereavement Care *Tia McPherson, University of Hull; Sheena Orr, Independent Reseacher; Kenny McGeachie, Scottish Prison Service*

Compassion, one of seven Scottish Prison Service's (SPS') values, should be at the forefront of prisoners' daily care; even more so during a challenging period in individual's life – such as following a bereavement. SPS' Escorted Day Absence (EDA) Operational Protocol enables prisoners to request temporary leave from prison to attend a funeral, visit a terminally ill relative, or address another exceptional circumstance, for example attend a Children's Hearing Panel or visit a seriously, but not terminally, ill relative. Yet, whether a bureaucratic form, as is the EDA, can illicit compassion is less known. This paper examines the process of building compassion into a form and explores ways in which a form can be used to encourage a more compassionate response specifically around bereavement. It draws on Smith's Institutional Ethnography and focuses on the impact of relevant documents on those affected by the process. It also discusses prison officers' experiences of using the revised EDA form, as they are usually the ones submitting the EDA request on behalf of prisoners. Finally, this research contributes to the wider discussion around integrating compassion in administrative forms and demonstrates how a small change in the form's format could improve individual's experiences of the process.

Creative Interventions for Prison Staff Wellbeing: An Interdisciplinary Approach *Helen Nichols, University of Hull; Josephine Metcalf, University of Hull; Chris Westoby, University of Hull*

In early 2023, a team of researchers from the University of Hull piloted creative writing workshops for prison staff at two prisons in England and Wales. This chapter will explore some of the initial findings stemming from our project that seeks to support employees in a role that government and academics recognize is vital but comes with real-world vulnerabilities in terms of mental wellbeing, exposure to violence, and, hence, a high turnover of staff. Research from the Institute of Criminology at Cambridge recognizes that prison officers are productive role models for prisoners and that the pop-cultural stereotype of the officer beating the inmate into submission has diminished (Liebling et al, 2010). Yet a report published by the Prison Officers Association (POA) in 2020 noted that members were at a greater risk of work-related stress and mental health problems than most other occupations, with little support in place to tackle these issues. With academic expertise from Criminology, Cultural Studies, Creative Writing, and Psychology, we designed a bespoke Creative Writing module to support staff wellbeing in the workplace as well as improving officer-prisoner relationships. We were inspired by previous research with prisoners which suggests the positive impact of using specific US (prison) culture texts as creative writing prompts.

Managing Intricacies: The Function and Difficulties of Correctional Officers in Pakistan *Noor Malik, Independent Reseacher; Daud Aslam, Independent Reseacher*

The correctional system in Pakistan, deeply rooted in its colonial past, faces significant challenges that hinder its ability to function effectively. This chapter explores the multifaceted role of correctional officers within Pakistan's criminal justice system, highlighting their responsibilities in maintaining order, managing overcrowded facilities, and facilitating inmate rehabilitation. However, systemic issues such as corruption, inadequate resources, and political interference severely undermine their efforts. Overcrowding remains a persistent problem, with prisons operating far beyond their capacity, leading to unsafe and unsanitary conditions. This, coupled with a lack of funding for rehabilitation programs, shifts the focus of correctional officers from rehabilitation to mere crisis management. The psychological and emotional toll on correctional officers is substantial, as they navigate high-stress environments, exposure to violence, and moral dilemmas arising from corruption and preferential treatment of influential inmates. Despite these challenges, training programs for officers remain insufficient, lacking emphasis on mental health awareness, crisis intervention, and rehabilitation techniques. Corruption within the prison system further exacerbates these issues, with bribery, smuggling, and political interference creating an environment of mistrust and inefficiency. Efforts to reform the system have been made, both domestically and through international collaboration. Organizations such as the UNODC and Amnesty International have advocated for human rights-based reforms, improved training, and rehabilitation programs. However, the implementation of these reforms has been slow, hindered by a lack of political will, resource constraints, and entrenched

corruption. The chapter concludes by emphasizing the need for comprehensive reforms, including infrastructure improvements, updated legal frameworks, and a shift toward a rehabilitative rather than punitive approach. By addressing these challenges, Pakistan can move toward a more humane and effective correctional system that prioritizes the rights and rehabilitation of inmates while supporting the well-being of correctional officers.

Between two worlds: navigating dirty work as a prison officer in Finland and Scotland *Kaigan Denee Carrie, University of Westminster*

Research on prison officer culture and the concept of prison work as dirty work has primarily focused on research in Australia, the United States, and the United Kingdom, where prisons do not follow the concept of penal exceptionalism. These studies have advanced our understanding of how prison officers manage and navigate the challenges and taint of their work, highlighting the occupational norms constituting their culture, and revealing the strategies they use to reframe, recalibrate, and refocus their role in response to the taint they experience as prison officers who can be interpreted as dirty workers. Scholarship in the area has been confined to prisons in the North, West, and Commonwealth, thus, there is a gap in our understanding regarding prison officers working in countries that follow the model of penal exceptionalism, which raises questions around whether the concept of dirty work exists in countries like Finland? What constitutes prison officer occupational culture in Finland? And, what norms exist or how this culture manifests and persists? In the current chapter, I call for more research to be conducted in countries outside the Anglo world to extend our global understanding of prison officer culture and prison work as dirty work.

247. PWG Panel 10: Legal Rights, Judicial Oversight and Release from Prison

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Imprisonment, Prisons, Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment (Prisons WG)
Paper Session
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.158

Chair:

Radu Florin GEAMĂNU, University Nicolae Titulescu Bucharest, Romania

Participants:

'I'm being completely desocialised here': Resocialisation - legal right or empty promise? *Deborah Kant, University of Cologne*

Resocialisation (or reintegration into society) is deemed to be so central to imprisonment that the German Federal Constitutional Court (1973) enshrined it as the "essential aim" of imprisonment. This aim has served to legitimise prison sentences in the eyes of the state and the public. This paper draws on data from the project 'What really matters in prison – Measuring quality of life in German and Swiss prisons'. The study combined the expertise of researchers at the Universities of Cologne and Berlin (Germany), Bern (Switzerland) and Cambridge (UK) and explored two German and one Swiss prisons through an adapted and translated version of the MQPL+ methodology. Drawing on questionnaire and interview data from prisoners, staff, and managers, the paper argues that resocialisation in all three prisons existed as a concept and a legal mandate, but nevertheless failed to manifest in reality. It explores the barriers between resocialisation as a 'living principle' and an 'empty promise' in three distinct prisons, and connects them to the cultures, norms, and values of each institution and their jurisdictions.

Resisting imprisonment. Legal advice by prisoners and for prisoners in Argentina *Ramiro Gual, University of Buenos Aires*

In 1985, following the return to democracy, the University of Buenos Aires established Argentina's first university programme within a prison: the UBA XXII Programme at Devoto Federal Prison. Certain key features of this initiative explain why the group of incarcerated students (Devoto University Group – GUD) gained a significant degree of autonomy from university and prison authorities, enabling them to develop various strategies of resistance within the penal system, ranging from forceful measures and collective legal action to the formation of a workers' cooperative for former prisoners and their families, and a trade union for imprisoned workers. As a part of these strategies, this study aims to describe and analyse the experience of a Free Criminal Legal Advice Service within Devoto Prison, a strategy for defending prisoners' rights over four decades, conceived, created and developed by incarcerated law students and graduates. The fieldwork consisted of the initial systematisation of the records compiled by the legal advice service. In a second phase, we conducted nine semi-structured interviews with members of the legal advisory service and two with external stakeholders who have been part of the initiative, seeking to understand their perceptions regarding the reasons for its emergence, its objectives, and its effects. This immersion in the field was made possible by the role played by one of the two researchers as coordinator of the advisory service from 2013 to the present day, making this work an exercise in convict criminology. The study enables us to assess the consistency and intensity of the initiative, the prison populations reached through its interventions, the most frequently raised issues, and the strategies employed. Finally, we analyse the effects it has had within the prison and on the functioning of the penal justice system as a strategy of resistance.

Temporary Release Licenses from Prison - Right or Prize? An overview of Ruling no. 404/2025 of the Portuguese Constitutional Court *Sara Leitão Moreira, Coimbra Business School*

Once an individual in Portugal is sentenced to effective imprisonment, one of their fundamental rights is at stake — liberty. Liberty is enshrined in Article 27 of the Portuguese Constitution and may only be restricted under the terms provided by law (principle of proportionality). That said, we assume that, when

sentencing in cases where multiple criminal sanctions are available, court resorts to effective imprisonment only as ultima ratio. In any event, the fact that an individual is now a "convict", does not strip them of their rights — namely, the right to seek flexibility in the execution of their custodial sentence, essential to their rehabilitative trajectory during incarceration. That said, temporary release releases from prison constitute a dynamic instrument serving both the inmate and society, aimed at facilitating a gradual reintegration into freedom through short, carefully calibrated periods of leave, allowing reconnection with the social environment. Until recently, decisions denying such leave were not subject to appeal, pursuant to Article 196(2) of the Code for Enforcement of Sentences and Deprivation of Liberty Measures, which established that the convicted person only had standing to appeal decisions revoking an already granted judicial leave. This framework was revoked by Ruling no. 404/2025 of the Constitutional Court, which declared unconstitutional "the provisions contained in Articles 196(1) and (2), and 235(1) of the Code for the Enforcement of Sentences and Deprivation of Liberty Measures, when interpreted as precluding appeals against decisions denying judicial leave, on the grounds of a violation of Article 20(1) and (4) of the Constitution." This ruling represents an important development, because it consolidates the right to appeal and enhances certainty regarding the reasoning underpinning decisions on licenses for temporary releases. In this paper we will, therefore, unravel inmates' rights and prerogatives, before and after Ruling no. 404/2025, as far as temporary releases are concerned.

The role of post-sentencing judges in prison overcrowding - the Romanian approach *Radu Florin GEAMĂNU, University Nicolae Titulescu Bucharest, Romania*

This paper deals with the role of post-sentencing judges in the context of prison overcrowding. Deprivation of liberty based on a final judgment triggers the responsibility for state` authorities to provide decent living conditions and to ensure that the prison penalty is executed under humane conditions. Romania has had a challenging relation with the standards set out by the Strasbourg Court in terms of prison conditions, especially those standards derived from the case-law emerged from art. 3 ECHR on the prohibition of torture. Against this background, four ECtHR judgements against Romania are of particular relevance: Iacov Stanciu (2012, semi-pilot judgment); Rezvimeș and others (2017, pilot judgment); Polgar (2021); Văscăuțanu (2025). One particular mechanism in terms of ensuring the protection of the rights of detained persons stands out – the post-sentencing judge (the judge responsible for the enforcement of prison sentences), a position first introduced in the Romanian legislation in 2006, and further consolidated through the 2014 criminal reform. Hence, for 20 years, the execution of prison penalties is carried out under the surveillance, control and authority of this judge, ensuring the lawfulness of the execution. Based on the national legal provisions of the post-sentencing judges, which cover, inter alia, the following competences: (i) complaints of detainees regarding the exercise of their rights; (ii) complaints regarding the establishment and change of the regimes for the execution of custodial sentences and educational measures; (iii) complaints of detainees regarding the application of disciplinary sanctions; (iv) carries out on-site checks in places of detention. The presentation will look at the reasons why the competences of the post-sentencing judge are in fact a mechanism that is considered an effective remedy for detained persons which serve their sentence under inadequate material conditions of detention, contrary to Article 3 ECHR. Keywords: post-sentencing judge; prison overcrowding; ECHR; ECtHR; Romanian legislation

248. What Hope Requires: Institutional Conditions and the Experience of Life and Long-Term Imprisonment

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Imprisonment, Prisons, Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment (Prisons WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.164

Courts and legislatures across Europe increasingly recognise that prisoners serving life and other long sentences are entitled to a realistic prospect of release. The European Court of Human Rights has affirmed a 'right to hope'; national reforms have introduced review mechanisms; and prison systems formally commit to supporting progression toward release. Yet what these entitlements require in practice—what institutional conditions must be in place for hope and progression to be more than legal formalities—remains poorly understood. This panel brings together empirical research from three European jurisdictions to examine the gap between the formal promise of hope and its institutional realisation. Each paper investigates how prisoners experience the conditions under which they serve long or indeterminate sentences, and what those conditions communicate about the possibilities—or impossibilities—of progression, change, and release. The papers address different national contexts and institutional settings. One examines Lithuania's post-reform life sentence regime, asking how legislative changes introduced in response to a European Court of Human Rights judgment are being implemented and experienced. A second draws on research with life-sentenced prisoners in contrasting English prisons, showing how risk-focused governance rations rehabilitative attention unevenly and produces sharply divergent experiences of progression. A third examines how future-oriented thinking is destabilised within the English open prison estate, where institutional withdrawal intensifies the precariousness of progression. A fourth develops the concept of layered abandonment through research with men in prolonged self-isolation and serving indeterminate sentences in Denmark, theorising how prisoners interpret suffering as the failure of identifiable others to respond. Together, the papers show that the institutional conditions for hope are fragile, unevenly distributed, and frequently undermined by the very systems that formally promise them. The panel contributes to European debates on life imprisonment, penal legitimacy, and the relationship between legal entitlements and lived experience.

Chair:

Catherine Appleton, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Department of Mental Health, Norway.

Participants:

Hope of Release: The Implementation and Impact of Life Imprisonment in Lithuania *Catherine Appleton, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Department of Mental Health, Norway.; Simonas Nikartas, Institute of Law, Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences; Goda Dainauskaitė, Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences; Ieva Ruzgytė, Institute of Law, Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences; Arturas Tereskinas, Institute of Law, Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences*

In 2017, the European Court of Human Rights, in Matjošaitis and Others v. Lithuania, held that Lithuania's system of life imprisonment without a realistic prospect of release violated Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Legislative reforms adopted in 2019 introduced a review mechanism, allowing life-sentenced prisoners to apply for commutation after serving 20 years. Despite Lithuania's comparatively extensive use of life imprisonment, there has been no comprehensive national assessment of the implementation or impact of these reforms. This paper draws on preliminary findings from the IMPACT project, the first national, interdisciplinary study of Lithuania's life sentence system. The project adopts a multi-method approach, combining legal and documentary analysis, quantitative analysis of the life-sentenced prison population, and qualitative interviews with individuals serving life sentences and relevant practitioners. It seeks to examine the development and implementation of the life sentence regime, assess its alignment with international human rights standards, and explore how the prospect of release is understood and experienced in practice. By situating emerging findings within broader European debates on life imprisonment and the "right to hope," the paper offers empirical and theoretical insights into the relationship between legal reform and penal practice.

The Rationing of Hope: Risk, Progression, and the Experience of Life Imprisonment in England and Wales *Ben Jarman, University of Southampton*

Nearly all life-sentenced prisoners in England and Wales are, in principle, entitled to progress toward release. The institutional architecture of risk assessment, sentence planning, and offending behaviour programmes exists to support this progression. Yet the capacity of this architecture to deliver on that possibility has been increasingly undermined: by the drastic lengthening of minimum terms, by resource constraints that have hollowed out sentence management, and by a risk-focused institutional logic that rations rehabilitative attention unevenly. This paper draws on qualitative interviews with men serving mandatory life sentences for murder, conducted in contrasting English prisons, to examine how these conditions shape prisoners' experiences of progression and their orientations toward the future. It shows that the institutional scaffolding for progression is distributed in ways that produce sharply divergent experiences: for some, intensive but often objectifying scrutiny; for others, prolonged neglect in which the formal possibility of progression becomes practically meaningless; and for both groups, perplexing shifts in the character and intensity of attention. The paper explores how prisoners navigate these conditions, and considers what their varied responses reveal about the distance between the sentence's formal architecture and its lived reality. It concludes by reflecting on the implications of these findings for the legitimacy of the life sentence as a communicative sanction, and for broader debates about the meaning of hope in the context of long-term and indeterminate imprisonment.

Layered Abandonment: The Moral Interpretation of Suffering in Extreme Confinement *Frederik Rom Taxhjelm, University of Copenhagen; Julie Laursen, University of Copenhagen*

Loss and rejection are central to prison life, yet how they crystallise into a more general sense of abandonment remains under-theorised. Drawing on 64 interviews with men held in prolonged self-isolation or serving indeterminate forvaring sentences in Denmark, we conceptualise abandonment not simply as hardship but as suffering plus attribution: being left in harm by identifiable others perceived to have the capacity to respond. Building on Stauffer's notion of ethical loneliness, defined as 'the experience of being abandoned by humanity compounded by the experience of not being heard' (2015, p. 9), we develop layered abandonment as a typological framework. We specify five distinct layers of abandonment that may occur independently or in combination and show how their co-occurrence compounds suffering. With abandonment, we foreground the moral and relational processes through which prisoners interpret suffering as the failure of others to respond, rather than treating the experience of suffering as an impersonal, arbitrary or diffuse condition of confinement.

Hope fatigue: Release on a life sentence and the challenges of sustaining hope *Ailie Rennie, University of Cambridge*

Existing research on long-term and life imprisonment has largely conceptualised hope with respect to the attainability and (non)occurrence of release (Seeds, 2022; Vannier, 2025; Wright et al., 2023). This paper shifts attention to hope after release has been approved and attained as individuals return to the outside world. Drawing on a longitudinal study with men serving life sentences, it explores how hope is structured, expressed, and experienced within the release and reintegration process. Building on Snyder's (2002) theory of hope, I argue that there is a need to focus on the 'socially situated experiences' of hope (Stockdale, 2019:29) by paying explicit attention to the relational, socioeconomic, and legal context in which hope is negotiated as individuals move from one world to another. These dimensions have received insufficient attention in the criminological literature to date, yet they offer a deeper and more dynamic understanding of how opportunities for hope are structured and distributed, as well as how hope can be sustained, constrained, or undermined. Examining both pre-release expectations (shaped by the individual's life course, their sentence type, and what they believed they deserved) and post-release realities (constrained by the

risk of recall, stigmatisation, and social capital), the findings suggest that an individual's capacity to hope, the strength of their hope, and the forms of agency through which hope is pursued are conditioned by the resources, opportunities, and constraints that structured their daily lives in the community.

249. Rethinking the Life Course: Person, Place, and Pathways of Change

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Development and Life Course Perspectives (Development and Life Course Criminology WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.170

Understanding pathways into and out of crime requires attention to the dynamic interplay between individuals, contexts, and meaning-making. Across a diverse set of contributions, this panel advances life course perspectives by bringing together work that examines how individual pathways are shaped to through the intersection of person and place, the narratives individuals construct about change, the role of perceptions and situational dynamics, and causal processes linked to offending and desistance. Together, the panel offers new insights for understanding change over time.

Chair:

Bianca Bersani, University of Maryland

Participants:

"It's a process": Narratives of Change During Incarceration *Lynne Vieraitis, The University of Texas at Dallas*

Scholars have argued that important transformations may occur during incarceration that have implications for theories of desistance. To examine the changes people experience in prison, data were collected from face-to-face interviews with 43 men released from Texas prisons after serving lengthy sentences. Our findings revealed that many people viewed their transformations as an "awakening" that led them to believe they were done with criminal behavior. Some participants described this awakening process as a slow journey unfolding over several years, while for others the awakening was a sudden realization or an "epiphany" that jolted them awake.

Perceived and Enacted Stigma among Formerly Incarcerated Persons *Lauren Porter, University of Maryland; Gabrielle Wy, Drury University*

Labeling perspectives and related research suggest that those who experience criminal legal system contact – especially incarceration – are stigmatized as a result. Stigma is also a frequently cited mechanism predicting future engagement in crime as well as other negative outcomes such as employment and housing struggles. Yet there is much selection into incarceration and those who are more likely to be incarcerated are also more likely to be confronting other adversities – including other stigmatized identities. In addition, prior research has struggled to observe and measure experiences of stigma, and criminologists often take a more narrow view of the phenomenon than other disciplines such as social psychology. As such, this study draws on the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (Add Health) to examine the relationship between incarceration and outcomes related to internalized and enacted stigma. To address selection, we take advantage of the longitudinal nature of the survey, comparing those who have been incarcerated by the next wave. Finally, we examine whether the relationships differ depending on the timing (i.e. age) of first incarceration.

Moving to (Perceived) Opportunity: How residential change shapes desistance from crime *Bianca Bersani, University of Maryland; Kyle Thomas, University of Missouri-St. Louis; Casey Kindall, University of Maryland*

Despite growing attention to the life course principle of 'historical time and place' in desistance scholarship, the focus has largely been aimed at variation over historical time with less attention aimed at contextual variation and context structures and differentiates life course trajectories. This research aims to assess how changes in one's context - residential relocation – may help explain variation in one's offending trajectory from adolescence into adulthood. Empirical work suggests residential relocation is associated with changes in one's risk of offending, yet we lack insight into the processes by which moving matters: is the effect of moving due to changing situations or changing perceptions of opportunities. This research uses data from the Pathways to Desistance study to investigate how opportunities and perceptions change alongside moving and what role these changes may have on offending trajectories. The findings offer insight into the mechanisms underlying the residential mobility and offending relationship, focusing on the role of situational and perceptual changes.

Exploring the intersection between patterns of mobility and offending across the life course *Megan Augustyn, University of Texas at Dallas; Kimberly Henry, Colorado State University*

Mobility is a hallmark of the late 20th and 21st centuries. It is not surprising, then, that various life course and ecological theories promote mobility or residential relocation as a potential turning point that can promote/inhibit subsequent offending. Using data from the Rochester Youth Development Study, which followed a cohort of youth (n=1,000; ~75% male; 68% Black, 17% Hispanic, 15% White) from ages 14-50, this study explores patterns of mobility over the life course measured via 1) distance in miles between residences over time, and 2) community level disadvantage. Then, it explores whether observed patterns of mobility assessed through different operationalizations are related to observed patterns of offending. Further, this study explores whether there are specific periods in the life course when "mobility" appears to be particularly salient for changes in offending/desistance. Results confirm the importance of community level disadvantage but also suggest that significant geographic distance can facilitate changes in offending.

"Causal" (A)Symmetry in the Criminal Career? Assessing the Predictors of Offending and Cessation *Kyle Thomas, University of Missouri-St. Louis; Holly Nguyen, Pennsylvania State University; Ella Taylor, Pennsylvania State University*

Criminological theory and research tend to be symmetric by construction. Symmetrical "causality" is characterized by two features: (1) the predictors associated with offending are the analog (but with opposite signs) as those that predict cessation (an issue of statistical significance) and (2) that the size of effects of predictors are similar in an absolute sense: if a one-unit increase in associations with deviant peers is associated with a +.30 increase in offending, then a one-unit decrease in deviant peer associations should be associated with a -.30 decrease in offending. Such symmetry is implicit in most explanations and has been argued by some to be a desired feature of theory. Yet, others have argued that criminal careers are likely to be characterized by causal asymmetry. From this view, the potential crime restraining effects of marriage may be larger than the criminogenic effects of divorce. This paper assesses the notion of (a)symmetry using panel data from the Denver Youth Survey and assesses both short-term changes in offending as well as continuities and changes in offending over the life course. The results suggest a nuanced picture of the factors that influence tendencies to offend and tendencies to "desist." The predictors that lead to increases in offending often differ in both size and significance of those that promote offending cessation. This holds true even within specific developmental stages of the life courses (e.g., young adulthood). The implications for theory and policy are discussed.

250. Scrutinising conditions in contemporary criminal law reforms in Sweden

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Criminal Policy, Criminalization, Policy of Criminal Sanctions (Criminal Law Making Policy WG)

Roundtable

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.014

In recent years, the term 'Swedish conditions' has become a shorthand in both public discourse and academic debate for the perceived transformation of Sweden's crime landscape and integration problems (for example, Gerell et. al., 2022). Since the early 2000s, organised criminal networks have expanded rapidly in socioeconomically deprived neighbourhoods, fuelling sharp increases in gun violence closely tied to the dynamics of drug markets (Sturup et al., 2019; Gerell et al., 2021).Political efforts to reverse 'Swedish conditions' have primarily relied on legislative and penal reform, with a particular focus on children, organised crime, and the complex interplay of digital technologies that serve both policing and criminal purposes. Moreover, the new technologies are exploited by criminal networks for recruitment and coordination, creating a dynamic arms race between law enforcement and offenders. The sectors charged with implementing the preventive measures – social services, the police, the judiciary, and the prison and probation system – are already swamped and face growing expectations to deliver tailored, evidence-based solutions. In this roundtable we critically discuss the conditions in current criminal law reforms in Sweden, focusing on The time and space of punishment, Ulrika Andersson, professor, Lund University, moderator (ulrika.andersson@jur.lu.se), Indictments of coerced offenders, Anna Sonnsjö Andersson, doctoral student, Lund University (anna.sonnsjo_andersson@jur.lu.se), Preventive detention, Tova Bennet, associate senior lecturer, Lund University (tova.bennet@jur.lu.se), Youths as targets of punitive reforms, Sigrid Nikka, doctoral student, Lund University (sigrid.nikka@jur.lu.se), Lowering the age of criminal responsibility, Andreas Anderberg, senior lecturer, University of Gothenburg (andreas.anderberg@law.gu.se), Autonomy and vulnerability for young offenders, Moa Bladini, associate professor, University of Gothenburg (moa.bladini@law.gu.se)

Chair:

Ulrika Andersson, Lund University

Discussants:

Tova Bennet, Lund University

Anna Sonnsjö Andersson, The Faculty of Law, Lund University

251. Child sexual abuse: offending and legal approach

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Sex Crimes, Sex Work and Sex Trafficking

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.015

Chair:

Michał Macidłowski, University of Warsaw

Participants:

Crimes of rape against minors under 15 years of age in Poland *Sylwia Różycka-Jaroś, University of Warsaw*

This paper is entirely devoted to the issue of the qualified type of rape crime, currently penalized under Article 197 § 4 of the Polish Criminal Code, concerning the rape of a minor under 15 years of age. This prohibited act, referred to in criminal law doctrine as pedophilic rape, was introduced to the Polish legal system relatively recently — specifically on June 8, 2010. Until that point, Polish law did not distinguish the rape of a minor under 15 years of age as a separate type of crime. The paper will briefly present a chronological review of all amendments to the Criminal Code concerning pedophilic rape. The analysis will focus on all legal and social aspects relevant to the qualified form of rape of a minor. The paper will present both the legislator's intentions accompanying subsequent amendments and voices from the legal community regarding the introduced changes. An integral part of the paper will be an analysis of the scale of the phenomenon and the approach of the justice system to this crime. A comparative analysis will also be conducted with legal regulations concerning the rape of a minor in force in other European Union countries.

From Static Taxonomies to Dynamic Trajectories: A Nonlinear Systems Framework for Child Sexual Offending *Ricardo Ventura Baúto, Egas Moniz School of Health and Science*

Despite their utility in forensic classification, traditional etiological frameworks offer limited explanatory power regarding the evolutionary trajectory and systemic instability that precede child sexual abuse. This work proposes a paradigmatic shift by presenting an explanatory model rooted in Dynamic Systems Theory and Adaptive Biological Modeling.

The architecture is developed as a nonlinear evolution of previous empirical evidence from Portuguese forensic samples where Artificial Neural Network techniques demonstrated high classification accuracy. This statistical nonlinearity justifies the transition from fixed profiles to an analysis of trajectories within a phase space defined by two primary axes: the gravity of cognitive distortions as the system driver and the efficacy of sexual coping as the stabilizer. The model is structured across three fundamental kinetic levels. First, initial conditions originating from a cloud of psychosexual development and social environment establish the system starting trajectory. Second, the core process is modeled through a phase space where fluctuations in cognitive pressure and coping failures lead to a critical bifurcation point, diverting the individual from a normative path. Third, established forensic typologies are reconceptualized as basins of attraction or concentric circles toward which the system collapses under emotional stress, with the indiscriminate profile acting as the widest and deepest attractor. Finally, a circular feedback loop originating from the acting out phase reinforces the initial cognitive distortions through sexual gratification, creating a self sustaining cycle of deviance. In conclusion, forensic efficacy resides in the strategic regulation of control parameters to disrupt these trajectories, providing a scientifically grounded foundation for personalized forensic interventions and evolving risk management.

Why Do Adults Sexually Abuse Children? A Systematic Scoping Review of How Male Perpetrators Qualitatively Account for Their Actions *Kelly May Richards, Queensland University of Technology*

Much research has attempted to understand why adults perpetrate child sexual abuse (CSA), but few studies have adopted the exploratory-inductive approach that allows perpetrators to freely account for their actions. This scoping review aimed to identify how male CSA perpetrators account for their actions in exploratory-inductive research (i.e. research that allows perpetrators to freely account for their actions) to consider whether perpetrators' accounts collectively indicate something useful about CSA prevention measures. A comprehensive search of relevant databases, a hand search of key journals, and a "snowballing" exercise was undertaken for relevant studies published in English between 1 January 1980 and October 31, 2024. Studies were included if they reported qualitative data collected directly from CSA perpetrators and included a focus on CSA perpetrators' accounts of their offending. 39 studies were found via this search strategy. Scott and Lyman's (1968) concept of "accounts" was applied as an analytic framework. The study reveals previously undocumented ways in which male CSA perpetrators account for their behavior. In particular, it found a far more pronounced emphasis on patriarchal thinking in CSA perpetrator accounts than prior studies. In policy terms, this underscores the importance of efforts to combat misogyny, male sexual entitlement and patriarchal privilege; and the need to strengthen consent education.

From Status to Consent: Comparative Perspectives on the Legal Structure of Sexual Offences Against Minors *Michał Macidłowski, University of Warsaw*

This paper offers a comparative, theory-oriented analysis of criminal law responses to sexual acts involving minors, focusing on the conceptual foundations that structure liability across selected jurisdictions: the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany, France, and Finland. By examining these systems alongside the standards of the Lanzarote Convention, the study interrogates how different legal traditions construct the relationship between consent, age, and criminal responsibility. The central argument is that contemporary legal frameworks oscillate between two competing paradigms: a consent-based model, grounded in individual autonomy and the validity of sexual self-determination, and a status-based model, which treats age as a proxy for incapacity and justifies strict or quasi-strict liability. The paper demonstrates that, while both paradigms tend to coexist – to some extent – in all analysed systems, their relative weight varies significantly, producing divergent doctrinal outcomes. In particular, the study highlights differences in: the legal nature of consent and its exclusion in relation to younger minors; the role of age thresholds as either absolute barriers or flexible evaluative criteria; and the extent to which relational asymmetries (e.g., authority, dependency) are incorporated into offence structures. The analysis further explores how these models interact with broader principles of criminal law, including culpability, proportionality, and the principle of legality. It shows that systems relying heavily on status-based constructions risk attenuating the role of subjective fault, while purely consent-based approaches may inadequately capture structural vulnerabilities of minors. On this basis, the proposed paper advances a normative framework for reconciling these tensions, advocating a differentiated model that integrates age, consent, and relational context without collapsing them into a single criterion. The findings contribute to theoretical debates in criminal law and criminology concerning the limits of autonomy, the justification of punishment, and the design of coherent and principled legal protection of minors.

252. WG Criminology of Mobility. Panel 2. Migration-Related Crime, Smuggling and Victimisation

Topic 3: Crime Correlates/Immigration / Migration (Immigration, Crime and Citizenship WG)

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.025

Chair:

Pablo Meißner, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany

Participants:

Across generations: understanding the pathways to juvenile delinquency among immigrant youth *Lorena Andreea Axinte, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore*

This paper presents an ongoing PhD research project on juvenile delinquency among different generations of immigrant youth, with a specific focus on the interplay between individual, social, and cultural factors. While

existing criminological literature has largely examined socio-economic disadvantage, family environment, and peer influence, cultural dimensions remain comparatively underexplored. This study addresses this gap by analysing the role of ethnic and religious identity, acculturation stress, acculturation dissonance, and perceived discrimination in shaping pathways to delinquent behaviour across generations of immigrant youth. The project adopts a generational perspective to explore whether the factors associated with juvenile delinquency remain stable or vary between first-, second-, and later-generation immigrant youth. Its theoretical framework combines General Strain Theory, Segmented Assimilation Theory, Social Control Theory, and Social Learning Theory in order to capture the multiple mechanisms through which vulnerability and resilience may develop. In doing so, the study aims to connect established criminological explanations with migration-related and cultural processes. Methodologically, the research employs a school-base self-report delinquency survey. This presentation will focus in particular on the quantitative component of the project. It will outline the rationale, structure, and main dimensions of a school-based survey designed to measure self-reported delinquency alongside individual characteristics, family and school bonds, peer dynamics, and culturally specific experiences. The paper will also discuss the relevance of examining these issues in Italy, a context that remains relatively underexplored in the international literature. By presenting the conceptual and methodological foundations of the project, this paper seeks to contribute to current debates on immigration and delinquency by offering a culturally informed and intergenerational perspective.

When the State Seals the Border: Evolving Modus Operandi in Migration Related Crime - Insights from the Case Study
Magdalena Perkowska, University of Bialystok, Faculty of Law

Polish state's response to the migration crisis at the border with Belarus that began in 2021 resulted in the implementation of unprecedented legal, operational, and infrastructural measures. The discussion covers the introduction of the state of emergency and the subsequent quasi state of emergency, as well as the use of pushbacks and the construction of a border barrier, all of which formed part of a security oriented policy aimed at restricting irregular border crossings (Perkowska, Gutauskas 2023). The analysis demonstrates that the practice of pushbacks violated Article 31 of the 1951 Geneva Convention, which led migrants to avoid contact with Polish authorities and instead rely on third parties to reach the interior of Poland or other EU Member States (Grześkowiak, 2022). The paper further highlights the transformation in the structure of actors involved in transporting migrants. Initially, those assisting migrants were primarily family members, relatives, and acquaintances (Perkowska 2024); however, over time, organized criminal groups entered the process, recognizing the financial opportunities created by the crisis. The case study focuses on the first ruling issued by the Regional Court in Bialystok in December 2025, in which seven members of an organized criminal group were convicted for facilitating the illegal crossing of the border by 1,320 individuals coming from Belarus. The paper will examine whether the perpetrators' modus operandi differs from the activities previously observed among groups operating in this area (Perkowska 2021). The court imposed custodial sentences and ordered the offenders to return criminal proceeds exceeding 780,000 EUR, illustrating the criminal justice system's attempt to undermine the economic foundation of migrant smuggling activities. The findings of the article point to the growing convergence of security logic and migration policy, the intensification of repressive state practices, and the emergence of new forms of crime linked to migration.

Narrating Migrant Smuggling: competing perspectives, institutional tensions, and the politics of criminalisation
Myrna Papadouka, Senior lecturer in Criminology, Middlesex University, London; Nicola Montagna, University of Salerno; Stefani Efraimidou, HELLLENIC OPEN UNIVERSITY (H.O.U.); Giuseppe Serrantino, Middlesex University London

This paper presents initial findings from an ongoing comparative qualitative project examining narratives of migrant smuggling across humanitarian practitioners, law enforcement agents, and migrants along the Mediterranean and English Channel routes. Focusing on Greece, Italy, and the United Kingdom, the study explores how different actors construct and negotiate the role of smuggling networks in facilitating, shaping, or directing migration flows, and how these narratives influence broader understandings of legitimacy, criminality, and migrant agency. Building on existing scholarship that critiques the overemphasis on smuggling networks in migration governance (e.g. de Haas 2023; Triandafyllidou and Palumbo 2023), the paper situates these narratives within broader debates on the social construction of migrant smuggling and its policy implications. Drawing on semi-structured interviews (n=22 to date), the paper offers early insights from fieldwork. While comparative conclusions remain premature, emerging findings reveal significant divergences not only across but also within professional groups. For instance, few coast guard officers articulated a more "progressive" stance in contrast to colleagues who have framed migrants as illegal or criminal, highlighting intra-institutional tensions in narrative construction. At the same time, both practitioners and enforcement actors raised critical concerns about the role of NGOs and institutional actors, pointing to the potential instrumentalisation of migrants within funding and governance structures. Further, law enforcement narratives emphasise how structural vulnerabilities - such as poverty, displacement, and limited education - render migrants susceptible to recruitment into smuggling activities, while punitive legal frameworks impose severe consequences on those involved in low-level roles. The paper argues that these competing and layered narratives are central to how migrant smuggling is understood and governed. By foregrounding early empirical insights, our study contributes to debates on the co-production of knowledge, the fragmentation of

institutional perspectives, and the complex interplay between vulnerability, agency, and criminalisation in migration contexts.

Victimisation of refugees living in refugee housings in Germany: findings of a qualitative study *Pablo Meißner, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany*

The situation of accommodation for refugees in Germany has recently come under increasing pressure. Despite a temporary decline in 2017, over the last few years asylum applications have risen again in 2021, partly due to the Russian invasion in Ukraine. Corresponding to this trend, refugee camps in Germany are often reported having and creating issues in comfort, privacy, and security partly due to their organization and high occupancy numbers leading to various conflicts and incidents resulting in victimisation of the residents of refugee accommodations. In my paper presentation I would like to give an overview of a recent research project. My qualitative study explores processes that lead to victimisation in refugee housings, how victimisation manifests, and its consequences for the residents of said housings. The study aims for a contribution to the scientific discourse about the reality faced by most refugees in Germany and possibly other countries. The project included interviewing refugees living in Germany who have been granted asylum and left governmental refugee housing. The interviews were semi-structured and the resulting data was analysed via Grounded Theory Methodology. Preliminary findings indicate that victimisation most commonly manifests in forms of physical violence and theft. Families appear to be particularly vulnerable. Moreover, the causes of victimisation can be analytically distinguished across three levels: structural conditions of the asylum system, spatial design of accommodation facilities, and interpersonal dynamics among individuals. This presentation will outline the research design, including sampling and methodological considerations and discuss the findings.

253. Teaching Criminology and Disciplinary Identity

Topic 8: Methodologies in Criminology/Advances in Teaching Methods

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.110

Chair:

Konstantinos Rizopoulos, Panteion University

Participants:

In the Dark, We Spoke: Emotional Discourse and Transformative Learning in South Africa *Marthinus Christoffel Koen, SUNY Oswego; Jenna Peterson, SUNY Oswego*

This study explores the role of emotion in transformative learning during a short-term faculty-led program in South Africa. Drawing on twelve semi-structured qualitative interviews with student participants, the research examines how emotional experiences shaped how students made sense of themselves, their peers, and the world. While Transformative Learning Theory (TL) traditionally emphasizes rational discourse as the mechanism through which assumptions are examined and perspectives transformed (Mezirow, 1991), the findings suggest that emotional discourse played an equally central role. Participants first experienced emotional disruption upon confronting unfamiliar cultural and ethical realities such as wildlife poaching and economic inequality. Through intrapersonal reflection, these emotions became tools for self-understanding and re-evaluation of values. Interpersonal emotional sharing, particularly during an unplanned group conversation amid load-shedding (periodic electric shutoffs to conserve power), further transformed individual emotion into collective meaning-making, fostering empathy, trust, and solidarity. Emotionally driven perspective change emerged as participants reinterpreted their sense of privilege, identity, and connection to others. The study concludes that emotion operates not only as a catalyst but also as a communicative medium of transformation. These findings extend TL by articulating emotional discourse as a parallel process to rational discourse, offering insight into how affective engagement deepens intercultural learning. Implications for educators include designing study abroad environments that intentionally support emotional processing, vulnerability, and dialogue. Emotionally grounded reflection, when ethically facilitated, can transform study abroad from a cultural encounter into an enduring process of personal and moral growth.

Rethinking Criminology Education: Insights from the Lithuanian Case *Jolanta Aleknevičienė, Vilnius University, Lithuania*

This presentation rethinks criminology education through a social constructionist perspective, analyzing how criminological knowledge and disciplinary identity have been constructed within the Lithuanian academic context. Unlike many European countries — where criminology traditionally emerged within law faculties—the Lithuanian trajectory reflects a distinctly interdisciplinary pathway. At Vilnius University, criminology developed through long-term collaboration among sociologists, psychologists, and legal scholars within the Faculty of Philosophy, leading to the creation of a master's program in 1999 and an interdisciplinary bachelor's program in 2017. These developments demonstrate how disciplinary identity can be shaped through diverse academic traditions and sustained institutional cooperation. The Lithuanian case highlights how curriculum design and quality assurance processes contribute to defining core criminological competencies. International scholarship notes that empirically grounded research on criminological theory teaching remains limited, underscoring the significance of Lithuania's systematic program updating and competency-building efforts in strengthening curricular coherence. Looking ahead, the Lithuanian experience offers insights for countries with emerging or developing criminology programs. Key areas for future development include deepening cross-disciplinary collaboration, further consolidating the professional identity of criminologists, expanding international academic partnerships, and maintaining

robust quality assurance systems to support continued growth. Overall, the Lithuanian case contributes to broader discussions on how criminology education is constructed, legitimized, and sustained within contemporary academic landscapes—demonstrating that interdisciplinarity remains its defining strength.

Scaffolding Criticality: A Methodological Approach to Teaching Statistical Literacy *Mircea Zloteanu, King's College London; Cody Normitta Porter, UWE Bristol; Peter Finn, Kingston University*

In an era of evidence-based policy, the ability to critically deconstruct official statistics is a vital skill for criminology graduates. However, students often struggle to bridge the gap between abstract methodological critique and real-world application. This presentation outlines an innovative pedagogical approach that utilises contemporary research into Ministry of Justice (MoJ) employability statistics to foster deep critical thinking. In our presentation, we explore an innovative pedagogical approach to fostering critical data literacy in criminology students by bridging the gap between official policy reporting and academic critique. By utilising our recent paper highlighting the flawed "percentage-of-percentage" reporting in MoJ employability statistics, the session demonstrates a scaffolded learning model where students first independently audit official bulletins before engaging with peer-reviewed research that deconstructs those same datasets. This method moves beyond traditional rote learning, positioning students as active researchers who can identify how statistical obfuscation impacts real-world narratives surrounding rehabilitation and justice. Evaluation of this approach reveals high levels of student engagement and an enhanced understanding of the academic's role in informing public policy and holding institutions accountable, offering a replicable framework for embedding criticality within the undergraduate curriculum.

Innovative and Effective Approaches to Teaching Criminology in Higher Education *Ewa Habzda-Siwek, Jagiellonian University, Department of Criminology, Kraków, Poland*

Criminology, as a field of research and academic instruction, is taught at various universities and addressed to students representing diverse academic disciplines. As a discipline that is par excellence interdisciplinary, it requires not only broad substantial knowledge but also pedagogical experience that enables the clear and comprehensible presentation of complex social and individual issues manifested in different forms of criminal behaviour. Despite its growing relevance, relatively few studies have been devoted to the teaching of criminology in a manner aligned with contemporary standards of higher education. Effective criminology instruction requires the use of activating teaching methods that engage students in active participation and foster the practical development of knowledge essential for understanding crime. Drawing on my own teaching experience and training in modern academic didactics, I will present examples of activities that engage students in actively discovering scientific knowledge, defining problems, and developing the skills needed to solve them. Three activating teaching methods will be employed, namely jigsaw, flipped classroom, and stations, which together can serve as a didactic "toolkit" for teaching criminology. In conclusion, I will also refer to the opportunities that generative AI models offer for teaching at the higher education level.

Interdisciplinarity as an epistemological issue in Criminology. Issues in its conversation with Social Anthropology *Konstantinos Rizopoulos, Panteion University*

This paper which addresses the epistemological issues of Criminology, examines the concept of "interdisciplinarity" as it appears in this particular field. After initially presenting the concept of "interdisciplinarity", attention turns to the "autonomy" and "interdisciplinarity", as basic and fundamental characteristics of Criminology, focusing on the issue of Criminology's dialogue with other sciences. To present this issue in the clearest way, through the many sciences with which Criminology can converse, the field of Social Anthropology was selected. Therefore, the paper, following the structure of its title, consists of two parts: the first part is about the concept of interdisciplinarity in general and specifically in Criminology and the second part is about the conversation of Criminology with Social Anthropology at the level of theory and method, with the purpose to highlight the contribution of Social Anthropology to Criminology, thus showcasing its interdisciplinary character and the synthesis process that takes place within the science of Criminology.

254. Advances in Quantitative Methods Panel 2: Modelling Illicit Networks and Criminal Behaviour: Networks, Simulation and Formal Models

Topic 8: Methodologies in Criminology/Advances in Quantitative Methods (Qantitative Methods WG)

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.120

Chair:

François Bonnet, CNRS, PACTE, Université Grenoble Alpes

Participants:

Exploring the Dynamic Interplay between Communication and Co-offending Using Relational Hyperevent Data on an Italian Mafia Network *Tomáš Diviák, University of Manchester; Caterina Paternoster, Università Bocconi; Jürgen Lerner, University of Konstanz; Francesco Calderoni, Transcrime / Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Milan)*

This study investigates the interdependence between criminal actors and relational hyperevents, and different types of events in an Italian mafia network. Relational hyperevents, time-stamped/time-ordered interactions involving any number of actors, offer a detailed view of network dynamics. We distinguish between communication (meetings and phone calls) and co-offending (commission of a crime). We argue that communication and co-offending are mutually

constitutive: communication reflects the social organisation of crime, while co-offending represents its outcome. To examine this interdependence, we examine three multiplex relational mechanisms: triadic closure, interaction repetition, and interaction accumulation, alongside their uniplex counterparts. We expect communication events to temporally precede co-offending events. We also test the effect of age, leadership, group membership, and kinship. We use court records from Italian mafia investigation Infinito. Infinito documents the 'Ndrangheta's drug-trafficking and territorial expansion in Lombardy, comprising 346 actors and 1,131 events. We apply Relational Hyperevent Models (RHEM), which conceptualise polyadic interactions as hyperedges in a hypergraph. Using the eventnet software package, we generate statistics operationalising relational mechanisms and generate non-events. We then estimate parameters using Cox proportional hazards model, identifying what mechanisms make future events more or less likely. Descriptive results indicate that the network is held together primarily by higher-order in-person meeting events, with phone calls being more diffuse and co-offending being highly fragmented and clustered, frequently occurring as single-actor crimes. Ignoring the relational hyperevent nature of the data would thus lead to substantial information loss. Our RHEM analysis indicate that while communication tends to precede co-offending in certain mechanisms, there are also significant tendencies in the reverse direction. Overall, interaction repetition and accumulation have expected effects, while triadic closure displays only some statistically significant effects, contradicting existing network research. Additionally, age- and leadership-based activity and homophily are significant for both event types together with effects of kinship and group affiliation.

Reconstructing and Modelling Cocaine Trafficking Dynamics in the Port of Rotterdam Using MNAR Bayesian Multiple Imputation *Frederike Oetker, TU Delft, Netherlands*

Illicit markets such as cocaine trafficking are characterized by systematically incomplete and biased data, posing major challenges for quantitative criminological research. This study develops a comprehensive data processing and imputation pipeline for a large dataset of global cocaine market indicators, including production, trafficking, prevalence, and seizures. The dataset consists of 282 indicators spanning 14 years (2010–2024), with 27.9% missingness on average, reflecting structural, non-random gaps rather than random absence. To address this, we treat missingness as Missing Not At Random (MNAR) and implement a Bayesian multiple imputation framework that accounts for reporting bias. A key methodological innovation is spike-based analysis, which identifies extreme deviations in indicators using a standardized volatility measure. These spikes guide imputation by preserving empirical variability and structural features of illicit markets. Directional spike information is incorporated through a δ-shift parameter representing optimistic, equal, and pessimistic scenarios. We apply a spike-adjusted imputation strategy across three structures: temporal imputation using the same indicator within ±3 years, indicator-year imputation using cross-country distributions, and a baseline MNAR approach based on independent per-indicator Gaussian draws. This multi-method approach enhances robustness and enables multiple plausible data scenarios. Convergence diagnostics based on trace plots and R-hat statistics indicate satisfactory convergence for the Equal and Pessimistic scenarios ($R < 1.05$), while the Optimistic scenario shows instability and is excluded. Using the reconstructed dataset, we estimate econometric models of cocaine trafficking dynamics. Sensitivity analysis identifies key drivers of harbour cocaine trade at the Port of Rotterdam, including wastewater indicators in Eindhoven (0.45), seizure quantities in Czechia (0.22), and global wastewater averages (0.15). The imputed dataset further enables forecasting of Rotterdam indicators up to 2028, extending predictive capacity beyond observed data.

Crime Prevention Under Ambiguous Offender Responses: A Game-Theoretic Approach *Yasser El Ayyachy, Ghent University; Joke Geeraert, Ghent University; Christophe Vandeviver, Ghent University*

Crime prevention often involves a strategic interaction between those seeking to prevent harm and those seeking to exploit opportunities. In many real-world settings, however, preventive planning rests on an overly simple assumption: that offenders will respond in one clear and predictable way to a policing, surveillance, or protection strategy. This paper examines what happens when that assumption does not hold. We study sequential defender–offender interactions in which offenders may have several plausible responses to the same preventive intervention, creating uncertainty for decision-makers and increasing the risk of overly optimistic recommendations. To address this, we develop a Game-theoretic robust learning framework that evaluates preventive strategies against multiple possible offender reactions rather than a single expected one. We also introduce a stabilization procedure that reduces sensitivity to small modeling changes and produces more reliable strategic recommendations. Using simulated security scenarios with ambiguous offender choices, we compare the standard approaches with the proposed framework to examine whether robust modeling can better support crime prevention under uncertainty. The results of these analyses and their implications for criminological research on offender adaptation, bounded rationality, and preventive decision-making will be presented during the conference.

Work, Welfare, or Crime: An Agent-Based Model of Less Eligibility *François Bonnet, CNRS, PACTE, Université Grenoble Alpes*

The principle of less eligibility holds that for the poor to supply low-wage labor, welfare must remain less attractive than low-wage work, and punishment must make crime less attractive than either. This political economy argument has recently been shown to rest on robust micro-foundations supported by econometric

evidence (Bonnet 2025). The theory's macro implications, notably the inverse relation between welfare generosity and penal severity, have not been derived formally from its micro-level logic. This paper uses an agent-based model to attempt that derivation. Agents varying in productivity and labor-market access "choose" among low-wage employment, assistance, and for-profit offending, comparing the relative desirability of each option under varying institutional parameters: the living standards associated with low-wage work (the "upper limit"), welfare generosity, and expected punishment. The simulation is used as a generative device (Epstein 1999), not to test the theory empirically but to explore the conditions under which recognisable macro-level patterns emerge or fail to emerge from less eligibility's decision rules. The paper investigates whether the model can reproduce key implications of the theory: that social policy organizes itself below the upper limit, that welfare and punishment vary inversely, and that violations of the desirability hierarchy produce pathological configurations such as welfare traps. It also examines whether stable configurations require a floor of penal severity when labor-market incorporation is weak. The contribution is methodological as well as substantive. It asks what is gained when a verbal theory of work, poverty, and punishment is forced into an explicit computational form: greater precision, clearer boundary conditions, and, potentially, the emergence of dynamics that remain invisible in purely verbal reasoning.

255. What is rural? Differing Perspectives

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Theoretical and Epistemological debates in Criminology (Crime, Science and Politics WG)
Roundtable
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.128

This roundtable is sponsored by the Working Group on Rural Criminology. Rural criminology has grown significantly in the 21st century. Yet, unresolved is the definition of place. Conceptualizations remained scattered, from definition based on size of place and densities of a population, to various economic, sociological and cultural characteristics. The purpose of this roundtable is to bring together those interested in rural crime and criminal justice studies to engage in a discourse of what rural means and of the relationship of place-based traits of rural places to crime.

Chair:
Joseph Donnermeyer, The Ohio State University

Discussants:
Gorazd Meško, University of Maribor
Kreseda Smith, Harper Adams University
Emilia Jurgielewicz-Delegacz, Faculty of Law, University of Bialystok
Vania Ceccato, KTH Royal Institute of Technology & Police Academy, Borås University

256. WG EXTREME PANEL 2. Youth radicalization: Vulnerability, Exposure and Prevention

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Terrorism and Terrorism Financing, Radicalization, Extremism (Radicalization, Extremism, Terrorism WG)
Paper Session
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.132

Chair:
Jacob Astley, University of Salford

Participants:

Countering online radicalization of minors in Dutch police investigations *Anton Willem Weenink, National Police of the Netherlands*

In the study, police researchers at the Dutch National Police Counterterrorism (CT) Cluster assess how different police approaches to underage suspects who radicalized online - arrest and prosecution, versus holding a 'stop-conversation' - have worked out so far, and where improvements can be made. The study is informed by the distinction in Situational Action Theory between causes of individual vulnerability to extremism and the exposure to, in this case, an online environment of extremist content. Data: a sample of 161 young persons-of-interest (POI's) and suspects in non-public Dutch police databases and criminal investigations in the years 2024-2025; interviews were held with several professionals. The sample consists of right-wing extremists, jihadi's and nihilist extremists. Scores were established on variables pertaining to the process of online radicalization, family stability, mental health and policing. Preliminary results show similarities and differences in online pathways of jihadi and right-wing radicalization, indicate elevated levels of adversity in these youngsters in terms of family instability and mental health challenges (ASD in particular), and suggest that post-intervention, most POIs desist from extremist activity, irrespective of the type of intervention. The findings inspire ways to strengthen police approaches to this vulnerable group.

Extremism in the Context of Polycrisis: Clinical Insights into Adolescent and Young Adult Vulnerability in Belgium *Anton Vereshchagin, University of Liège; Fabienne Glowacz, University of Liege*

Ten years after a series of terrorist attacks, Belgium continues to face a high threat level (CUTA, 2026). This threat has become highly complex and is influenced by exogenous factors, such as international conflicts and wars, as well as endogenous factors like polarization and socio-economic strains (Coolsaet, 2019; Duindam et al., 2025). The main threat remains linked to Islamist groups even though there is an important rise of right-wing extremism. Lately, left-wing extremism has also become increasingly visible. A further tendency is the adoption of hybrid or mixed ideologies, in which ideological elements coexist with personal frustration and individual vulnerabilities. Other "new" phenomena without a clear ideological basis, such as "nihilistic extremism", also constitute emerging concerns. Finally, a worrying observation is the increase in the number of minors involved in extremism in recent years (Bronsard et al., 2022; CUTA, 2025). Extremism prevention is facing new challenges. Adaptation is needed—both to these new forms of extremism and to the increasingly young age

of those involved. All these challenges arise in an unstable socio-economic context. Financial constraints and predominantly repressive policies particularly create major difficulties for efficient, long-term prevention (Mehra & Herbach, 2026). Complementary to our study on young Belgians, in which we explored psychological and social factors contributing to radicalization intention and approval (Vereshchagin & Glowacz, 2022), we analyzed clinical cases of minors followed by youth welfare services assessed as being at risk of radicalization. Our analysis highlighted several psychological vulnerabilities like anxiety and a loss of sense in interaction with an unstable societal context, as well as the difficulties faced by youth welfare services in providing appropriate support (Galvin et al., 2023; Mehra & Herbach, 2026). Based on these findings and on our experience as an extremism prevention practitioner, we will discuss the challenges encountered in the clinical approach.

Radicalization in Adolescence: The Role of Social Disintegration in the Development of Extremist Attitudes *Carl Philipp Schröder, Criminological Research Institute of Lower Saxony; Lea Becher, Criminological Research Institute of Lower Saxony; Yvonne Krieg, Criminological Research Institute of Lower Saxony*

During adolescence, political orientations and social identities are still forming, which may make young people susceptible to extremist attitudes. While theoretical approaches emphasize the role of social disintegration in radicalization processes, quantitative longitudinal evidence on how social deprivation and anomie shape extremist attitudes remains limited. This study examines the dynamic effects of social disintegration on the development of right-wing extremist attitudes and investigates whether these effects differ by gender. Longitudinal data were drawn from a school-based panel survey of 2,983 students followed from seventh to ninth grade. The data were used to analyze between-person differences and within-person changes in social deprivation and anomie. The results highlight the role of social disintegration in the development of right-wing extremist attitudes during adolescence, with anomie emerging as the most robust predictor. While social deprivation is only related to between-person differences, increases in anomie are associated with rising right-wing attitudes over time, particularly among boys. These findings underscore the importance of fostering social inclusion in schools and suggest that interventions promoting social integration may reduce adolescents' susceptibility to extremism.

At the Edges of Extremism: On the Messiness of Contemporary Youth Encounters *Jacob Astley, University of Salford*

Contemporary extremism is increasingly marked by fluid, hybrid and ideologically ambiguous formations that challenge conventional understandings of radicalisation. Rather than following radicalisation journeys toward ideological inculcation, in this shifting landscape young people's encounters with extreme and potentially radicalising content are often fragmented, exploratory, embedded – and shaped by – the contingencies of everyday life. Drawing on interviews with young people at a further education site in the United Kingdom, this paper foregrounds the messiness, ambiguity and individualisation that characterise contemporary youth engagements with extremist content. Through a series of vignettes, it explores how young people drift in and out of ideas, narratives and online spaces, moving across and between in ways that are fluid, unbounded, and not always recognised as 'extreme'. These encounters are not necessarily rooted in ideological commitment or belief, but rather shaped by curiosity, affective responses, humour, boredom, or attempts to make sense of personal and social experiences. In tracing these uneven and at times contradictory trajectories, the paper challenges dominant frameworks that privilege ideological coherence, fixed pathways and clear markers of risk. Instead, it argues for a more nuanced understanding of radicalisation as a fluid and deeply situated process, defined by ambiguity, contradiction and ongoing negotiation.

257. Crime, Criminal behaviour and the justice system Panel 2. A teenager's story

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Criminal Justice Policy (Crime, Science and Politics WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.146

In September 2025, in Bucharest, Romania, a 17-year-old boy and a 14-year-old girl were accused for sending several messages to approximately 1,000 email addresses belonging to educational institutions, medical units, police units, television stations and other institutions throughout Romania, in which they threatened armed attacks, with the aim of creating panic and intimidating the population by producing a strong psychological impact. The case also rise the issue of the consent in the context of Sexual Offenses committed between children. In December 2024, the same boy was internationally wanted on a warrant issued in New York for conspiracy to commit crimes against the United States, sexual exploitation of a minor, receiving and distributing child pornography, interstate extortion threats, interstate communications threats, threats to use weapons of mass destruction, and threats to commit acts of terrorism that transcend national borders. According to the documents, starting in September 2023, the Federal Bureau of Investigation investigated a global network of individuals, including minors, who carried out criminal activities through certain online groups. The American judicial authorities claimed that the Romanian student is a member of such online criminal groups, which target, manipulate and extort victims to cause them to commit acts of violence, sexual exploitation and self-mutilation. Thus, the Romanian student allegedly made the minor victims believe that they were in romantic relationships with him, then directed them, among other things, to produce and share sexually explicit content and to engage in acts of violence, including serious self-harm and cruelty to animals. Sometimes, when a victim refused to provide explicit material or commit violent acts, as requested, the Romanian teenager sent bomb threats to institutions in the United States, indicating the perpetrator as the girl who did not listen to him. These threats included at least several hundred false bomb threats against public institutions (synagogues, school districts,

airports, hospitals, and government buildings) located in the United States, including New York, as well as in several foreign countries, including the United Kingdom. After receiving the threats, public institutions were evacuated or temporarily closed, causing significant disruption, panic, and financial loss. In or around April 2024, he asked the girl to tattoo his pseudonym on her skin and send him nude photos of her online. On April 27, 2024, he threatened her that if she did not do as he asked, he would send an email to her school with nude photos of her. When questioned by Romanian and American authorities, the student admitted to the charges against him, namely that he had learned how to make phone calls through various internet applications (including applications used to transmit numerous bomb threats) and that he had sent, starting in December 2022, over 450 bomb threats and/or threats to commit a mass armed attack on a school. The case is still under investigation. The accused enjoy the presumption of innocence. The panel aims to answer to the questions, both substantial and procedural, rise around adolescents addiction to social network including the role of the information known or unknown at a certain age in establishing a victim consent.

Chairs:

E. Rely Vîlcică, Temple University, Department of Criminal Justice

George-Cristian Ioan, Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest

Participants:

Online persuasion and freedom of speech: children, teenagers, adults and AI Chat-bots *Dorel Herinean, Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest*

The paper analyses the forms of determination of the commission of various crimes when it occurs in the online environment, irrespective of the place of the actual crimes. Starting from the case provided in the description of the panel, we comb through various hypotheses in which children or teenagers determine their peers; older people determine children or teenagers; AI Chat-bots determine natural persons either to commit crimes or to perform self-harm. In this context, we study and highlight the specifics of online persuasion compared to face-to-face persuasion when it comes to criminal conducts. Nevertheless, the limits in which the freedom of speech and the consent of the victims can authorize the commission of (apparent) criminal acts are taken into consideration.

The Frontiers of Evidence in Trans border Cyber Crime: Between Police Deterrence (USA) and Physical Exclusion of Evidence (Romania). An analysis of an FBI case *Giulia Bălan, Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest; Ștefana-Iuliana Sorohan, Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest*

Drawing on the complex case of a Romanian adolescent accused of participating in a global extortion and bomb threat network – investigated jointly by the FBI and Romanian authorities – this paper examines the "frontiers" of admissibility of evidence obtained in trans national criminal proceedings. The central tension stems from the collision of two divergent systems of sanctioning illegality. In the United States (common law) system, the exclusionary rule – rooted in the Fourth and Fifth Amendments – has evolved from a constitutional right into a mere judicial remedy. Courts now apply balancing tests, assessing agents' good faith conduct or the attenuation of the causal nexus. Accordingly, a confession secured without a Miranda warning or a defective digital search may be admitted where its social utility outweighs the cost of impunity. By contrast, the Romanian (civil law) system, shaped by the rigor of statutory nullities, imposes a far stricter barrier through the principle of procedural loyalty and the physical exclusion of evidence. Under the Romanian procedural framework, the material expurgation of nullified evidence from the case file serves as a mandatory safeguard, ensuring that judicial deliberations remain untainted by the cognitive impact of inadmissible or "poisoned"information. The study investigates how digital evidence and the statements of the 17 year old suspect – obtained under differing procedural standards (FBI versus Romanian police) – may be challenged before a continental court. The paper concludes that the "new frontier" of criminology must harmonise the need for efficiency in combating trans border threats with a minimum standard of "fair use of evidence" under Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights, thereby preventing international cooperation from becoming a vehicle for evading national guarantees.

The complex issue of consent in the context of Sexual Offenses committed between children *Chițimia Tudor-Andrei, Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest*

Based on the legislation regarding sexual offenses, following recent amendments to the Romanian Criminal Code, the paper aims to illustrate the specific nature of the victim-offender interaction in cases of sexual offenses in which both individuals involved are juveniles. Factors such as the age of the victims, the specific nature of sexual offenses, the information known or unknown at a certain age, as well as the possibility of transferring social values within the paradigm of new legislative trends, will inevitably influence the conditions for a valid consent in criminal cases involving exclusively minors.

Teenagers today: A possible lord of the flies story in the digital age *Lavinia Valeria Lefterache, Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest; George-Cristian Ioan, Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest*

In a shocking case, the police force was on the scene at the residence of the minor victim associated with the bomb threat, when in fact the threats had been sent by a Romanian student. On September 2023, the Romanian student sent the following bomb threat to multiple school districts: "I have placed multiple bombs in all of the schools in your school districts. The bombs will go off in a few hours. Contact me, my IP address is: (victim's address). From about April 2024 to about June 2024, while in Romania, he communicated via an online messaging platform with another victim located in or around Oklahoma, US. The student told the victim that he was in love with her and that he was her boyfriend. On or about April 2024, he asked the girl to tattoo his pseudonym on her skin and to send him nude photos of her over the internet. Possibility of transferring social values within the paradigm of new legislative trends.

258. Perceptions of Crime and Justice I

Topic 6: Perceptions of Crime and Justice/Media and social construction of crime
Paper Session
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.150
Chair:
Valentina Dinu-Stăncescu, Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest
Participants:

Cycles of panic in the news discourse on juvenile delinquency *Inge Aarts, Erasmus University of Rotterdam*

Delinquency among young people often raises societal concern. From the existing body of moral panic research, it has become clear that juvenile delinquency is repeatedly 'rediscovered' as a societal issue, shaped by the socio-political and cultural contexts of that time. However, previous research has primarily analysed these concerns through qualitative content analysis of media reports relating to specific key-events. This focus on short-term, isolated concerns overlooks how these specific anxieties contribute to a more general panic surrounding this 'problem of delinquent youth'. Therefore, this study explores trends in both the yearly volume and thematic focus of 45.035 Dutch newspaper articles concerning juvenile delinquency from 1995 to 2024. Hierarchical topic modelling, a novel analysing technique in discourse analysis, is used to investigate the key themes that (re-)emerge in this coverage. It is apparent from the results that a wide variety of transgressions is emphasized, with the coverage stressing an overall growing prevalence and more violent nature. These distinct transgressions frequently serve as objects of specific intermittent moral panics over time, within which traces of wider social anxieties appear. As these intermittent panics appear to function as building blocks for the general panic concerning misconduct by young people, this study gives a first impression of the way in which deviant youths are successfully retained in the news discourse as a recurring and enduring object of concern.

Black Box Criminology: Analyzing the Potential Effects of Generative AI and Large Language Models (LLMs) on Public Understanding of Criminal Behavior *Andrew M Garcia, East Texas A&M University (USA)*

As technologies that mediate access to knowledge, artificial intelligence (AI) systems are catalyzing profound epistemic debates on how truth is both processed and constructed. This paper introduces the notion of "Black Box Criminology" to represent the potential role of large language models (LLM) in normalizing particular criminological paradigms when generating responses to foundational disciplinary questions. While there is a robust body of work on the role of algorithmic bias in many fields, scant attention has been paid to the way in which generative AI may privilege specific theoretical perspectives and/or curate social knowledge when explaining criminal behavior. Utilizing qualitative content analysis (QCA), this exploratory study systematically analyzed LLM responses to a standardized set of disciplinary prompts (e.g., "Why do people commit crime?") Each baseline question was tested multiple times to account for stochastic bias and question "pairings" were constructed to account for differential responses based on specific discursive choices. Early results suggest that AI-produced narratives may adhere to implicit explanatory logics that prioritize certain paradigms (individual over structural) over others. This work underscores the importance of critical engagement with emergent technology in the social sciences and problematizes the role of generative AI in narrating public understanding, creating black boxes that obfuscate how answers are derived or explained.

Activating Prevention: Reporting Behavior and the Social Foundations of K-12 School Safety in International Contexts *Jennifer L. Lemanski, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley; Gordon A Crews, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley; Goran Livazovic, University of JJ Strossmayer in Osijek, Croatia*

K-12 School violence is most often conceptualized through completed incidents and institutional response, with comparatively limited attention to the processes that enable prevention. Across national contexts, including both the United States and European educational systems, this research advances a public safety framework that positions student reporting behavior as the critical mechanism through which potential threats are translated into actionable information within K–12 school environments. Drawing on risk perception theory, including the work of Paul Slovic, as well as scholarship on procedural justice, collective efficacy, and informal social control, we argue that reporting is not an automatic or purely rational response, but a socially embedded decision shaped by perceived personal, social, and institutional risks. We introduce the Reporting Activation Model of School Safety, which conceptualizes prevention as a multi-stage process requiring threat recognition, risk evaluation, and the willingness to report prior to formal intervention. Within this framework, students function as critical nodes in the information flow necessary for system activation across varied institutional and cultural settings. We contend that breakdowns most frequently occur at the level of reporting decision-making, where fear of peer retaliation, stigma associated with "snitching," and low institutional trust suppress reporting behavior and prevent threats from entering formal response systems. By reframing school safety as a function of system activation rather than solely threat detection or response, this research highlights the importance of reducing the perceived costs of reporting, strengthening institutional legitimacy, and fostering school climates that normalize reporting as a collective responsibility. While the specific structures of school safety systems vary internationally, the underlying mechanisms of reporting and system activation remain consistent. Implications for policy, practice, and future research across national contexts are discussed.

Hearing hate: Definitions of hate speech, its multimodal dynamics, and social impact in digital media *Aleksandra Świderska, University of Warsaw; Dominik Puchała, University of Warsaw; Rathi Adarshi Rammohan,*

University of Bremen; Dennis Küster, University of Bremen

Digital media environments play an important role in shaping the boundaries, meanings, and social consequences of harmful communication. Hate speech, understood as derogatory expressions targeting groups based on their immutable characteristics, is not only a form of harm but also a socially constructed category. Its definitions vary across legal systems, scientific disciplines, and platform governance frameworks. This raises critical questions for criminology regarding how harmful speech is identified, regulated, and experienced in increasingly multimodal communication systems. Our work integrates psychological and computational approaches to examine hate speech as a dynamic social phenomenon. First, we introduce the Warsaw Multimodal Hate Speech Database (WMHS), a novel dataset comprising over nine hours of manually annotated Polish hate speech across text and speech modalities. The annotations were developed by combining legal documents from Poland and Germany (which regulate harmful speech without consistently using the term "hate speech"), psychological literature, and content moderation policies from digital platforms (YouTube, Facebook, and the Polish platform BanBye) from which the materials were collected. This approach highlights the negotiated and context-dependent nature of what counts as hate speech in practice. Second, we examine how exposure to auditory hate speech shapes perceptions of harmful content and intergroup attitudes. Across two experimental studies (N = 312), we found no evidence for desensitization. Instead, participants reported strong emotional reactions and, in some cases, increased sensitivity to hateful statements following exposure. These effects differed by political orientation, suggesting that audiences actively interpret hate speech through their pre-existing value frameworks rather than passively absorbing it. Taken together, the findings challenge established assumptions derived from text-based research and underscore the importance of modality in the social construction and reception of harmful language. They highlight the need to reconsider how criminology and social sciences conceptualize, identifies, and responds to hate speech in increasingly multimodal digital contexts.

Social Media as a Tool and a Stage: Criminal Behaviour Patterns in the Digital Public Sphere *Valentina Dinu-Stăncescu, Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest*

Social media platforms have fundamentally transformed the landscape of criminal behaviour. This paper proposes a dual analytical framework for understanding the relationship between social media and crime: platforms function simultaneously as a tool (enabling offenders to commit crimes with unprecedented reach, speed, and anonymity) and as a stage (a performative space where criminal acts are enacted publicly, recorded, and shared for social recognition). The paper examines the types of offences most frequently committed through or on social media platforms, including harassment, threats, fraud through fake profiles, grooming, and incitement to discrimination. It further analyses the evidentiary and procedural challenges that arise in criminal proceedings involving digital evidence, including issues of authentication, platform non-cooperation, and the volatility of online content. From a criminal law perspective, the paper argues that existing legal frameworks across Europe, including Romania, were designed for offline conduct and are increasingly strained when applied to hybrid digital offences. The entry into force of the EU Digital Services Act adds a further layer of complexity by reshaping platform liability in ways that criminal law has not yet fully absorbed.

259. Plenary Roundtable 2 (Friday) Victims of Crime. How do different vulnerabilities influence support and prevention initiatives.

ESC
Plenary Session
12:00 to 1:15 pm
Old University Library: Old University Library

Why should you be there? Because a better understanding of victims' needs and expectations and their vulnerabilities helps in researching and planning the criminal justice system, with its prevention, support and restoration functions Victims of crime do not compose a unified group. Their diversity is evident at several levels, as their expectations of the criminal justice system and the support they need differ. The same can be said about the causes of their victimisation, which in some cases are based on their identity, class, ethnicity or profession, etc. All of the above need to be taken into consideration when planning prevention or support programs, as well as when designing the criminal justice system. This panel discussion invites you to reflect on how the specific needs of individuals can be met on a more general level. Taking as a starting point several and rather different vulnerable groups (like queer community, survivors of "honour" based violence or sex workers), we aim to engage with a more general debate about prevention of victimisation (both primary and secondary ones) as well as protection of representatives of vulnerable groups. And is it possible to find a broader approach to plan such interventions?

Chair:

Witold Klaus, Institute of Law Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences

Discussants:

Carolina Villacampa, University of Lleida
Lorena Molnar, University of Fribourg and University of Lausanne
Piotr GODZISZ, University of Leicester

260. General Assembly of the ESC

ESC
Plenary Session
2:15 to 3:15 pm
Old University Library: Old University Library

261. Gender, Crime and Justice Working Group Panel 1: Femicide

Topic 3: Crime Correlates/Gender and Crime (Gender, Crime and Justice WG)
Paper Session
3:30 to 4:45 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.110

Chair:

Andra Roxana Trandafir, University of Bucharest

Participants:

Does Homicide Have a Gender? Women in the Logic of Crime and Punishment *Maria EJCHART, Ministry of Justice*

Crime statistics remain unequivocal: the majority of homicides are committed by men. Yet it is female perpetrators of homicide who attract disproportionate attention from the media, the public, and scholars alike. Why do relatively rare cases provoke stronger reactions than a phenomenon that is overwhelmingly dominant? Does homicide, then, have a gender? And if so, is this to be understood in legal, social, or cultural terms? Criminal liability is, in principle, gender-neutral: it pertains to the act itself rather than to the identity of the offender. However, societal responses to women who commit acts of violence often reflect not only the violation of a legal norm, but also the transgression of deeply embedded stereotypes of femininity. This lecture presents the findings of my study encompassing all sixteen women currently serving life sentences for homicide in Poland. Particular attention is devoted to whether their crimes differ in any significant way from the "typical" patterns of homicide committed by women, and how they compare to the dominant, "male" model of violent offending. The analysis explores the diverse profiles of these offenders, as well as their motivations and modes of operation. In the course of this research, I also posed the question of whether punishment itself "has a gender"—that is, whether societal conceptions of femininity influence both the evaluation of female offenders and the severity of penal responses. The final stage of the study examines how these women serve the most severe penalty provided by Polish law. It considers whether the manner in which the crime was committed, as well as the sentence imposed, shapes the lived experience of punishment.

Examining the Impact of Cultural Perceptions on Cross-National Homicide Rates of Women *Sophia Constantinidis Chagas, University of South Florida; Mateus Renno Santos, University of South Florida*

This study examines the impact of cultural attitudes and gender inequality on female homicide rates across nations. While previous research has explored gendered patterns of homicide, the role of cultural norms and its relationship with structural inequalities remains understudied. Using cross-national data, this study analyzes how cultural attitudes toward gender roles, education and traditional beliefs correlate with female homicide rates while accounting for economic factors, such as GDP per capita and income inequality. Findings show that while cultural attitudes initially correlate with female homicide rates, their impact lessens when accounting for economic factors. These results support the hypothesis that economic equality and developed are related to lower levels of homicide against women. Policy implications highlight the need for economic reforms and gender-responsive strategies to reduce female homicide rates.

Femicide vs. Homicide of Women: Conceptual, Legal, and Criminological Distinctions in North Macedonia *Angelina Stanojoska, Faculty of Law, University "St. Kliment Ohridski" Bitola*

The killing of women represents one of the most extreme manifestations of gender-based violence; however, not every homicide of a woman constitutes femicide. The conceptual, legal, and criminological distinction between femicide and the homicide of women remains insufficiently clarified in North Macedonia, resulting in analytical ambiguity, institutional misclassification, and limited policy responsiveness. This research analyses how killings of women are defined, recorded, prosecuted, and interpreted within the national criminal justice and research framework. The analysis starts with international and feminist criminological definitions of femicide, considering the gender motive, patterns of coercive control, and structural inequality as key differentiating elements. It then continues with the existing Macedonian legal framework, demonstrating that femicide is not codified as a separate criminal offence but is prosecuted under gender-neutral homicide provisions, in most cases as aggravated murder and domestic violence-related offences. Through legal and criminological analysis, the paper identifies the criteria that distinguish femicide from other forms of homicide of women, including victim–perpetrator relationship, prior histories of intimate partner violence, separation dynamics, and evidence of gender-based power and control. The research uses a qualitative case analysis of selected court-adjudicated murders of women in North Macedonia. The sample includes homicide cases where the victims were female. Each case is analyzed using a femicide pattern framework derived from feminist criminology and international femicide definition, such as victim–perpetrator relationship (intimate partner, family member, acquaintance, stranger), prior history of domestic or intimate partner violence, presence of coercive control, threats, or stalking, separation or possessiveness dynamics, method and context of killing, institutional response before the lethal outcome, etc. Through pattern identification and typological classification, the methodology results in conceptual and criminological differentiation between femicide and non-gender-motivated homicides of women, while also exposing systemic gaps in legal qualification and prevention mechanisms.

Romanian Approach on Femicide – Between Statistics, Case Law and New Regulations *Andra Roxana Trandafir, University of Bucharest*

The presentation examines the Romanian approach to femicide in light of the recent law adopted in March 2026 and a parallel legislative proposal initiated by the Ministry of Justice, which was also subject to public consultation. The new legal framework formally defines femicide, but does not introduce a separate criminal offence with this name. The analysis focuses on the newly introduced aggravating circumstances within the framework of aggravated homicide, including those related to gender-based motives, as well as concepts such as "control" and "domination," and homicide committed in the context of separation.

Similar aggravating circumstances are also examined in relation to other offences, such as determining or facilitating suicide and crimes against bodily integrity or health. The law also provides for the creation of an official observatory and mandates the systematic collection of statistical data. The presentation also examines the available data on femicide and gender-based violence in Romania, as well as relevant case law, while highlighting legislative inconsistencies and practical challenges in the application of these provisions, particularly regarding legal classification and sentencing, given the system of cumulative aggravations. It further addresses new procedural rules, including the initiation of criminal proceedings ex officio in cases of domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, and trespassing, seen as criminal offences preceding femicide.

262. EHC-WG Panel 6. Development of Crime and Criminal Policy

Topic 7: Comparative and Historical Perspectives/Historical Comparisons of Crime (Historical Criminology WG)

Paper Session

3:30 to 4:45 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.120

Chair:

Kaspars Strods, Latvian War Museum

Participants:

Seventy Years of Serbian Penal Policy Development *Rok Hacin, University of Maribor; Gorazd Meško, University of Maribor; Milena Milićević, Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research*

The study examines penal policy development in Serbia, including an analysis of the historical, political, socio-economic, and normative contexts, and identifies crime and penal trends over the last 70 years. The development of penal policy in Serbia was characterised by significant political events and shifting state priorities. The criminal justice system was marked by a transition from a rehabilitation-oriented framework characteristic of the socialist era to a human-rights-centred legal framework and increasingly punitive approach post-independence. The changes in criminal justice were reflected in penal statistics, as the number of convicted persons has steadily decreased throughout the period, while the prison population rate risen significantly. The findings point to a specific development of penal policy in Serbia influenced by economic and normative development, as well as profound political changes in Europe.

The Declining Significance of Theft – Social Change and the Limits of German Criminal Law *Fabian Guddat, Ruhr-Universität Bochum*

Theft is the most common crime in Germany and one of the oldest prohibitions in human societies. The practical significance in the recorded crime statistics contrasts with a decline in its social significance: in modern societies individual attachment to material property is diminishing due to sharing models, streaming and leasing; and essential assets such as data or real estate do not even fall under the definition of the offense. German law does not reflect this shift; consequently, the application of the law generates significant friction. In pre-industrial times, theft could threaten one's livelihood – a severity reflected in drastic penalties, including the death penalty. In modern societies this picture has changed: property-related items are regularly insured, and losses are socialized. Theft has lost its existential character, an observation that is reflected in generally leniently criminal punishment: prosecution resembles a routine form of mass crime management. In particular, the penalty range for the basic offense under § 242 German Criminal Code, with its maximum sentence of five years imprisonment proves to be practically meaningless, while the system of "aggravations" pushes this limit even further to 10 years. Therefore, a review of criminal law regarding theft is necessary to adapt legal structures to the social significance. This includes a discussion of reform proposals regarding the reduction of the penalty range, the revision of interpretation concerning the concepts of custody and property and the introduction of greater flexibility. This contribution combines an analysis of the social and historical role of theft with a doctrinal examination of current German criminal law. The practice of sanctions is examined using empirical data from the Police Crime Statistics and prosecution statistics. The findings are of interest beyond the scope of German law, as tensions between social change and traditional property crime law exist in numerous European legal systems.

The "old" Vs the "new" terrorism *CHRISTOS BALAFOUTIS, Arden University*

Energised by the 9/11 attacks and subsequent violence in Europe, the "new terrorism" thesis gained prominence by claiming that contemporary terrorism represents a fundamental rupture from earlier forms. According to this perspective, the current wave is characterised by casualty escalation, decentralised organisational structures, novel funding mechanisms, global operational reach, and the strategic use of new technologies. It is further associated with religious extremism - particularly Jihadist groups - portrayed as irrational, apocalyptic, and uniquely lethal. As a result, contemporary terrorism is often framed as unprecedented in its brutality and unpredictability. Critics, however, argue that many of these supposedly novel characteristics can be identified in earlier terrorist movements. A growing body of empirical research suggests that while tactics and contexts evolve, the core dynamics of terrorism display significant continuity. This debate raises important questions about how terrorism is conceptualised and whether claims of novelty obscure deeper structural patterns. To further interrogate the "new terrorism" thesis, this study conducts a comparative historical analysis of the Greek organisation 17 November (17N) and Jihadist cells responsible for the London (2005) and Brussels (2016) attacks. Drawing on qualitative and quantitative evidence, this research examines organisational structures, operational practices, motivations, and patterns of violence. While differences reflecting technological and societal change are identified, the findings indicate substantial continuities in strategic

logic, political objectives, and rational choice calculations. This study therefore challenges rupture-based accounts and argues that contemporary terrorism represents evolution rather than fundamental novelty. By situating both so-called 'old' and 'new' terrorism within a longer historical trajectory of political violence, the paper underscores the importance of context-sensitive, comparative approaches in understanding terrorism across time.

Criminality in Interwar Latvia: General Description of the Situation (1920s) *Kaspars Strods, Latvian War Museum*

The long years of World War I (1914–1918) and the War of Independence (1918–1920) left an indelible mark on many social processes in many former territories of the Russian Empire. Poverty, unemployment, and psychological trauma had already created favorable conditions for criminality and violence during the war. Also in the Republic of Latvia proclaimed on November 18, 1918, criminality became one of the most important social problems of the subsequent years of independence, the fight against which was carried out by the internal security structures of the new democratic state. For the security forces especially hard and tough was fight against different kind of criminal offenses (robberies, murders, thefts, frauds etc.). The aim of this report is to through unpublished archival materials from the Latvian State Historical Archive, as well as press publications and academic researches, to outline the general criminogenic situation in Latvia in the 1920s, while identifying the factors behind the origin of crime.

263. Improving women's safety in public and private spheres

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence (Gender, Crime and Justice WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

3:30 to 4:45 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.128

This panel brings together four complementary papers examining how women's safety is shaped and being improved across private and public spheres. Collectively, the papers highlight how responses to violence against women and girls (VAWG) remain fragmented across justice, policing and urban-planning systems, and demonstrate the value of integrating victim-survivor perspectives, professional insights and data-driven tools to strengthen women's safety and prevention. Paper 1 explores the implementation of Integrated Domestic Abuse Courts, revealing ongoing justice gaps between professional practice and victim-survivor expectations. Paper 2 examines how police and domestic-abuse service providers conceptualise intimate partner sexual violence, identifying divergent understandings that shape responses to harm. Paper 3 extends this institutional lens by interrogating police use of AI in domestic-abuse contexts, raising critical questions about risk assessment, bias and the implications of emerging technologies. Paper 4 presents The Safer Parks Dashboard, showing how a reproducible, open-data approach can strengthen targeted improvements that increase women's and girls' safety and use of public spaces.

Chair:

Anna Barker, University of Leeds

Participants:

Kaleidoscope family justice? Victim-survivors and professionals experiences of Integrated Domestic Abuse Courts *Charlotte Barlow, University of Leeds; Helen Sarah Richardson Foster, University of Lancashire; Clare Scollay, University of Manchester*

In 2020, the UK Government published the Harm Panel Report which highlighted how family courts and child arrangement proceedings often increased existing domestic abuse and led to traumatisation of adult and child victim-survivors. Subsequently, two pilot Pathfinder Integrated Domestic Abuse Courts (IDAC's) were established to improve the experiences for families in child arrangement disputes in private family law. A central aim of these courts is to make victim-survivors and their children feel safe in the home. The current paper includes reflections from a two-stage evaluation of these courts, incorporating the perspectives of professionals working across the IDAC sites and families who have been through the IDAC process. The paper focuses on the extent to which the IDAC process has improved the court experience and reduced re-traumatisation for victim-survivors of domestic abuse. The paper utilises the concept of 'kaleidoscopic justice' (McGlynn & Westmarland, 2019) to highlight the 'justice gap' between professional and victim-survivor expectations. The paper highlights the ways in which this 'justice gap' inhibits the extent to which IDAC courts are able to improve a sense of safety and faith in the family justice system for victim-survivors and children.

Understanding and responding to intimate partner sexual violence: insights from police officers and domestic abuse service providers *Sam Pears, University of Leeds*

Intimate partner abuse (IPA) and sexual offences often overlap. The Crime Survey for England and Wales estimate one in two rapes are committed by a current or ex-partner (ONS, 2021), while Operation Soteria identified that "almost a third of RASSO (rape and serious sexual offences) occur within a domestic abuse context" (NPCC, 2024, p. 8). However, these offences are often treated as separate issues. This thesis seeks to investigate this intersection - intimate partner sexual violence (IPSV) - and how it is understood in the context of coercive control. Despite their prevalence and profound harms, sexual violence and coercive control, and their interconnectedness, are misunderstood by police (and wider society) with a focus on physical violence that belies the true nature of controlling relationships. Therefore, improving understanding is central to providing better responses to victim-survivors. This research aims to explore how police officers and DA service providers conceptualise and respond to IPSV. As gatekeepers to the justice system, the police play a critical role in how sexual violence is identified, investigated, and prosecuted. Equally, domestic abuse service providers are key stakeholders in the wider response, acting as bridges to safety and support for victim-survivors. With a very different professional ethos to the police, their perspectives provide a very useful comparative insight into how IPSV is understood and addressed. This paper presents the initial findings from a Q methodological

study with police officers and service providers. It articulates emerging viewpoints, areas of divergence, and examples of best practice, identifying pathways to improve responses for victim-survivors.

The use of GenAI by police call handlers to identify self-harm and suicidal ideation in domestic abuse victims: Findings from Northern England *Sam Jane Lewis, University of Leeds, UK; Daniel Birks, Leeds University; Toby Davies, University of Leeds*

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has long been a feature of policing. For example, the use of Machine Learning to support predictive analytics, administrative tasks, and complex data analysis is well established. The advent of generative AI (GenAI), however, is said to have brought policing to 'the brink of a once-in-a-generation reform' (NPCC 2026). Plans to embed AI across policing in England and Wales include a £115m national centre for AI in Policing (Policing.AI), due to launch in 2026, that will 'centralise and streamline the development, evaluation and rollout of AI tools' (NPCC 2026). Forces at the forefront of these developments are already exploring the strategic use of AI in priority areas. At a time when suspect domestic abuse victim suicides outnumber domestic abuse-related homicides (NPCC 2025), our police force project partner is exploring the use of AI to support early identification of self-harm (SH) and suicidal ideation (SI) among victims of domestic abuse. This could enable faster referrals to life-saving services and reveal the prevalence of SH and SI among DA victims known to police - an ongoing knowledge gap. This paper reports on our collaborative research project, which compared the identification by call handlers and an AI model of SH and SI amongst DA victims who come to police attention. Our findings have implications for the use of AI in policing and for understandings of SH & SI amongst domestic abuse victims. These will be discussed.

Utilising open data to enhance park safety for women and girls: The Safer Parks Dashboard *Anna Barker, University of Leeds; Francesca Pontin, University of Leeds; Maeve Murphy Quinlan, University of Leeds; Melissa Barrientos, University of Leeds; Victoria Houlden, University of Leeds*

Across Europe, women consistently report feeling less safe than men in public spaces. These concerns are especially acute in urban parks, which, despite their importance for wellbeing, social interaction and mobility, are among the environments where feelings of unsafety are most pronounced. In response, women and girls engage in substantial "safety work": the anticipatory, often invisible practices of planning routes, avoiding spaces, monitoring surroundings and modifying behaviour to manage perceived risk. Such practices reveal persistent gaps in urban safety planning, where insufficient safety supportive social and environmental features continue to constrain women's freedom of movement. This paper introduces The Safer Parks Dashboard, which translates research with women and girls on the environmental and social drivers of (un)safety into a spatially explicit analytical tool. Integrating open data on lighting, visibility, route popularity, points of interest and crime, the dashboard enables granular analysis of safety conditions within parks. Co produced with a multidisciplinary team spanning data science, crime prevention, policing, park management, urban design and community groups, it provides a national place based tool for England and Wales that strengthens the capacity of municipal authorities and police to identify safety supportive features, prioritise interventions and implement the Safer Parks: Improving Access for Women and Girls guidance. The dashboard offers a reproducible, open-data model for gender-sensitive, data-driven urban safety analysis that could be adopted in other international contexts to support more inclusive public-space planning.

264. Narrative Criminology Panel 2

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Narrative Criminology

Paper Session

3:30 to 4:45 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.141

Chair:

Sveinung Sandberg, Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law, University of Oslo

Participants:

Truth, Lies, and Jokes in Narrative Criminology *Anja Emilie Kruse, Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law, University of Oslo, Norway; Sveinung Sandberg, Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law, University of Oslo*

Several researchers on social harm and control, punishment, and victimization have noted how humor, jokes and laughter play a part in narratives about crime. However, these topics have not been well studied in criminological research. One reason might be that it feels disrespectful to do so, or that zooming in on humor seems irrelevant to understand the lives and experiences of the populations we study. But laughter, jokes, satire and clowning can be powerful tools to deal with or resist disempowering circumstances and mitigate felt experiences of harm, with gallows humor as a well-known example. Mikhail Bakhtin wrote that where seriousness "burdens us with hopeless situations", laughter "lifts us above them and delivers us from them". Although conversely, humor can also be used to legitimize aggression and violence, to keep marginalized groups in place, or to perpetuate the structural status quo. This conceptual paper aims to challenge the paucity of criminological research on humor. It explores how narrative criminology can take humor more seriously, and debates how jokes, truth and lies are interdependent social forces. Jokes, humor and laughter are intimately connected to – and themselves shape – what counts as truth and lies. Joking about things one is not supposed to joke about can be a form of truth-telling. Humor can challenge stereotypes, revealing ideas and perceptions that are pervasive but often left unarticulated. But humor may also work to keep disadvantaged individuals, groups and communities in place, to silence their voices, invalidate their experiences, or perpetuate simplistic caricatures

and stereotypes. With humor as a means to such darker ends, the joker's goal is reached through selective storytelling, disparaging exaggerations, or outright lies. This presentation will illuminate how truth, lies, and jokes in crime narratives reveal fault lines in the social fabric, and works to preserve, challenge, or upend power structures.

Is victimhood (always) criminogenic? Thinking about crime and desistance narratives with Canter and Youngs *Václav Walach, University of Ostrava; Petr Kupka, University of Ostrava; Benjamin Petruželka, University of Ostrava*

This paper takes issue with contemporary theorising that sees the construction of victimhood as instigating crime. From studies of terrorism and sexual violence to street crime, researchers point out that perceptions of one's own victimisation can lead to criminal action. D. Canter and D. Youngs consider the Victim to be one of the principal roles present in the crime narratives of offenders. The role is defined as someone who was compelled to commit the crime by supra-personal processes, and for whom other people are significant – whether that is the victim, or someone else whom they affected through the crime. This combination of low potency and high intimacy corresponds closely to the narrative structure of the redemption script defined by S. Maruna: a fundamentally good person was, at the time of offending, overwhelmed by external forces, something they now regret and wish to compensate for. Since narration is always grounded in the present, this raises an important question: are all narrative constructions of victimhood necessarily criminogenic, or are they, on the contrary, a sign that someone is trying to end their criminal career? This theoretical conundrum is illustrated with data from a study of life stories of convicted offenders in Czechia, based on repeated interviews with people convicted of petty property crime and more sophisticated economic crime.

Religiosity, defence mechanisms, and narcissism in offenders'narratives: dynamics towards desistence *Alfredo Verde, Criminogical Unit, Department of Health Sciences, University of Genoa; Emanuela Saveria Gritti, University of Urbino, Italy; Giulia Gibelli, Criminological Unit, Department of Health Sciences (University of Genoa, Italy)*

The scientific literature highlights how religion can represent a significant factor in processes of criminal desistance, promoting the recovery of personal agency and the construction of a new prosocial identity and existential narratives. Specifically, religious engagement can provide meaning and coherence to the individual's criminal history and to the conditions that gave rise to it. At the same time, religiosity may function as a self-protective strategy through defence mechanisms that facilitate the rationalization of actions, the processing of perceived injustices, self-forgiveness, and reconciliation with others. The study takes places within the framework of the ongoing longitudinal investigation entitled "Lives on the Edge – The Genoa Study on Desistance". Four offender cases are examined in terms of life narratives, desistance processes, defence mechanisms, narcissism, and religiosity. The results show that religion can foster meaningful relationships, altruistic behaviours, and a reduction in guilt and responsibility, with differentiated effects on individuals' sense of agency.

265. How Judges Sentence: Knowledge, Reasonableness and Penal Consequences

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Courts and Sentencing and Penal Decision Making (Sentencing and Penal Decisionmaking WG)

Paper Session

3:30 to 4:45 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.147

Chair:

Dominik Wzorek, Institute of Law Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences

Participants:

Drawing a Map of the Sentencing Environment *Miha Marčenko, Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law Ljubljana; Lovrena Jeromelj, Research assistant at Institute of criminolgy at faculty of Law in Ljubljana; Mojca M. Plesničar, Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law Ljubljana; Manja Skočir, Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law Ljubljana*

Criminal law sentencing is rarely a subject of comparative or more holistic studies that map decision-making environments surrounding it in different jurisdictions. Our project addresses this gap directly and aims to capture the interplay among various actors, institutions, and narratives that shape sentencing processes. To achieve this, we invited 20 leading sentencing scholars from across Europe to draw mental maps of the sentencing decision-making environment on A4 sheets of paper. The ethnographic method of mental map-making is widely used in critical geography and other social sciences to help research participants creatively articulate their understanding of their surroundings or their personal and professional experiences. In our project, we combined the map-making activity with follow-up interviews and small focus groups, during which sentencing scholars interpreted the maps and added further details. This approach enabled them to express ideas that are difficult to convey in writing or speech and to visualise what they perceive as central and peripheral within the sentencing environment. Sentencing scholars had complete freedom to utilise whichever metaphors they deemed valuable to explain the factors, actors, moments, ideas, concepts, and objects influencing sentencing. They engaged with issues of multi-layeredness, materiality, and temporality that shape sentencing in unexpected ways. Our research findings complicate our understanding of sentencing within criminal law processes. With the help of theoretical insights from assemblage theory and agent-network theory, the data help us develop a more holistic understanding of the intricate web of factors, actors, concepts, institutional settings, ideologies, and material objects that shape the sentencing decision-making environment. At the same time, however, the analysis of map-making also shows that the sentencing environment, as a subject of study, is not a single 'thing'. Instead, its elements, contours, beginnings, and

endings depend on the perspective and inclination of the scholar examining it.

Reasonableness in Sentencing: Insights from Swedish District Court Judges *Linnea Wegerstad, Lund University*

Background and aim: The overall aim of this project is to improve understanding of sentencing in the Swedish criminal justice system. The Penal Code sets a minimum and maximum sentence for each offence. Within this range, the court determines the seriousness of the crime in terms of guilt and harm, that is, the court assigns a specific penalty value to the crime, and then selects which type of sanction should be imposed. Although general principles are laid down in legislation and some standards are set by the Supreme Court, sentencing remains complex and allows considerable room for judicial discretion. Knowledge of how to determine an appropriate level of punishment is largely gained through experience. Judgments rarely provide detailed reasoning for the sentence imposed. As a result, the sentencing process tends to appear as a black box, which this project seeks to open. Method: Semi-structured interviews were conducted with ten District court judges across Sweden. The interview guide included questions on, for example, when it is easy or difficult to determine a penal sanction, how judges prepare before trial, which sources of law they rely on, which circumstances are important for assessing the penal value and choosing a sanction, what considerations matter when drafting the judgment, and what they perceive the purpose of sentencing to be. The transcribed interviews were analysed using thematic analysis to identify overarching themes. Preliminary findings: This paper focuses on the theme of "reasonable sentencing," that is, how judges explain their conclusions that a particular penal value and choice of sanction is reasonable for the individual and proportional to the crime.

Sentencing in the dark? Criminal judges' knowledge of sentence execution in Belgium *Olivia Nederlandt, UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles (Belgium); Lars Breuls, Vrije Universiteit Brussel; An-Sofie Vanhouche, Vrije Universiteit Brussel*

Recent reforms in the execution of prison sentences in Belgium have renewed attention to the relationship between sentencing and sentence implementation. This study examines to what extent criminal judges consider sentence execution – and recent legal changes – when determining sentences. The research combines survey data from 110 Belgian criminal judges with insights from three focus groups. The study reveals that a substantial proportion of judges report limited knowledge of sentence execution practices, particularly regarding the actual duration of imprisonment and modalities such as conditional release. Misperceptions are common, with many judges underestimating the time people effectively spend in prison. Despite this limited knowledge, some judges acknowledge anticipating sentence enforcement into their decision-making, particularly to ensure the prompt implementation of the sentence for the defendant and to reduce the risk of reoffending by relying on measures they believe to be effective, while others maintain that sentencing should remain independent from implementation considerations.

Do Judges Feel the Pain? Sentencing and the Pains of Imprisonment *Dominik Wzorek, Institute of Law Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences*

The aim of this paper is to present the results of qualitative research on how judges perceive the hardships associated with imprisonment (the so-called pains of imprisonment) and the extent to which these considerations influence sentencing decisions. The study is based on 21 in-depth, individual interviews conducted with criminal court judges, allowing for the exploration of both declarative positions and more reflective dimensions of judicial practice. The analysis focuses on two principal questions. First, whether and how judges recognize the various hardships resulting from penal isolation, such as loss of autonomy, disruption of social ties, and stigmatization. Second, whether – and to what extent – these factors are taken into account in the sentencing process. The presentation highlights a spectrum of approaches, ranging from a formalistic stance limited to statutory sentencing directives to more reflective positions that acknowledge the tangible burden of imprisonment. An important component of the paper is the discussion of judges' perceptions of the long-term consequences of imprisonment extending beyond the period of incarceration, including difficulties in reintegration, social exclusion, and reduced employment opportunities. The findings indicate that while awareness of these consequences exists, its impact on sentencing practices remains limited and uneven. The paper contributes to the broader debate on the humanization of criminal law and the role of judges in balancing the retributive and preventive functions of punishment with its real social effects.

266. New Directions in Evidence-Based Policing

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
3:30 to 4:45 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.158

This panel examines how evidence-informed policing tools and ideas move from theory to practice. The papers address four connected themes: mapping criminal processes through crime scripting, prioritising deployment through a crime severity index, understanding cooperation after experiences with police, and testing behavioural interventions through randomized field experiments. Together, they explore how police can better analyse crime, allocate attention, build legitimacy, and reduce offending. The panel combines methodological diversity with practical relevance and highlights both the promise and the limits of contemporary policing innovations.

Chair:

Femke Blokland, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR)

Participants:

Procedural justice and effectiveness in contexts of low security and high corruption: A cross-national vignette study *Amy Nivette, Utrecht University; Thomas Akoensi, University of Kent; Paul Bello, University of South Africa;*

Natasha Madon, Griffith University; Patrick Mutahi, Centre for Human Rights and Policy Studies; Paulina Pankowska, Utrecht University; Maria Fernanda Peres, University of São Paulo; Mahvish Shami, London School of Economics

There are two main mechanisms that are used to explain the relationship between experiences with police, perceptions of police legitimacy and cooperation. The first is based on normative expectations about police, whereby procedurally just treatment communicates to individuals that police authority is valid and entitled to be obeyed. The second is based on instrumental motives, whereby individuals support and/or comply with the police based on self-interest in the outcome. However, the majority of these studies were conducted using data from Western democratic societies, such as the United States, United Kingdom, or Australia. Some have noted that normative and instrumental concerns are given different weight across different policing contexts. In particular, in contexts where corruption is prevalent, where police lack legitimacy, and where crime and insecurity are high, public support and cooperation is more driven by instrumental compared to normative concerns. This proposed study therefore aims to fill these gaps by systematically assessing the causal effects of normative (i.e., procedural justice, quality of treatment and decision-making) and instrumental (i.e., effectiveness) concerns on subsequent attitudes and cooperative behaviours in 10 countries representing different levels of security, corruption, and trust in police (i.e., Australia, Brazil, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, South Africa, UK, US). This will allow us to formally evaluate to what extent the effect of instrumental concerns is significantly larger in countries characterised by higher levels of crime and violence, corruption and lower trust.

The Dutch Crime Severity Index: Current Status and Next Steps *Stijn Ruiter, NSCR / Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; Teun van Ruitenburg, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR) / Avans University of Applied Sciences*

Crimes are not created equally. Criminologists and law enforcement agencies therefore should not count them as if they were. This insight has led to the development of crime severity, or harm, indices (CSI/CHI) in a range of jurisdictions. A CSI provides a reliable and low-cost bottom-line indicator of public safety, enabling law enforcement agencies to allocate scarce resources in proportion to the seriousness of crime. Following a scoping review of the literature, we developed the first publicly available Dutch Crime Severity Index. In this presentation, we explain how it was constructed, illustrate how it can be used, and discuss the next steps toward integrating the CSI everyday police practice.

Do police warning letters deter traffic offenders? Evidence from two Dutch RCT's *Amina op de Weegh, Utrecht University; Amy Nivette, Utrecht University; Stijn Ruiter, NSCR / Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*

We evaluated two interventions implemented by the Dutch police aimed at reducing recidivism among traffic offenders through the addition of a written warning letter to the standard financial penalty. The studies were conducted in the Netherlands in 2024 and 2025 and employed rigorous empirical strategies. The first study combined a difference-in-differences design in its initial phase with a randomized controlled trial (RCT) in a subsequent phase, while the second study relied on an RCT design. The interventions differed in their approach. The first intervention targeted repeat traffic offenders more broadly and communicated an increased certainty of enforcement, informing recipients that they would be subject to heightened police monitoring over the following year and might face more frequent checks and stricter sanctions upon reoffending. The second intervention focused specifically on drivers apprehended for smartphone use while driving and emphasized the legal consequences of reoffending. Both letters were framed in accordance with principles of procedural justice, aiming to convey neutrality, fairness, and respect in their communication. In both studies, reoffending was measured over follow-up periods ranging from six to nine months. Outcomes for individuals receiving a warning letter were compared to those for individuals receiving only the standard fine. Despite the distinct approaches of the two interventions, the results consistently indicated no statistically significant effect on reoffending behavior. Individuals who received a letter were no less likely to commit subsequent traffic violations than those who did not receive such communication. These findings suggest that written communication, whether emphasizing deterrence through increased perceived enforcement risk or promoting compliance through procedurally just messaging, was insufficient as a standalone intervention to alter behavior among traffic offenders. For policymakers and practitioners, the results underscored the limitations of low-cost, scalable interventions based solely on written warnings.

From concept to practice: The adoption of crime scripting in the Netherlands *Femke Blokland, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR); Stijn Ruiter, NSCR / Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; Teun van Ruitenburg, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR) / Avans University of Applied Sciences*

Crime scripting has been developed as an analytical framework to systematically map and analyse criminal processes, with the aim of identifying intervention points that can disrupt these processes. Although interest in crime scripting has grown considerably in both research and practice, relatively little is known about the extent to which, and the ways in which, law enforcement agencies apply this method. This study therefore examines the current applications, purposes, and degree of adoption of crime scripting in the Netherlands across three domains: criminal investigation, intelligence, and the administrative approach to crime-fighting. In addition, it investigates the organisational factors that may facilitate or hinder its implementation. Drawing on survey data from more than 160 professionals working in various Dutch public law enforcement organisations, the study analyses how crime scripting is currently used, how its application differs across agencies, and which organisational

characteristics may account for some of these differences. The findings show that crime scripting is used relatively widely, yet its application remains in development and varies both within and between domains. Differences emerge in the goals of crime scripting, the extent to which scripts are integrated into existing workflows, and the level of standardisation. These insights provide an important foundation for further research into the mechanisms underlying the effective use of crime scripting. By improving our understanding of how, for whom, when, and under what conditions crime scripting works, its potential can be better realised. As law enforcement agencies increasingly seek structured, evidence based analytical tools, the Dutch experience offers valuable lessons for strengthening and professionalising crime prevention and intervention practices across jurisdictions.

267. Exploiting Vulnerability: Trafficking, Forced Labor, Workplace Harm, and Elder Abuse

Topic 4: Victimology/Patterns and trends in Victimization (Victimology WG)

Paper Session

3:30 to 4:45 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.162

Chair:

Thomas Görgen, Deutsche Hochschule der Polizei/German Police University

Participants:

Trafficked foreign minors under public guardianship in Spain: From recruitment to exploitation *Rubén Espuny, University of Lleida; Carolina Villacampa, University of Lleida*

Cross-border trafficking of minors represents a major challenge for European child protection and criminal justice systems, particularly when it affects unaccompanied children. This contribution presents the findings of an empirical qualitative study examining the key features of cross-border trafficking involving these victims. The study is based on 15 in-depth interviews with professionals from public institutions and third-sector organisations working in the child protection system in Catalonia (Spain). The analysis reconstructs the trafficking process from recruitment in countries of origin to exploitation in the destination country. The findings indicate that most detected victims are adolescent girls from Sub-Saharan Africa who are close to reaching the age of majority. Recruitment typically occurs through deception by acquaintances or trusted figures, using false promises of education or employment. The transfer process is characterised by long and fragmented migration trajectories lasting months or years, during which minors are exposed to repeated and systemic forms of violence. Upon arrival, victims are subjected primarily to sexual exploitation, frequently involving debt bondage and the confiscation of identity documents. This contribution highlights significant detection and intervention gaps within the existing protection system. It underscores the need for specialised training for frontline professionals, proactive identification strategies, and stronger inter-institutional coordination to ensure effective protection for this particularly vulnerable group of minors.

The Cumulative Cost of Front-Line Work: Workplace Aggression, Mental Load, and the Limits of Incident-Based Policy *Iris Steenhout, Vrije Universiteit Brussel; Lucia Fernandez Fernandez, Vrije Universiteit Brussel*

Aggression in public-facing roles is a recurring phenomenon for many public service workers. However, work-related aggression is still too often approached as an isolated event. This study examines how train conductors experience the impact of such aggression and the follow-up they receive in its aftermath. A total of 104 Dutch-speaking NMBS train conductors participated in a narrative survey, which was analyzed using reflexive thematic analysis. Four interrelated themes emerged: (1) Verbal and sexual harassment in particular become normalized and are frequently perceived as an inherent part of the job, despite their cumulative impact; (2) Through normative recoding, the severity of incidents is selectively redefined by management: "serious" incidents tend to receive attention, while frequent "minor" aggressions are minimized and blame-shifting sometimes occurs; (3) Train conductors adapt their professional conduct through discretionary coping strategies to reduce risk, such as less rigorous ticket checks and situational avoidance, creating a professional dilemma between personal safety and equitable service delivery; (4) The burden permeates mental health and private life, manifesting in sleep disturbances, hypervigilance, irritability, and emotional exhaustion. The absence of recognition and targeted follow-up amplifies anticipatory stress, promotes avoidance behavior, and contributes to reporting fatigue, rendering aggression less visible and allowing policy to take shape on the basis of significant blind spots.

Visible Labor, Hidden Coercion: A Scoping Review of Forced Begging and Street-Based Exploitation *Lauren N Moton, John Jay College, CUNY*

Despite growing global attention to human trafficking, forced begging and street-based labor remain underexamined within both academic research and policy frameworks. These forms of exploitation, often highly visible in urban spaces, are frequently categorized as informal labor, child neglect, or poverty-related survival strategies rather than as trafficking or organized exploitation. This scoping review systematically maps the existing literature on forced begging and street-based labor across global contexts to clarify how these practices are conceptualized, measured, and governed. Drawing on peer-reviewed scholarship, reports from organizations such as the International Labour Organization and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and gray literature from NGOs and international agencies, this review identifies key themes related to pathways into street-based labor, recruitment and control mechanisms, and institutional responses. Particular attention is given to the roles of poverty, migration, disability, family structures, and gender in shaping vulnerability, as well as the blurred boundaries between coercion, obligation, and agency in youth and child participation. Preliminary findings

suggest that forced street labor is rarely treated as trafficking in practice, even when indicators of coercion, exploitation, and third-party control are present. Instead, responses often oscillate between criminalization and welfare-based interventions, leaving significant gaps in protection and accountability. The review also reveals a lack of consistent definitions, limited empirical research centering affected populations, and minimal attention to the role of organized networks in structuring these practices. By synthesizing fragmented literatures across disciplines and regions, this paper advances a conceptual framework for understanding forced street labor as a form of exploitation that challenges conventional trafficking paradigms. It concludes by outlining key research gaps and proposing directions for future empirical and policy-oriented work.

Privileged Offenders: Financial Exploitation of Older Persons by Trusted Perpetrators *Thomas Görgen, Deutsche Hochschule der Polizei/German Police University; Tihomir Vrdoljak, German Police University*

This study analyses cases of financial exploitation of older and very old people, committed not by strangers but by individuals who are personally or professionally close to the victims and therefore enjoy their trust. It presents the findings of an analysis of 400 cases adjudicated before German courts, examining offender and victim characteristics, the offender–victim relationship and the offender's position of trust relevant to the offence, modus operandi, financial loss, opportunity structures and victim vulnerabilities, as well as judicial sanctions. The paper identifies typical recurring case constellations, addresses the challenges associated with powers of attorney and their potential for abuse, and develops approaches to prevention.

268. POLWG Panel 6: Who Watches the Police? Political, Legal, and Institutional Accountability

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)

Paper Session

3:30 to 4:45 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.168

Chair:

Pauline Shields, Policing and Community Safety Authority (Ireland)

Participants:

Police Liability in Transnational Policing - EU Perspectives *Saskia Hufnagel, University of Sydney*

The EU legal framework on transnational police liability is complex and relies on a combination of EU law, national laws, and international agreements. While there is no single, comprehensive EU law specifically addressing this, various instruments and principles, such as Articles 41-43 of the Schengen Convention, guide law enforcement cooperation and liability in cross-border situations. Civil liability for cross-border policing refers to the potential for law enforcement officers or agencies to be held legally responsible in civil court for actions taken during cross-border operations, even if those actions were authorized under law. This involves the possibility of being sued for damages or other remedies due to alleged wrongful conduct, such as false imprisonment, assault, or negligence. While major breaches in relation to physical integrity and property are regulated in the EU, minor breaches are often not. Furthermore, national legislation differs significantly and can be a hurdle to recovery and restitution of damages. This research builds on Boven's definition of accountability and explores whether a more flexible approach to minor infringements could be harmonised to overcome differences in national legislation and lead to a more satisfactory outcome for claimants, states and law enforcement officers in situations of transnational police liability.

Promoting Evidence Based Accountability: how the Axes of Accountability framework exposes policy-makers selective use of evidence and encourages clarity of debate concerning policy choices *Clare Norah Torrible, University of Bristol*

Police accountability systems embody practical, political, and constitutional choices the underlying ethos of which can be masked by rhetoric, and indeterminacy of key terms such as 'public confidence'. This paper introduces a new Axes of Accountability framework and uses recent contention in England and Wales over the test for police misconduct for use of force to demonstrate how the framework facilities greater scrutiny of that ethos, by exposing the selective use of evidence and granular policy choices that underpin policy-makers' decisions. The Conduct Axis invites a focus on the impact of a reform on officers' day to day conduct. For example, as regards the use of force test, a strong emphasis on de-escalation will sit at one end of the Axis, with very low thresholds for use of force at the other. A focus on this Axis therefore encourages delineation of the structural factors that either encourage or discourage de-escalation, and articulation by policy-makers of their choices in relation to this determinant of officer conduct (including the evidence base for those choices). Complaints about officers tend to be handled internally subject to varying degrees of external/independent oversight. In England and Wales, repeated evidence of 'values deficits' and institutional racism at management level is invariably ignored or downgraded by policy-makers. The Cultural Axis necessitates acknowledgement of this evidence by focusing on the impact of a reform on the degree to which internal handling of conduct issues can be subject to meaningful scrutiny/accountability. If officers are trained that a certain degree of force is proportionate, an officer cannot be held responsible for using that level of force. This amounts to a transfer of autonomy to police trainers placing structural limits on meaningful judicial oversight of the practical boundaries of police interference with citizens. The Constitutional Axis demands a focus on this concern.

Studying Torture in a State Without Torture: Mapping Prevalence and Accountability for Ill-Treatment in Poland *Zuzanna Ganczewska, University of Warsaw*

Polish criminal law lacks a separate offence of torture as defined in Article 1 of the Convention Against

Torture, nor does it provide a comprehensive framework for identyfying survivors of torture and ill-treatment. Analyzing the occurence of such violations and the State's reaction should be central to effective prevention, yet data collection remains fragmented across institutions, limiting meaningful social oversight. This study examines the availability, quality, and institutional ownership of the data on ill-treatment, including torture, with a particular focus on policing and law enforcement. Drawing on data gathered over the span of over three years, the analysis maps the existing sources through which information on ill-treatment is produced. The findings reveal significant blind spots and inconsistencies between various agencies involved, resulting in a limited comparability, potential underreporting and substantial barriers for civil society actors seeking to evaluate the effectiveness of State's activity in this area. Limited specificity of available datasets hinders accountability efforts and makes it harder to identify patterns of misconduct. Analysis is further hindered by fragmentary criminalization. Because the absence of a separate offence of torture leads to the classification of even most serious cases under overly broad categories such as procedural misconduct, official statistics on convictions offer little insight into the scale and nature of the problem. By highlighting structural weaknessess in how prevalence and accoutability for ill-treatment is assessed, the paper argues for the establishment of a coherent national system for recording potential violations of the prohibition of torture, as well as the introduction of a separate offence of torture and ill-treatment.

The politics of police accountability: A case study of Police and Crime Commissioners in England and Wales. *Jyoti Belur, UCL; Aiden Sidebottom, UCL; Ben Bradford, University College London*

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) were introduced in England and Wales in 2011 with the aim of making policing more accountable, transparent, and responsive to local communities. In November 2025, the Government announced plans to abolish the PCC role, citing cost savings and low levels of public awareness. This paper presents research that aimed to better understand the PCC model through the experiences of those who have held the role. The study is based on 25 semi-structured online interviews with current and former PCCs conducted in early 2026. Interviews focused on what worked well, the challenges encountered, and what might have been done differently to support improvements in policing and police accountability. Participants strongly refuted government claims of the PCC model as a "failed experiment", citing examples of their many successes (although unfair and inadequate financial budgets were cited as one of the biggest challenges). The move to abolition was seen as hasty and ill-thought through, and many participants felt that the PCC role is much misunderstood by central government. Participants argued that the role is broader than merely holding the police to account, and involves substantial partnership work and commissioning of services, that is rarely appreciated. Furthermore, many felt that the alternatives proposed would not be sensitive to local demands, nor responsive to specific needs of smaller, more rural areas. Participants reported 'push back' from a group of senior police officers at the national level who were resistant to the level of control PCCs possessed, which they felt was indicative of negative aspects of police culture that continue to thrive and thwart accountability structures. This research underscores that the politics of how and who should hold the police accountable remains a live issue in democracies.

The value of independent scrutiny: practitioner insights from oversight of the policing of child sexual abuse *Pauline Shields, Policing and Community Safety Authority (Ireland)*

This paper presents practitioner insights drawn from nearly two decades of overseeing police performance in responding to child sexual abuse (CSA) in Ireland, with a focus on the role of independent oversight and scrutiny. Following a 2009 Commission of Inquiry that found failings on the part of the Irish police service (An Garda Síochána) in certain historical CSA cases – including undue deference to the Catholic Church and its hierarchy – an independent policing inspection body (Garda Síochána Inspectorate) was tasked with reviewing policies and practices of An Garda Síochána in its response to CSA. Subsequently, a second oversight body, the Policing Authority, was tasked with overseeing the implementation of the Inspectorate's recommendations. The ongoing work of monitoring implementation, via further inspection and other oversight methods, has meant the issue of CSA has received sustained and continuing attention. There have subsequently been substantial improvements in policing performance in the area of CSA, including the development of expert investigative units, improved interagency working, and cultural shifts throughout the organisation. These outcomes are due to a number of factors of which oversight is an important element. However, there remain significant challenges, in particular the scale of historic institutional abuse, and the growth in online CSA materials. The paper uses this lens to discuss lessons learned about the challenges and benefits of independent oversight of policing. These include the importance of statutory powers, and the use of soft powers, in particular transparency, and a stress on community outreach and engagement. The wider context is an evolving model of policing oversight in Ireland. The current Policing and Community Safety Authority, created in 2025, merged two existing bodies to combine performance assessment and inspection powers in a single agency. This approach seems to be unique in terms of civilian oversight of policing.

269. Navigating Cyber Challenges in victimology

Topic 4: Victimology/Policy and Prevention of Victimization (Victimology WG)
Paper Session
3:30 to 4:45 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.172
Chair:
Thijs Hauspie, Ghent University, Department of

Criminology, Criminal Law and Social Law

Participants:

Local police emergency assistance for victims of online crime: Qualitative reflections on first experiences from emergency response shifts in the Netherlands *Remco Spithoven, Saxion University of Applied Sciences; Carlyn van Amersfoort, Saxion University of Applied Sciences, the Netherlands; Julia Klopman, Saxion UOAS; Elmira Land, Saxion University of Applied Sciences, the Netherlands*

The radical change in crime is forcing the police to develop their methods for enforcing online law and order. The same applies to providing victim support. Because victims of online crime experience serious consequences, two operational police officers initiated a new policing method to provide support to local victims of online crime. In this article, we report on our interviews with twenty police officers involved in a regional pilot. This was part of our independent evaluation of this method, which is now being implemented nationwide in the Netherlands. After desk research and interviews with key actors from a theoretical evaluation approach, we interviewed twenty local police officers who provided support to victims of online crime during their emergency service shifts. Although these police officers reported little real affinity with online crime themselves, they expressed the need for the police to do more to combat it. They criticized the fact that hardly anything about online crime is conveyed in training and refresher courses. The explicit learning-by-doing strategy of this method was generally appreciated. The police officers listened to victims with empathy, provided practical advice and social-emotional support, reassured victims, and recorded the reports. However, not every officer felt sufficiently equipped to do so. We also saw significant evidence of victim blaming in the police officers' reflections. Based on these findings, we make recommendations for the application and further development of this policing method as well as future research.

A systematic narrative review on the premises of positive criminology and victimology for online resilience *Nick van der Klok, Saxion University of Applied Sciences; Loes ter Horst, Saxion University of Applied Sciences; Remco Spithoven, Saxion University of Applied Sciences; annemarijn Walberg, Saxion University of Applied Sciences*

Online crime is a major risk in contemporary Western societies. With approximately two million victims per year, online crime constitutes a major societal problem in the Netherlands as well. As technology continues to advance rapidly, victimization of online crime has increased significantly over the years. Existing literature primarily focuses on risk factors: aspects that are related to victimization of online crime. The resilience of non-victims remains, however, overlooked in academia; a multidisciplinary approach specifically addressing (online) resilience against or after crime victimization. Therefore, this research project focuses on this topic through the lens of positive victimology (Ronel & Segev, 2015) and criminology (Schuilenburg, van Steden & Oude Bruil, 2017), as well as on victims' ability to bounce back, recover and even grow after victimization of online crime. A systematic narrative review was conducted following the PRISMA-Scr method. Nearly 4,000 peer-reviewed articles from the disciplines of humanities and social sciences were screened on relevance using the – widely accepted and applied – AI-aided Screening tool ASReview. Consequently, conceptual insights on (online) resilience were labeled and categorized. Subsequently, a conceptual network was developed, which highlighted the core components of (online) resilience. The research led to the formulation of work definitions, serving as a foundation for future experimental, qualitative en quantitative research aimed at identifying mechanisms that can enhance online resilience and thereby prevent victimization, minimize victimization impact and enhance growth after victimization of online crime. Finally, the study discusses methodological choices and limitations, explaining how these influenced the research design.

Missing women: how can we ensure women under digital surveillance can access services in cases of technology-facilitated domestic abuse? *Katy Brookfield, University of Nottingham*

The decision to leave an abusive relationship is fraught with danger, and access to specialist services is crucial for safeguarding women during this process. However, whilst there has been growing interest in ensuring services are equipped to support women, there has been comparatively less attention to whether women can actually get in contact, and remain in contact, with services. This is an increasingly pressing issue given that perpetrators are now able to place their partners under comprehensive digital surveillance. Drawing on survey data from 141 women with lived experience, this presentation will explore original findings documenting the experiences of women subjected to technology-facilitated domestic abuse both during their and post their relationships. Contextualised by in-depth narrative interviews with six victim-survivors of technology-facilitated domestic abuse and sixteen professionals working in the domestic abuse sector from across the UK, these findings provide crucial insights into the processes of technology-facilitated domestic abuse, highlighting missed opportunities to reach women who were unable to access services prior to escaping their relationships. From this, we can identify mechanisms which can be put in place to prevent those facing some of the greatest challenges accessing services from falling through the net.

Nudging Bystanders to Act: An Experimental Study on Intervention Intentions in a Bar Harassment Scenario using Virtual Reality *Thijs Hauspie, Ghent University, Department of Criminology, Criminal Law and Social Law; Koen Ponnet, imec-mict, Department of Communication Sciences, Ghent University; Wim Hardyns, Ghent University, Department of Criminology, Criminal Law and Social Law*

Public harassment (PH), a range of intrusive, intimidating and often sexual behaviors in public, is highly prevalent in nightlife settings. Instances of PH

are mentally and emotionally harmful, and their recurrence over time can have cumulative effects that intensify distress and induce fear-driven behavioral change among victims. Moreover, social normalization or passive ignoring of PH may allow more severe forms of (sexual) violence to take root. Activating bystanders to intervene appears promising to reduce harm and prevent further offenses. However, little research has examined whether and how bystander activation can be effectively achieved in nightlife settings. Furthermore, previous studies suggest that nudging holds considerable potential as a policy tool to promote prosocial behavior and reduce nightlife-related harms, but its application to bystander intervention in cases of PH remains unexplored. To address these gaps, we conducted an experimental study in Spring 2026 using a posttest-only control group design. The study's aim was to test whether nudges (i.e., subtle changes in the environment designed to subconsciously promote prosocial behavior) can influence bystander intervention during PH in nightlife settings. Participants entered a virtual nightlife environment individually and were either exposed to nudges designed to promote bystander intervention, or assigned to a no-nudge control group. Subsequently, all participants witnessed a realistic, pre-recorded harassment incident. When the incident escalated, participants completed a brief in-VR survey on their intervention intentions, followed by a longer survey after exiting the virtual environment. This design allowed us to assess whether nudges are sufficiently noticeable in a nightlife setting, and whether nudging positively influences the five steps of the bystander intervention model (Latané & Darley, 1970). The study findings offer several important insights, guiding future research efforts on bystander intervention and informing evidence-based prevention efforts to deter PH in nightlife settings. Limitations of this study will also be discussed.

270. DRUGS Panel 3. Changing Drugs Regulation and Markets

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Drugs and Crime (European Drug Policies WG)

Paper Session

3:30 to 4:45 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.510

Chair:

Fiona Mesham, University of Liverpool, The Loop drug checking service, UK

Participants:

What can be learnt from the end of a trend? The rise and fall of ketamine prevalence and popularity in two UK annual surveys *Fiona Mesham, University of Liverpool, The Loop drug checking service, UK*

Introduction Studies of drug trends tend to focus on unpicking and exploring the reasons for increased prevalence of use of an individual drug. This paper looks at the neglected aspect of decreased prevalence of use of a drug and asks how this also might illuminate explanations for changing trends, alongside more comprehensively explored increases, with reference to ketamine prevalence and popularity in the UK. Ketamine was controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 in 2006. Methods Data from the English Festival Survey (EFS) are compared with the Crime Survey for England and Wales; two annual self-report surveys, are utilised to compare trends in ketamine prevalence of use in 2014-25. The EFS has conducted convenience sample surveys in situ annually since 2010 (n = >15,000), with ethical approval from the University of Liverpool. Results Data suggests that self-reported ketamine prevalence and popularity peaked in 2023, then fell in subsequent years. Respondents in the 2023 EFS had higher odds of past month ketamine use than respondents in all other years surveyed. Past month ketamine use was more likely among male respondents, those in education, aged 16-20, not identifying as heterosexual, and attending electronic music festivals. Conclusions With no evidence of change in price, purity, availability or legislative control, the authors instead consider how ketamine's decline might relate to moving out of the post-pandemic era. High profile media-amplified health concerns, teenage uptake and loss of cultural cache (or 'staleness') may have combined with increased MDMA popularity within adult polydrug repertoires. Understanding these cycles can support more responsive and contextually grounded policy and practice. Disclosure of Interest Statement The author has unpaid roles in The Loop (UK) as Chair of the Board of Trustees and in The Loop Australia as a Director on the Board of Directors.

Evaluation of the German Recreational Cannabis Act (EKOCAN): An interim assessment after two years of partial cannabis legalisation in Germany *Benedikt Iberl, Institute of Criminology (Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen); Jörg Kinzig, University of Tuebingen, Institute of Criminology*

With effect from 04/01/2024, German legislature has largely decriminalised the use of cannabis for recreational purposes. The Tübingen Institute of Criminology (IfK), together with two other German research institutions, has formed the 'EKOCAN' consortium (Evaluation of the Recreational Cannabis Act [KCanG]), which is tasked with examining the effects of the new law in accordance with Section 43 of the KCanG. The presentation will begin with an overview of the partial legalisation and the evaluation project. It will then present EKOCAN's latest findings on relevant criminological issues. These include: How are cannabis offences developing according to crime statistics? How is the implementation of the (new) criminal offences and misdemeanors proceeding in practice? Has there been a reduction in the workload of law enforcement agencies? What is the situation regarding prevalence of use, and other public health topics? To answer these research questions, (partly preliminary) findings from analyses of police and judicial records, quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews will be presented.

Public Health Outcomes Associated with Cannabis Use: Evidence from Selected European Countries *Nežka Sajinčič, Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law*

Ljubljana; Špela Markočič, Faculty of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Information Technologies (UP FAMNIT); Dean Lipovac, Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law Ljubljana

The expansion of regulated recreational cannabis markets in parts of Europe raises important questions about their public health implications. While existing research, predominantly from North America, points to modest increases in adult cannabis use and certain acute health outcomes following legalisation, broader population-level harms remain less clearly established. The transferability of these findings to European contexts, however, is uncertain due to differences in policy design, healthcare systems, and socio-cultural environments. This study analyses selected public health indicators related to cannabis use across a set of European countries with differing levels of regulatory permissiveness. The research combines a review of recent scientific literature with an analysis of available public health data. Indicators of interest include cannabis use prevalence, treatment demand for substance use disorders, hospitalisations, and other health-related outcomes associated with substance use. The comparative analysis focuses on selected countries with more permissive approaches (e.g. Czechia) and those maintaining more restrictive policies (e.g. Poland), allowing for an exploratory assessment of potential differences across regulatory contexts. By integrating cross-national data and recent literature, this study aims to provide a balanced and context-sensitive evaluation of public health outcomes associated with cannabis regulation. The findings contribute to ongoing policy discussions by identifying both observed patterns and key uncertainties in the European evidence base.

Cannabis Regulation and Crime: A Comparative Criminological Analysis Across Selected European Countries *Dean Lipovac, Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law Ljubljana; Karmen Kravanja, University of Primorska, Slovenia; Nežka Sajinčič, Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law Ljubljana*

The study is motivated by ongoing policy debates regarding the potential criminological impacts of cannabis regulation. While prior research, largely based on North American contexts, suggests limited or mixed effects on crime, European evidence remains fragmented. In recent years, several European countries have moved towards more permissive approaches to cannabis regulation, while others have retained restrictive frameworks. These divergent policy trajectories create an opportunity to examine the relationship between cannabis regulation and public safety outcomes. This study aims to analyse patterns in crime and public safety indicators associated with cannabis use and markets in Slovenia and selected European countries with differing regulatory regimes. Using a comparative design, the study examines official data on recorded offences and criminal activity, with a focus on drug-related offences, selected violent and property crimes, and broader public safety indicators. Countries are selected to reflect variation in regulatory approaches, including more permissive contexts (e.g. Czechia) and more restrictive regimes (e.g. Poland). The analysis explores trends over time and differences between jurisdictions. By systematically comparing available data across multiple countries, this research contributes to a more context-sensitive understanding of how different regulatory models relate to public safety and criminality in Europe. The findings aim to inform evidence-based policy discussions by identifying patterns, consistencies, and gaps in the available data, rather than assuming uniform effects of regulatory change.

271. Media and social construction of crime II

Topic 6: Perceptions of Crime and Justice/Media and social construction of crime

Paper Session

3:30 to 4:45 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.511

Chair:

Ana Guerreiro, University of Maia (UMAIA), Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Gender Studies (CIEG.UMAIA) & School of Criminology, University of Porto & Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Justice (CIJ/FDUP)

Participants:

Crime in the media. Impact on policies regarding the use of alternatives to imprisonment- criminological aspects *Paulina Wiktorska, Institute of Law Studies Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland*

The links between crime and the media are undeniable, since it is primarily the media that plays the role of "social informant" on crime. Crime, in the "distorting mirror" of the media (as I call it), is undoubtedly presented in a distorted way, with some crimes clearly "over-represented" (e.g., murder or rape) while others, in turn, are "under-represented" (theft, violence, and criminal acts of minors). The causes of this distortion in the messages regarding crime can be aetiologically traced to various sources. In my opinion, there are currently at least four major causes: the increasing development of mobile information technologies and the associated, almost caricatured, "deformation of information sources", growing penal populism, the politicization of the law, the lack of substantive qualifications of "informants" and the increasingly less than professional communication between legal and criminology experts and journalists.

„Investigating Online Sleuths: From Baker Street to Facebook - Digital Vigilantism in Criminological Perspective". *Anna Maria Koszyk, Uniwersytet Warszawski*

Long-term missing person cases are recognized as a matter of profound concern, often remaining within the "dark figure" of crime, where disappearances may conceal undisclosed homicides. In the digital age, such cases are no longer confined to police "X-Files" or forensic laboratories, but are increasingly transferred into the public sphere of intermediatization. The role of society, as well as the emergence of the so-called "armchair detective," is examined in the context of high-profile investigations, including cases such as

Madeleine McCann, Iwona Wieczorek, and Nancy Guthrie. On the basis of a multi-method analysis, encompassing selected social media platforms such as Facebook, TikTok, and Reddit, attention is given to the factors contributing to the growing popularity of amateur involvement in criminal investigations. In particular, it is considered how "Cold Justice"-type narratives contribute to the global fascination with crowdsourced investigative practices. While collective intelligence is frequently associated with democratic potential, its limitations are identified in the context of "mano-social" logic, within which imagination and emotional engagement may prevail over empirically verified facts. Through the analysis of the feedback loop between mainstream media and digital communities, it is demonstrated that amateur investigative practices may evolve into forms of "mob justice," including online harassment and trolling. The construction of "truth" in such cases is thereby shown to be increasingly unstable, shaped by phenomena such as "Missing White Woman Syndrome" and various ideological biases. It is further indicated that, although societal engagement may provide valuable informational support and contribute to the visibility of cold cases, the ongoing amateurization of criminal investigations creates a risk of substituting procedural accuracy with a mediatized form of "trial by media.

Organised Crime in the News: A Content Analysis of Media Representations in National Press Coverage *Ana Guerreiro, University of Maia (UMAIA), Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Gender Studies (CIEG.UMAIA) & School of Criminology, University of Porto & Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Justice (CIJ/FDUP); Lígia Afonso, Interdisciplinary Research Center on Justice (CIJ/FDUP) & Fernando Pessoa University (UFP); Pedro Sousa, Interdisciplinary Research Center on Justice (CIJ/FDUP); School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto*

Media representations of organised crime groups play a significant role in shaping public perceptions of criminality, influencing policy debates, and potentially reinforcing social stereotypes. Despite a growing body of research on the relationship between media and crime, empirical studies focusing on how organised crime groups are portrayed in news coverage remain scarce in the Portuguese context. This study aims to address this gap by presenting the findings of a content analysis of a sample of national press articles examining the characteristics attributed to organised crime groups and the types of framing used in the news. A coding scheme was developed to capture key variables, including group size and demographics as well as the type of relational ties within the group, prior criminal records, modus operandi, geographic area of activity, available information on group motivation, accusations filed, stage of judicial proceedings, and indicators of stereotyped representations – such as the portrayal of women in negative or peripheral roles. The findings are discussed considering media criminology frameworks, emphasising how selective representations and narrative patterns may shape public perceptions of organised crime, influence policy debates, and reproduce structural biases embedded in mainstream news discourse.

272. Participatory, Narrative and Interpretive Innovations

Topic 8: Methodologies in Criminology/Advances in Qualitative Methods (Qualitative Methods WG)
Paper Session
3:30 to 4:45 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.516
Chair:
K. Andra Avram, University of Bayreuth
Participants:

Attempting an ethnomethodology of information : a study of sense-making and knowledge-management in sentence enforcement in the context of Belgian counterterrorism *Réka Varga, Université catholique de Louvain*

This paper presents an ongoing doctoral research examining information practices in the context of sentence enforcement in Belgium following the recent wave of terrorist attacks, based on an analysis of 35 case files from the Brussels Sentence Enforcement Court. Its focus is the indirect communication between actors involved in the decision-making process of sentence enforcement that takes place solely through the sharing of documents. The research is proposed as an "experiment" in that it explores the possibility of drawing upon ethnomethodological principles in the qualitative analysis of written sources – ethnomethodology relying more traditionally on participant observation of in-person interactions – while accommodating institutional and political context as a significant resource for said analysis. Thus, the study recruits a hybrid framework combining ethnomethodology, information theories, and the concept of hidden curriculum, originally drawn from structuralist research on education. This framework allows for the study of « information » as situated practices, while attending to the question of how these practices fare under institutional and political constraints and continuously changing counterterrorism policies. Its main premise is that information work in this case is a process of institutional sense-making and knowledge-management highly dependent on the ethnomethodological notion of membership, which implies situational competence rather than group affiliation. We analyse the documentary work embodying this process using methodological tools drawn from critical discourse analysis and membership categorisation analysis, as the expression of a hidden curriculum consisting of norms and requirements that both professionals and litigants must make sense of, while having unequal tools and opportunities to do so. We argue particularly that information practices foster an asymmetry of relations between participants, mainly in that the achievability of understanding and knowledge is unevenly distributed, not only between professionals and litigants, but also among professionals of different accreditation levels and institutional affiliations.

Mapping Meaning Together: CoNavigator as Participatory Analysis in Criminology *Michael Underwood, Nottingham Trent University; Monica Carvalheiro,*

Nottingham Trent University; Zoe Antoniadis, Nottingham Trent University; Christopher Martin, Nottingham Trent University; Belinda Winder, Nottingham Trent University

Participatory approaches are increasingly adopted within criminological research, particularly in work involving individuals with lived experience of the criminal justice system. However, participation is often limited to consultation or co-design, with analysis and interpretation remaining predominantly researcher-led. This raises important methodological questions regarding how knowledge is produced, whose perspectives shape findings, and how interpretive authority is distributed. In forensic contexts, these dynamics may be further complicated by what has been described as "forensic prejudice," whereby the perspectives of those with lived experience are treated as inherently biased, while institutional viewpoints are afforded greater legitimacy (Becker, 1967; Liebling, 2001). Methods: This paper builds on prior work analysing data generated through a CoNavigator session and shifts focus to the method itself. CoNavigator is presented not simply as a participatory tool, but as a structured approach to collaborative, participant-led analysis. Combining a semi-structured dialogical process with a visual, material tool, it enables participants from diverse stakeholder groups to generate, organise, and negotiate meanings in real time (Lindvig et al., 2017; 2018). Drawing on its application within a forensic context exploring desistance with mixed stakeholders, we consider how the method operates in practice. Results and Discussion: The analysis of the method suggests that whilst the design can support more inclusive participation and facilitate a redistribution of voice, there remain ongoing challenges, including residual power asymmetries, identity-based hesitancies, and institutional constraints. These findings point to the conditional and negotiated nature of participation in practice, rather than assuming that participatory methods inherently redistribute analytic authority. Importantly, the analytic process was embedded within the session itself, raising questions about how qualitative data are generated, interpreted, and validated. The paper offers a methodological framework for applying CoNavigator in criminological research and contributes to ongoing discussions around participatory methods by positioning analysis as a central site of participation.

Narrative portraiture in (intersectional) Criminology: Exploring Emic Perspectives on Rehabilitation in Forensic Mental Health *marjolein de pau, Ghent University; Stijn Vandevelde, Ghent University; Tom Vander Beken, Professor and director of the Institute for International Research on Criminal Policy (IRCP), Ghent University*

Rehabilitation models in forensic mental health, such as the Good Lives Model (GLM), are often grounded in etic or universalist perspectives. Yet in contexts shaped by growing cultural diversity—and the persistent disparities faced by individuals with diasporic or marginalized backgrounds—there is an urgent need to incorporate emic perspectives that foreground clients' own meanings, values, and lived experiences. This presentation offers an insight into using narrative portraiture—a contiguity-based method that aligns closely with the strengths-based ethos of the GLM—in criminological research on rehabilitation. Narrative portraiture makes visible how identity is not a peripheral variable but a central, active force in rehabilitation—particularly when examined through an intersectional lens. Rather than treating culture or identity as static traits, portraits illuminate the dynamic processes of identity work that clients undertake as they navigate institutional expectations, personal histories, and future aspirations. When institutional frameworks fail to acknowledge this complexity, they risk undermining treatment engagement. Conversely, environments that allow clients to express and integrate their intersecting identities authentically can promote wellbeing, meaning-making, and transformative change. Beyond its thematic contributions, narrative portraiture introduces a deeply relational approach to research—one grounded in sustained interaction, mutual understanding, and the co-construction of meaning. It highlights the richness and nuance of lived experience while remaining attentive to broader structural and cultural contexts. As such, narrative portraiture not only humanizes clients and challenges stigmatizing narratives but also holds significant potential for public-facing science communication. By offering accessible, narrative-driven accounts, it can bridge the gap between forensic mental health research and wider audiences, fostering greater public understanding, empathy, and informed dialogue. At the same time, it demands careful ethical reflection on voice, authorship, and relational responsibility.

Engaging With and Capturing Narrative Complexity: The Potential of the Staged Narrative Analysis (SNA) for Criminological Research *K. Andra Avram, University of Bayreuth*

Narrative approaches have become more central to criminological research on violence, conflict, and justice, offering powerful insights into how individuals and groups make sense of complex and often traumatic events. Yet, despite their widespread use, narrative analyses frequently remain methodologically opaque, with limited guidance on how stories are systematically examined and compared across perspectives. This paper introduces the staged narrative analysis (SNA) as a response to this gap. Developed in the context of multi-perspectival research on narratives of collective violence and repression, SNA provides both a flexible analytical framework and a structured analytical procedure for working with complex narrative data across sources and actor groups. First, SNA conceptualizes narrative analysis along four analytical dimensions – narrator, moment of telling, structure, and stories – allowing for a systematic consideration of the content, structure, and context of storytelling. These dimensions can be adapted to specific research designs, enabling analytical flexibility while maintaining coherence. Second, SNA proposes a five-stage analytical procedure –orientation, setting the scene, zooming in, evaluation, and contrasting – that combines thematic, structural, and dialogic-

performative modes of analysis. This staged approach facilitates both in-depth reconstruction of individual narratives and structured comparison across multiple perspectives and data sources. Drawing on empirical material from a multi-perspectival study on narratives of communist repression and the violent December events of 1989 in Romania, the paper illustrates how SNA enables researchers to manage large and heterogeneous datasets while enhancing analytical transparency and comparability. By offering a comprehensive yet adaptable methodological toolkit, SNA contributes to ongoing efforts to make narrative analysis more systematic, transparent, and practically accessible in criminological research.

273. Radical Right, Authoritarianism, and Penality (II)

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Penology and Theories Punishment (Crime, Science and Politics WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

3:30 to 4:45 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.517

Over the past four decades, scholarship on punishment and society has centrally engaged with contemporary penal change, particularly the so-called punitive turn. While early work focused on the United States and the rise in punitiveness since the 1970s, this concern has since extended to diverse national contexts across the Global North and South. From the outset, debates have examined the role of governmental rationalities in shaping penal transformations. The concept of neoliberalism—variously understood as governmentality or a phase of capitalist development—has featured prominently since the 1990s, albeit with divergent theoretical inflections. By the late twentieth century, authors such as O'Malley (1999) highlighted the hybridisation of neoliberalism with neoconservatism within concrete political alliances, often articulated through the notion of the 'new right'. More recently, across Europe and the Americas, right-wing radicalisation has produced new political formations and realignments, achieving significant electoral success. Terms such as 'far right', 'radical right', and 'alt-right' seek to capture these developments. In this climate, penal discourses and policies are increasingly connected to emergent authoritarianisms, inviting renewed engagement with concepts like 'authoritarian populism' (Hall et al., 1978; Hall, 1985) and 'socially implanted authoritarianism' (Pinheiro, 1991). Despite these shifts, existing literature remains limited, with analyses of cases such as Trump-era US being relatively superficial and lacking comparative depth. This panel series addresses that gap by bringing together cross-national research on the penal impact of new radical right coalitions and agendas, exploring ruptures with prior penal trends, the relationship between rhetoric and practice, carceral expansion, and the emergence of resistance to punitive proposals.

Chair:

Maximo Sozzo, Universidad de A Coruña / Universidad Nacional del Litoral

Participants:

Penal populism reloaded? On the penal agenda of far-right political forces *José A. Brandariz, University of A Coruna*

In recent years, there has been intense debate on whether the electoral success of far-right political parties and strongmen in various jurisdictions and global regions marks the end of the neoliberal era, opening a new period characterised by democratic backsliding and the rise of authoritarianism (Brown 2019; Fraser 2019; Gerstle 2022). There are strong signs that this may be the case, particularly with the election of Trump and other authoritarian figures in the late 2010s and early 2020s. This conversation has also made its way into socio-legal and punishment and society studies, with authors pondering if and to what extent the punitive agenda promoted by these alt-right leaders differs from the penal populism which had gained momentum by the turn of the twenty-first century (Eren 2023; Pratt 2023; Xenakis 2022). This debate is particularly critical for punishment and society studies, since the analysis of the so-called punitive turn was constitutive of the emergence and consolidation of this academic subfield (Garland 2018). This paper addresses these research questions by exploring the punitive agenda championed by the Spanish far-right political party Vox since the late 2010s, specifically considering its discourse, the proposals contained in its party manifestos, and the legal reforms it has proposed in the Spanish parliament. The paper contrasts this penal agenda with the penal populist proposals made by Spanish conservative forces during the punitive turn of the 1990s and 2000s. In so doing, it contributes to the conversation on the continuities and discontinuities between the 'old' penal populism and the 'new' proposals of 2020s alt-right forces.

When the 'dangerous Others' construct 'dangerous Others': Examining online discourse on crime and security before and during the Dublin and Belfast Riots of 2023/24 *Claire E Hamilton, Prof. Claire Hamilton*

Criminological interest in the 'new right' has tended to focus on the participants themselves qua offenders rather than the construction of the 'dangerous Others' so often at the heart of right-wing rhetoric. In an effort to address this gap, and further probe how such groups produce and reproduce (in)security through narratives, this paper examines online discourse prior to the Dublin and Belfast riots of 2023/24, as two recent high-profile incidents of race-related violence. Both disturbances were triggered by high-profile crimes and, in both cases, the outbreak of violence was linked to false claims circulated by hard-right groups that the perpetrator of the attack was an asylum-seeker. Following an actor and keyword-based search on Twitter, Telegram and Facebook, the paper presents data to show that the construction of the child as the logical ('ideal') victim of (alleged) migration-related crime is frequently used by the new right to mobilise their support base. Yet, while crime control represents only one weapon in the arsenal of the right 'to fight culture wars' (Brandariz, 2025) (the child may also require protection from other morally opprobrious activity) we should not forget 'the moral weight of censure and sanction' (Haney, 2016; Barker, 2025) or the significant legitimating effects that the language of criminal justice can have. In Ireland, the language of criminal justice, and particularly migrants as sexual threats to children ('single unvetted male'), has acted as a glue that has united mainstream politicians, local protestors and hard right activists (Hamilton, 2024). In

this context, the data show an emphasis on the 'moral emotions' (Haidt, 2003) of shame and pride as key affective tactics deployed by populist actors to dispel stigma and legitimise their claims.

When authoritarianism does not end: Polish migration policy before and after governmental change in 2023 *Witold Klaus, Institute of Law Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences*

At the end of 2023, eight years of the ruling of the far-right party „Law and Justice" finally came to an end. The new government was long-awaited and very much welcomed. The so-called democratic coalition won the general election by carrying a banner for restoring the rule of law. The change was accompanied by expectations concerning also the change in the migration policy, which since 2015 was particularly restrictive, especially for people seeking international protection. And the change came, but in an unexpected way. Not only did the new government not adopt a human rights or rule of law approach, but it also even further stretched violent practices targeting migrants. Those included upholding the persistent violent practices at the border and pushing people on the move back to Belarus, which was followed by suspension of the right to asylum; broadening deportation policies (including conducting returns to Afghanistan) also for petty crimes; continuation of criminalisation of activists offering humanitarian assistance to people on the move; launching a hard critic to the courts protecting human rights, including the attack on the European Court of Human Rights; to name just the most drastic examples. In this paper, I aim to shed some light on the situation in Poland regarding migration control and violence at the border, arguing that some authoritarian instruments when once introduced, do not go away easily and are taken over by consecutive governments, if they are handy. Once condemned when used by the authoritarian authorities, they become condoned if applied by a liberal government. This support comes from society and international institutions such as the European Union. The Polish case with the recent change serves well as an example of the proliferation of authoritarian practices that remain consistent regardless of the administration in power.

Refraining "crimmigration", normalizing rule of lawlessness: Greek policies regarding criminal and immigration procedures *George Nikolopoulos, PANTEION UNIVERSITY OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCES*

Greek social control policies have increasingly expanded, over the years, the imposition of detention measures on both criminal offenders and migrant populations, which, however, are not only situated in the framework of the rule of law, but, also, they are clearly outside of it (as, for example, in the case of pushbacks) or located in a "gray zone" encompassing "legally hybrid and institutionally diverse modes" aiming to exercise the power of a "shadow carceral state" (K. Beckett and N. Murakawa, 2012). Despite the different jurisdictions that, in principle, govern the management of these populations, they converge, however, on the use of common "vocabularies of punitive motives" (D. Melossi) as well as on the adoption "penal practices" (D. Garland) with distinctly extrajudicial characteristics and opaque procedures. Moreover, the element of foreignness prevails not only in the closed detention facilities for asylum seekers and "third country citizens" awaiting deportation, but also in Greek prisons, where, on one hand, the disproportionately high percentage of foreign inmates is inversely proportional to their presence in the general population and, on other hand, the majority of foreign inmates have been convicted of human trafficking. Given these premises, this paper will attempt to demonstrate, through recent examples of incidents and policy initiatives, how penal proceedings intersect with the administrative procedures for migrants, without ever merging to create a coherent "crimmigrant policy"; on the contrary, each procedure operates independently of the other, being essentially instrumentalized, thus opening the door to the normalization of the rule of lawlessness. In this way, a far-right audience is nurtured, while the authoritarianism of political power is reinforced.

'The Dangerous Foreigner': Migration and Authoritarian Penality in Peru *Bertha Prado-Manrique, Universidad de Málaga*

In recent years, academic debates regarding New Right, Authoritarianism and Penality have been held in both the Global North and the Global South. One of the topics through which these debates can be addressed is border control and migratory governance. In South America, this debate has acquired greater relevance in the context of the Venezuelan Exodus. In this context, a shift from openness to securitization can be observed in border control strategies, with political discourses portraying immigration as a threat to host societies and legitimizing the implementation of punitive and/or administrative measures aimed at reinforcing state control over migratory flows and guaranteeing national security. These measures include deportations, criminal background checks at border crossings, visa requirements for selected migrant profiles, and identity checks to detect irregular migrants. This paper examines how legislative bills discussed in the Peruvian Parliament between 2015 and 2025 construct foreigners, and particularly Venezuelan migrants, as a national security threat to be managed by criminal law. Through a frame analysis of the bills, the paper argues that the Peruvian case represents a local expression of the border criminology debate and the authoritarian penality trend. The findings reveal a regulatory framework and crimmigration discourses that not only undermine the human rights of foreigners but also pose significant challenges to Peru's already fragile democratic institutions.

274. Attitudes about Punishment and Criminal Justice System III

Topic 6: Perceptions of Crime and Justice/Attitudes about Punishment and Criminal Justice System
Paper Session
3:30 to 4:45 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 -

Room 1.610

Chair:

Hilde Pape, University College of Norwegian Correctional Servica

Participants:

For the law, against the law: police officers' perceptions of norms and rules *Bruna Gisi, University of São Paulo; Leticia Simoes-Gomes, University of Sao Paulo*

The relationship between legality and police enforcement is classic in Police Studies. This paper draws from a 2024–2025 mixed methods study on the Brazilian Inter-ministry Resolution No. 4.226/2010, which regulated police use of force. The study had a twofold aim: assessing its developments in regulating police use of force across Brazilian state police forces, and investigating its reception by Criminal Justice actors. The research's objective was to analyze how police use of force is regulated, transmitted, operationalized, and monitored in the daily activities of Brazil's state police forces. This paper examines perceptions of street-level police officers from 29 focus groups, focusing on how they interpret norms. Such perceptions are shaped by hierarchy, formal/informal norms, and daily enforcement. Findings indicate that officers view regulation as ambiguous: it offers protection against arbitrary decisions by superiors and other Criminal Justice actors, along with legal support, yet it also stems from non-operational considerations. Consequently, norms are seen as tools designed against street-level officers, hindering their work—something to heed, but following them conflicts with police work. This can be interpreted through sociological work on rule enactment in institutional contexts. Institutional norms aren't simply guides for action—they cannot effectively direct conduct, given the contingent circumstances in which action unfolds. Institutions are produced through members' active work of institutional accountability: using norms as interpretive frameworks to retrospectively justify actions as rule-compliant. Such work sustains the reality of formal structure and constitutes organizational membership. Among those interviewed, however, rules are framed separately from actual practice and are not mobilized to interpret what is done. The relationship with the formal organization surfaces only in disciplinary episodes. Membership is thus grounded not in upholding the reality of formal structure, but in ordering principles that contradict it—which is experienced negatively, as something opposed to the work itself.

"I don't even know my damn self!" Applying the Normative Validation Thesis to the New Romantic Partners of Returning Citizens *Daisy Ball, Roanoke College*

Based on in-depth interviews (N=55) and extensive field work, in this project we consider the degree to which the normative validation thesis applies to or contradicts the narratives romantic partners of returning citizens develop about their relationships. The normative validation thesis (Hays 1988) argues that possibly, the most harmful reaction to deviance is no reaction at all. Using a grounded theory approach, we consider the probability that the recent "prison binge" (Comfort 2008) in the United States has reduced the deterrent effect of incarceration by reducing stigma associated with it. Furthermore, we problematize the argument that cognitive dissonance surrounds the decision to enter into a romantic relationship with a legally stigmatized individual in the first place.

Neurodivergent Children and Violent Extremism: Counter-Terrorism Policing Understandings and Responses *Gina Vale, University of Southampton; Craig Webber, The University of Southampton*

The recent Shawcross (2023, para 4.96) Review on the UK Prevent Strategy found that 'a significant number' of cases referred to Channel involved 'complex needs [including] young people on the autistic spectrum'. Since 2016, neurodivergence features in almost one third of convicted juvenile terrorism offenders in England and Wales (Rose and Vale 2023). Such cases have prompted a burgeoning literature to explore how neurodivergence might contextualise the vulnerability and risk factors of children being drawn into violent extremism. Instead, this paper shifts focus from the vulnerable individual to the responsive system. Drawing on interviews with police officers with experience of such cases across England and Wales, this paper explores how youth and neurodivergence are understood and navigated at the critical intersection with counter-terrorism. Specifically, through the lens of procedural justice, we examine whether and how principles of voice, neutrality, respect, and trustworthiness are fulfilled through the developing policy and practice of policing responses to neurodivergent children's engagement in violent extremism.

From Defection to Resettlement: North Korean Defectors' Migration Experiences and Their Perceptions of the Police *Jaeyong Choi, West Chester University*

Although a growing body of empirical literature documents the humanitarian and psychological challenges faced by refugees, far less is known about how exposure to state control, surveillance, and crime victimization across pre-migration, transit, and post-migration stages shapes refugees' perceptions of the police and legal authority. The current research examines how migration-stage -specific experiences, including exposure to state security forces, informal enforcement practices, corruption, trafficking networks, and crime victimization during transit, shape defectors' perceptions of police in the host society. Specifically, we conducted in-depth semi-structured interviews with ten North Korean defectors, a hard-to-reach population, living in South Korea. Findings from this project will contribute to a more nuanced understanding of how authoritarian policing environments shape legal consciousness among forced migrants. By identifying how prior experiences influence present day perceptions of police legitimacy, this research can inform policies aimed at improving institutional trust, facilitating acculturation, and reducing structural barriers that prevent defectors from fully accessing legal protection in their host society.

For Better or for Worse? A Longitudinal Study of Attitudinal Changes Among Prison Officer Students in Norway *Hilde*

Pape, University College of Norwegian Correctional Servica

Background / aims. Students attending the two-year accredited prison officer programme in Norway are highly selected: the applicant-to-spot ratio is approximately 3:1, and those considered likely to balance care and empathy with control and authority are prioritised. At the outset of their education, virtually all students hold attitudes aligned with the humane values underpinning official penal and prison policy. This study examines whether attitudes towards prisoners and punishment change as the students approach graduation, following theoretical education and a one-year period of practical training in a high-security facility. Methods. In 2022 (T1), all freshmen prison officer students in Norway were invited to participate in an electronic survey. The cohort was reassessed approximately 1.5 years later (T2), and the cumulative response rate was 74% (n = 113). Results. Responses to the Attitudes Towards Prisoners scale indicated that the students became less likely to endorse tolerant, empathetic, and lenient views from T1 to T2. Correspondingly, their scores on a punitiveness index suggested a reduced tendency to oppose strict punishment. The proportion considering deterrence an important purpose of punishment also increased markedly. However, at both assessments, hardly any students viewed retribution as an important aim of punishing offenders, while virtually all regarded rehabilitation as important. Conclusion. Rehabilitation remained strongly endorsed by prison officer students throughout their education. However, a shift towards more punitive views, such as an increased emphasis on deterrence, was observed. The attitudinal changes may reflect socialisation during practical training in a high-security prison, as well as formative personal experiences and impressions.

275. Dis/Misinformation, Polarization and Democracy: Dynamics and Public Debate

Topic 6: Perceptions of Crime and Justice/Political and Social Discourses about Crime and Justice (Crime, Science and Politics WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

3:30 to 4:45 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.616

Misinformation and disinformation, together with increasing polarization have gained growing prominence in criminological analysis as phenomena that shape public debate, social cohesion, and the functioning of democratic institutions. The dissemination of false, misleading or biased content can intensify political and social divisions, erode trust in legitimate sources of information, and contribute to the distorted construction of social problems, including crime and insecurity. Addressing these phenomena is particularly complex: their dynamics are shaped by individual, political, and institutional factors, while regulatory responses raise enduring tensions between the need for intervention and the protection of fundamental rights, especially freedom of expression. Bringing together empirical and theoretical contributions on regulation, parliamentary discourse, citizens' susceptibility to disinformation, and the social, cognitive and technical organisation of deceptive communication, this panel aims to advance discussion on the challenges that contemporary communication environments pose to democratic life and public debate.

Chair:

Inês Sousa Guedes, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice, School of Criminology, Faculty of Law of the University of Porto

Participants:

Governing Disinformation in Portugal: Insights from Expert Perspectives *Josefina Castro, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research On Justice, Faculty of Law, University of Porto, Portugal; Faculty of Law, Lusiada University- Porto, Portugal. CEJEIA-Center for Legal, Economic, International and Environmental, Studies, Lusíada University; Beatriz Vigo, Faculty of Law, University of Porto; Margarida A. Santos, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice; School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto; Samuel Moreira, CIJ (Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice) - School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto, Portugal | CEJEIA (Center for Legal, Economic, International and Environmental Studies) - Lusíada University, Portugal; Carla Sofia Cardoso, CIJ-Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice; CEJEIA - Center for Legal, Economic, International and Environmental Studies; School of Criminology, Faculty of Law of the University of Porto; Inês Sousa Guedes, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice, School of Criminology, Faculty of Law of the University of Porto*

Disinformation has been problematized in multiple, often conflicting ways: as a threat to fundamental rights, a danger to liberal democracy - eroding trust in institutions and electoral processes - and as a security issue linked to foreign interference, hybrid threats, and national stability. These competing narratives render the challenge not only one of definition but also of governance, with significant implications for the protection of democratic values. In response, efforts to address disinformation have intensified at both national and supranational levels, with the European Union playing a pivotal role in shaping a multi-layered regulatory framework. Focusing on the regulation of disinformation in Portugal, this article draws on semi-structured interviews with fifteen experts across diverse fields relevant to disinformation and information security. The study examined regulatory dimensions, including which aspects of disinformation should be addressed, how regulation might be implemented, and by whom, while taking into account both normative and practical challenges in policy design and enforcement. Two central themes emerged—tension between power and legitimacy (Rone, 2021), and the interplay between governance by platforms and governance of platforms (Gillespie, 2018)—which structure the problematization of disinformation governance. These themes organize the discourses around its intricate and evolving character, conceptual ambiguities, and regulatory tensions, particularly between effectiveness and the protection of fundamental rights, ultimately portraying disinformation governance as a domain that is

structurally and inherently political.

Parliament as Data? A systematic review of the study of parliamentary discourse in Spain *Sara Sampayo Sande, Crímina Center - Miguel Hernández University of Elche*

Parliamentary speeches constitute a key source for analysing the social construction of crime and the shaping of criminal policy. This systematic review examines how Spanish parliamentary debates have been used as a source of empirical data between 2005 and 2025, in order to analyse the opportunities and challenges presented by the study of parliamentary discourse as a data source for criminological research in Spain. The objectives of this study are: (1) to characterise the topics addressed in parliamentary speeches, with particular attention to their relevance to criminology; (2) to describe the methodologies used in data extraction and analysis; and (3) to identify the main challenges and limitations reported by researchers. A scoping review approach was applied in accordance with the JBI and PRISMA-ScR guidelines, with searches conducted in Web of Science and Dialnet Plus, enabling the analysis of 51 studies. The results show that most of the research focused on the Congress of Deputies (70.6%) and used manual qualitative approaches (52.9%), although the use of software-assisted analysis has been growing in recent years. The most frequently addressed topics were public policies and substantive issues (41.2%), ideological positioning and polarisation (23.5%) and rhetorical strategies (21.6%). Furthermore, the studies show great diversity in the unit of analysis and the size of the corpora, and few studies report methodological limitations, citing mainly the time required and the sample size. These findings indicate that, although the study of parliamentary discourse in Spain has generated a growing research tradition, there is still ample scope for the incorporation of criminological theoretical frameworks and advanced computational techniques that would allow this source to be fully exploited as a tool for analysing the social construction of crime and the formation of criminal policy.

Shape Theory and the Social Organisation of Disinforming, Distorting and Deceptive Public Communications *Martin Innes, Security, Crime and Intelligence Innovation Institute - Cardiff University*

Disinforming, distorting and deceptive communications increasingly shape how social problems and harms command political attention. Prior research has documented their presence in the lead-up to public disorder, in the conduct of state crimes, and in the aftermath of terrorism and other violent events. To date, however, we lack a mid-range theory for this modality of digital influencing that explains the social, cognitive and technical processes involved in manipulative and deceptive communication. This paper introduces the tenets of 'shape theory', framed as a derivative of social control, to illuminate how malign and adversarial information campaigns are organised and conducted by nation states and other groups seeking to influence the interests of their opponents. Conceptual work is informed by empirical data from internal documents of the Russian Social Design Agency (SDA), placed in the public domain by investigative journalists. According to Western governments, the SDA, commissioned by the Russian state, has been behind high-profile covert influence operations of the past five years, targeting Germany, France, the US and the UK. These documents describe the organisational processes and bureaucratic procedures used by the SDA to identify exploitable 'pain points' in targets, and how these are translated into textual narratives, memes and video content designed to influence audiences. The dataset also provides insights into the performance indicators used to regulate the activities of the SDA's organisational units and workers. The dialogue between these empirical assets and sociological concepts generates new perspectives on how information manipulation is designed and delivered to 'shape' understanding and political decision-making. Three modes of 'shaping' action are identified: information shaping, which manipulates message content to influence cognition, affect and behaviour; audience shaping, which acts on beliefs and values to alter how information is read; and environment shaping, which influences information structures to alter what people are exposed to and how.

Political Attitudes, Social Capital and Mis/Disinformation: Predictors of Belief and Sharing in Portugal *Carla Sofia Cardoso, CIJ-Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice; CEJEIA - Center for Legal, Economic, International and Environmental Studies; School of Criminology, Faculty of Law of the University of Porto; Josefina Castro, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research On Justice, Faculty of Law, University of Porto, Portugal; Faculty of Law, Lusiada University- Porto, Portugal. CEJEIA-Center for Legal, Economic, International and Environmental, Studies, Lusíada University; Bruno Silva, Faculty of Law of the University of Porto; Samuel Moreira, CIJ (Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice) - School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto, Portugal | CEJEIA (Center for Legal, Economic, International and Environmental Studies) - Lusíada University, Portugal; Gilda Santos, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice; School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto; Margarida A. Santos, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice; School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto; Inês Sousa Guedes, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice, School of Criminology, Faculty of Law of the University of Porto*

Social media has become an increasingly important source of news and socio-political information for many people, creating new opportunities for the dissemination of disinformation. Disinformation, defined as false or misleading content disseminated with the intent to deceive, poses a significant challenge to democratic societies, where informed citizenship depends on reliable information. Understanding why individuals believe and share such content is therefore a major concern, particularly in increasingly polarized and digitally mediated environments. This study examines the social and political predictors of both susceptibility to disinformation and self-reported willingness to share it, focusing in particular on how

social capital, collective narcissism, populist attitudes, attitudes toward democracy, authoritarian leadership support, and political orientation shape these outcomes. Literature suggests that these variables' structure individuals' epistemic orientations toward social and political information. It is hypothesized that higher levels of social capital, particularly trust in democratic institutions, will be negatively associated with susceptibility to disinformation and willingness to share it. In contrast, collective narcissism, weaker democratic commitment, greater support for authoritarian leadership, and populist attitudes are expected to be positively associated with these outcomes. Sociodemographic characteristics, as well as digital and media literacy, are included as control variables. Data come from the ongoing project "FACTCHECK - Knowledge is Power: Towards a Comprehensive Approach to Diminish Fake News Spread and Susceptibility" were collected via an online questionnaire administered to a representative sample of the Portuguese population (N = 2,500).

Public Debate on Criminal law in Social Media: Evidence and Reflections for More Deliberative Communication from the #FakePenal Project *Mario Santisteban Galarza, Universidad Miguel Hernández de Elche; Raquel Botía López, Miguel Hernández University; Fernando Miró-Llinares, CRÍMINA Center, University Miguel Hernández of Elche*

Social media has become a potential forum for public debate and a tool for shaping public opinion. Currently, these discussions also cover topics relevant to criminal law and criminology, such as the appropriateness of legal reforms on sexual crimes, and the links between crime and some vulnerable groups. Recent research suggests that these debates are far from exhibiting the desired deliberative characteristics; they are concentrated in the hands of a few actors and are affected by misinformation and affective polarization. Against this backdrop, it is necessary to reflect on the solutions and the role that different actors (academia, social media and the law) must adopt to address the challenges of communication regarding criminal matters on social media. Drawing on the findings of a national research project known as #FakePenal, a number of recommendations are presented to promote a public debate on criminal matters based on democratic and deliberative models that are less polarized. Specifically, the study examines the role that social media should play in certain aspects of this debate, drawing on existing evidence and the current legal frameworks within the European Union. It also examines the role that needs to be played by academia—particularly by legal and criminology scholars and practitioners—in shaping the digital public debate on criminal matters.

276. Organised Crime, the State and Society: A Comparative Perspective

Topic 7: Comparative and Historical Perspectives/Transnational Crime and Justice (Organized Crime WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

3:30 to 4:45 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.014

Organised crime does not operate in a vacuum. To understand how criminal organisations emerge, persist, and wield influence, we need to examine the relationships they forge with states, communities, and other criminal actors– and how these relationships vary across political, institutional, and geographical contexts. This panel brings together scholars working on Europe, Latin America and Japan to explore these dynamics across disciplines and settings. The papers investigate how drug trafficking organisations shape political power through their investment in protection; how organised crime becomes entrenched in high-capacity democracies through failures of imagination, convergences of interest and institutional inertia; how criminal groups governing rural transit hubs construct authority through infrastructure, land control and the regulation of illicit markets; and the ways in which highly-bureaucratic mafia groups such as the yakuza deal with disputes in a non-violent way.

Chair:

Zora Lea Hauser, University of Cambridge

Participants:

The Price of Protection: Exploring how Transnational Drug Traffickers Influence Politics *Gustavo Duncan, Eafit University; Daniel Barker Flores, University of Oxford*

Continually confronted with myriad threats, Transnational Drug Trafficking Organizations (TDTOs) employ different strategies to mitigate risk. In this article, we focus on the political consequences of these risk mitigation strategies, and offer a theoretical framework through which to understand them. We start from the premise that TDTOs are not inherently political actors. Nonetheless, as illegal enterprises with access to considerable financial resources, TDTOs are (inadvertently) capable of shaping politics in important ways if and when they invest in protection, provided by both State and nonstate actors. When these trafficking groups invest in protection, they are firstly capable of determining who is able to access political power. Secondly, they are also capable of affecting how political power is exercised, reshaping the institutions used to govern society– though above all at the subnational level. We provide illustrative evidence for our framework from the Colombian city of Medellín.

Organised Crime in High-Capacity Democracies: A Sociological Explanation *Zora Lea Hauser, University of Cambridge*

In Germany, a country consistently ranked among Europe's most stable democracies, mafia organisations have operated for half a century, investing in businesses, cultivating social ties, and establishing contacts with politicians. This article takes the German case to illustrate a wider point. The core argument is that the entrenchment of organised crime in Europe's democracies is not an anomaly but a 'predictable surprise': a development that appears unexpected but is structurally consequential. Three interlocking dynamics drive this process. First, a failure of imagination, which leads institutions and societies to deny or underestimate the threat. Second, a convergence of interests, in which the presence of criminal actors generates reciprocal benefits for

communities, businesses, and politicians. Third, institutional inertia that results from both – and, in turn, reinforces them. These mechanisms are not specific to the Italian mafia. They describe a general vulnerability of high-capacity democracies to organised crime entrenchment.

"Those who own the land, hold the power": Transportista groups' governance practices in Honduras *Emilia Ziosi, University of Oxford*

Honduras is a key transit hub for cocaine trafficking, yet the actors involved in wholesale transport – known as transportista groups – remain understudied, and their involvement in governance practices contested. Existing scholarship alternately portrays these groups as non-territorial or as providers of limited community-oriented practices, such as dispute resolution. This paper examines transportista groups' governance practices in two towns in the departments of Colón and Copán and in the surrounding rural areas. It shows that, despite the networked nature of their operations, their core structures are territorial and that they engage in both community governance and the regulation of wholesale cocaine trafficking. In doing so, it argues that these practices vary with leaders' relationships to the state. Where a group leader holds formal political office, community-oriented practices are more public and institutionalised, including the provision of infrastructure. Where groups rely on informal alliances with state actors, residents benefit through economic opportunities generated by the group's investments and report increased perceptions of safety associated with the exclusion of rival criminal groups. Across both cases, transportista groups regulate wholesale trafficking by controlling access to routes, land, and infrastructure, including who can move shipments through their territories. By showing how different forms of collaboration with the state are associated with distinct governance practices, the paper contributes to scholarship on state-crime relationships and forms of criminal governance that operate outside large urban areas and without extortion – an understudied phenomenon in Central America.

277. Borderless Crime: Tackling Harms and Toxic Behaviours across Virtual Platforms

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Cybercrime (Cybercrime WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
3:30 to 4:45 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.116

As digital environments become increasingly immersive, harmful behaviours are no longer confined to traditional social media but extend across gaming platforms, virtual worlds, and AI-driven spaces. This paper explores the rise of "borderless" online harms, with a particular focus on violence against women and girls (VAWG), youth safety in gaming environments, and the growing role of emerging technologies and Artificial Intelligence in facilitating abuse. Drawing on interdisciplinary research and stakeholder engagement, this panel examines how toxic gaming cultures, harassment, grooming, and gender-based violence are evolving in real time. Particular attention is given to the role of artificial intelligence, as well as robotics and automation, in enabling new forms of harm, and the scaling of exploitative content. The findings highlight how immersive and interactive environments can intensify harm, especially for young users, where boundaries between online and offline experiences are increasingly blurred. Toxic gaming cultures are identified as key sites where harmful norms can be reinforced and normalised. The paper argues that current policy and platform responses remain fragmented and reactive. It calls for more coordinated, evidence-led approaches that combine regulation, platform accountability, and prevention, including safety-by-design in gaming and virtual platforms, alongside sustained awareness-raising to better protect vulnerable users.

Chair:

Ruby Farr, University of East London

Participants:

Understanding and Tackling Technology-Facilitated Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG): A UK Law Enforcement Perspective *DR Ruby Rosemarie Farr, University of East London; Julia C. Davidson, University of East London*

Conducted in response to the UK Government's Safer Streets Initiative, which identifies the reduction of violence against women and girls (VAWG) as a national priority, this study explores how law enforcement is responding to technology-facilitated abuse. Drawing on focus groups with UK police officers, the research highlights the increasingly borderless nature of online VAWG, where harmful behaviours can rapidly cross platforms and jurisdictions, creating significant challenges for traditional investigative approaches. Participants emphasised the limitations of existing legal frameworks and investigative tools in addressing digitally enabled harm, particularly in cases involving anonymous offenders, encrypted communication, and rapidly evolving platform features. Officers also noted gaps in training, digital capability, and cross-agency coordination. The findings suggest that VAWG can no longer be understood as occurring solely in physical spaces, but must instead be conceptualised as part of a continuous spectrum of harm spanning both online and offline environments. This reconceptualisation has important implications for policing strategy, requiring more integrated, technologically informed, and prevention-focused responses to better protect victims and address emerging forms of abuse.

Games, mods and gender-based violence: A surface and dark web analysis *Paula Bradbury, University of East London*

In-game modifications ("mods") contribute to the amplification and normalisation of violence against women and girls within digital gaming environments. Drawing on insights from research conducted on both the surface and dark web, this discussion conceptualises online misogyny not as an individual pathology but as a socially produced and culturally reinforced phenomenon. This research examines how mods provide users with the capacity to alter character design, gameplay mechanics, and narrative structures, often resulting in the hypersexualisation, objectification, and victimisation of female characters. In some cases, modifications introduce or intensify interactive forms of gendered violence, effectively

gamifying abusive behaviours and blurring the boundaries between entertainment and harm. In some instances, the ability for CSA predators to network and operate grooming simulation spaces. The relative lack of regulation in modding spaces exacerbates this issue, enabling the proliferation of extreme content with limited accountability. By analysing the intersection of user-generated content, platform affordances, and gendered power relations extracted from the surface and dark web, this research highlights the role of mods in shaping harmful representations and experiences. It concludes by emphasising the need for critical engagement and regulatory consideration within gaming cultures to address digitally mediated violence.

Mapping the Security Implications of Future and Emerging Technologies *Professor Adam Joinson, Bath University, Applied Digital Behaviour Lab*

This presentation reports findings from a pilot study that anticipates technology-enabled harms. Conducted as part of the UK EPSRC Network Plus CRANE (www.crane.ac.uk), the project maps future and emerging technologies across a 10-year horizon and assesses their security implications. We focus on two questions: how adversaries may exploit these capabilities, and what new technical, governance, and legislative responses may be needed to mitigate risk. The study combined two rounds of expert Delphi elicitation with two futures-oriented workshops focused on (i) artificial intelligence and (ii) robotics and automation. Synthesising expert judgements and workshop outputs, we produced a structured technology map and a set of candidate harm scenarios, highlighting where existing security controls or governance processes are likely to be insufficient. We identify plausible threat pathways and cross-cutting risk drivers, including increased autonomy, scalability of attack, reduced attribution and transparency, and novel human–machine interfaces. Illustrative cases span neuro-enhancement and brain–computer interfaces, advanced service robotics, and increasingly autonomous ("agentic") AI systems.The talk concludes with priority research questions and early interventions—spanning design principles, monitoring, and regulation—that can strengthen preparedness and reduce future harm as these technologies mature.

Toxic play? Mapping anti-social behaviour and prevention strategies in adolescent multiplayer gaming *Julia C. Davidson, University of East London; Boglarka Meggyesfalvi, University of East London & Middlesex University; Arianna Arianna Barbin, University of East London*

Multiplayer online games increasingly shape adolescents' social worlds, but can also facilitate harmful interactions (e.g., including harassment, cheating, abusive communication, doxxing, and other forms of anti-social behaviour) that intersect with broader concerns about digital harm, victimisation, and deviant conduct. While criminological scholarship has engaged with cybercrime and youth offending, preventative approaches tailored to young people's toxic behaviour in digital multiplayer environments remain underdeveloped. This presentation reports Phase 1 findings from an ongoing mixed-methods research project, mapping evidence on prevention and intervention for anti-social behaviour in online multiplayer gaming contexts. Phase 1 combined a scoping review of empirical and grey literature with expert stakeholder interviews. Importantly, the project is designed as participatory: all findings were debated and tested with an advisory board actively engaging both experts and young players, ensuring that emerging strategies are recommendations are up-to-date and grounded in both lived experience and professional insight. Data was thematically analysed. Risky and harmful online interactions are commonly conceptualised through the broad notion of toxicity, encompassing behaviours ranging from disruptive communication to harassment and discriminatory abuse. . Our findings highlight the need for youth-focused strategies and contribute to emerging criminological discussions on digital deviance, platform governance, and harm prevention in online multiplayer gaming environments. By combining evidence mapping with participatory engagement, this project contributes to debates on digital deviance, crime and harm prevention, as well as social control for children and adolescents engaging in multiplayer videogames.

278. Working Group on Organized Crime and Criminal Networks - Panel 5 - Comparative and Historical Perspectives on Organized Crime

Topic 7: Comparative and Historical Perspectives/Transnational Crime and Justice (Organized Crime WG)

Paper Session

3:30 to 4:45 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.118

Chair:

Ernesto Savona, Transcrime / Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Milan)

Participants:

Countering Gun and Gang Activity in Alberta and Canada *Daniel Alati, Associate Professor, Grant MacEwan University; William J. Schultz, MacEwan University*

This presentation will be based on an ongoing research project funded by the Government of Alberta's Public Safety and Emergency Services' Gun and Gang Research Fund. Using a socio-legal and interdisciplinary framework, the researchers have investigated responses to Gun and Gang activity in the province of Alberta, as well as across other provinces in Canada. Two methodologies have been employed: 1) Traditional documentary research analyzing official documents, including government and policy policies, legislation and official press releases and; 2) Qualitative interviews with law enforcement officers involved in senior-level gang task forces. As a result, the researchers will present results pertaining to: 1) Similarities and differences in the official responses to gang activity in jurisdictions across the country; 2) Behind the scenes gang enforcement strategies employed by law enforcement agents on the frontlines of combatting gang activity; and 3) Features of the

Canadian organized crime climate and environment that may share similarities and/or differences with that of European nations. It is hoped that participation in this event will provide for a mutually beneficial discussion of shared problems and "best practices" pertaining to the fight against organized crime in Canadian and European jurisdictions. Dr. Daniel Alati is an Associate Professor in the Criminology Department at MacEwan University, located in Alberta, Canada. He previously attended several EuroCrim Conferences during his time as a doctoral candidate at the University of Oxford.

How Heroin Markets Became Synthetic: Historical Drug Market Transformation Across Six Countries *Morgan Godvin, University of California Los Angeles; Chelsea Shover-Darling, University of California Los Angeles*

Synthetic opioids have transformed a small number of national illicit opioid markets from plant-derived heroin to fully or near-fully synthetic supply. This paper examines six such cases—Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the United States, Canada, and Mexico. These transitions reshape risk across dimensions. Using peer-reviewed literature and publicly available data, including European Union Drugs Agency reporting, this analysis traces the chronology and distinguishing features of national transitions to synthetic opioid market saturation. Europe was the first region to experience an illicit opioid market transitioning away from heroin and becoming saturated with synthetic opioids. During the 2001–2002 global heroin drought, fentanyl surged in Estonia and later spread to Latvia and Lithuania; by 2013, heroin had largely disappeared from Baltic opioid markets. These were not one-time substitutions. In the mid-2010s, carfentanil emerged in Latvia and Lithuania, while from 2019 onward nitazenes began replacing fentanyls in Estonia and then Latvia. Lithuania remains distinct, with carfentanil still dominant rather than nitazenes. Recent Baltic developments also indicate a shift toward digitally mediated retail sales. Across North America, the phenomenon to note has been adulteration of fentanyl itself more so than replacement of fentanyl. In Canada, benzodiazepines are a common adulterant to the fentanyl supply. In the United States and Mexico, xylazine's prevalence increased quickly in the early 2020s. Synthetic opioid transitions should be understood as broader market restructurings driven by a variety of factors. As the Baltic examples of nitazenes and the North American examples of benzodiazepines and tranquilizers show, the transition to synthetics often unleashes subsequent supply transitions and broadly introduces uncertainty. As global opium supplies dwindle, sporadic outbreaks of nitazenes and oprphines have already caused fatalities in Western Europe. More research is needed to understand what makes heroin markets vulnerable to replacement

Withdrawal from the EU and its consequences on European criminal cooperation: a Brexit case study *Maria Cristina Solacolu, "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest*

The European Union has constructed one of the most complex frameworks for supranational criminal cooperation in the world, encompassing instruments such as the European Arrest Warrant (EAW), Europol, Eurojust, the Schengen Information System (SIS II), and - under the form of an intergovernmental agreement - the Prüm Convention. The smooth functioning of these instruments is made possible by the existence of mutual trust and shared legal norms among EU Member States - a reality that the withdrawal of a Member State fundamentally disrupts. Brexit, as the first and only instance of withdrawal under Article 50 TEU, provides an unprecedented opportunity for examining the legal and operational consequences of such disruption. Upon leaving the EU, the United Kingdom was relegated to third-country status, losing direct access to the full breadth of EU criminal cooperation instruments. Whilst the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) of 2020 established a new framework for EU-UK cooperation in criminal matters, this paper argues that it only partially compensates for the loss of the full EU framework, leaving structural gaps that have concrete consequences for the fight against transnational crime. In studying these consequences, the paper will focus on two categories of transnational crime particularly dependent on cross-border cooperation: organised crime networks and terrorism. In both domains, the loss of real-time intelligence-sharing and streamlined extradition mechanisms creates delays and difficulties that state and non-state criminal actors can exploit. The Brexit experience ultimately demonstrates that withdrawal from the EU is not merely a constitutional and political event, but one with direct, lasting consequences for European criminal cooperation.

At the Borders of Europe: The EXTRA Project and the Assessment of Organised Crime Infiltration Risk at a Global Level *Ernesto Savona, Transcrime / Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Milan); Giorgia Caon, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore; Michele Riccardi, Transcrime - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore; Michael Victor Lo Giudice, Transcrime - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore*

Organised crime infiltration risk (OCIR) into legitimate businesses exists as a pressing concern globally. Across Europe, in particular, the growing influence of foreign criminal networks with transnational links has intensified concerns about cross-border illicit flows, rising violence, and the erosion of public safety and governance. Despite increased policy attention, systematic cross-national assessments of the conditions that render countries vulnerable to infiltration remain limited. Within the context of the project EXTRA, funded by the European Commission, this paper examines OCIR on a global scale by assessing infiltration risk as a function of multiple country-level vulnerabilities (economic and financial, regulatory, and socio-political in nature). Adopting a quantitative comparative design, the study analyses a large sample of countries using cross-national indicators primarily sourced from third-party data providers. Multivariate statistical modelling is employed to estimate the relative contribution of these vulnerabilities to variations in OCIR across countries. The analysis is expected to identify distinct vulnerability profiles associated with higher levels of infiltration risk and to

reveal significant cross-country variation. By advancing a systematic measurement framework, the study contributes to comparative criminology and provides an empirical basis for prioritising prevention strategies, allocating resources, and monitoring trends over time.

279. Working Group on Organized Crime and Criminal Networks - Panel 3 - Perspectives on Drug Trafficking and Involved Actors

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Organized Crime (Organized Crime WG)
Paper Session
3:30 to 4:45 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.130
Chair:
Carmen Ter Weijden, Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam
Participants:

Methods of cocaine trafficking to or through the Netherlands *Heleen Goes, WODC*

This presentation draws on findings from the sixth round of the Dutch Organised Crime Monitor. The purpose of this study is to utilize the insights gained by law enforcement agencies during large scale criminal investigations to gain more knowledge about the nature of organised crime in the Netherlands. Since 1996, a total of 196 large-scale criminal investigations have been analysed using a consistent methodology. This has made a large cross-section of criminal investigations, not only across different criminal networks and areas of crime, but also over time, available for research. In the sixth round of the Organised Crime Monitor both cocaine trafficking and contract killings were investigated through four key themes: the modus operandi of criminal activities, criminal networks, criminal careers, and the responses of law enforcement and the judiciary to organised crime. This presentation offers an overview of the various methods in which cocaine is trafficked to or through the Netherlands, drawing on both older and newly analysed cases. These methods were analysed using crime scripts. While some trafficking methods display continuity over time, new versions of several 'classic' modi operandi are emerging. Overall, we see a significantly greater diversity of trafficking methods than in previous reports. Furthermore, trafficking is not limited to the port of Rotterdam; Dutch criminal organisations are also active in other European ports. Another difference is that the more recent cases all contain examples of 'inside assistance'.

War on Drugs and the Rise of Criminal Governance in Mexico: Evidence from Inmate Narratives *Piotr Chomczyński, University of Lodz; Roger Stephen Guy, State University of New York at Oswego*

Felipe Calderón's war on drugs disrupted a long-standing informal equilibrium between the Mexican state and criminal organizations, triggering intensified competition over territorial control of illicit drug markets. This shift led to a rise in violent confrontations among rival drug trafficking organizations, alongside an increased demand for recruits driven by losses from violence and incarceration. Based on 62 in-depth qualitative interviews with individuals imprisoned for involvement in organized crime, this study explores an additional unintended consequence of the drug war: the reinforcement of organized crime's influence within marginalized communities. These dynamics fostered the expansion of criminal governance and created conditions in which illicit economic activities became both accessible and widespread. The findings point to the emergence of an "economy of permissive criminality," characterized by three interrelated processes: (1) the ability of drug trafficking organizations to recruit personnel for core activities such as kidnapping, robbery, and homicide; (2) the development of a peripheral illicit economy offering income-generating opportunities to economically disadvantaged populations; and (3) the normalization of criminal behavior, accompanied by the erosion of moral and legal constraints on participation in illegal activities.

Work pays, crime pays: The intersection of crime and work in Rotterdam's illegal job market *Carmen Ter Weijden, Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam; Ruben Timmerman, Erasmus University Rotterdam*

This chapter examines the intersection of crime and work in Rotterdam's urban labour market. Drawing on a 'crime as work' perspective, it explores the similarities and differences between work in both the legal and illegal market. The research is set in the port city of Rotterdam, a major gateway for the flow of both licit and illicit goods into Europe, and a valuable case study for exploring how legal and illegal economic activity converge. Based on ethnographic fieldwork, including in-depth interviews and a focus group with individuals involved in various kinds of criminal activity, this study explores the nature of the illegal work and the varying degrees of involvement in the illegal job market. It also explores the relation between legal and illegal work, including the benefits and risks of both and how these can be understood from the perspective of 'workers' themselves. Ultimately, the research demonstrates how involvement in illegal work is shaped by a complex interplay of personal factors, social opportunity, economic necessity, and structural constraints. Rather than constituting a hidden 'underworld', illegal work is shown to be structurally and economically embedded within the city's labour market and urban landscape, challenging conventional distinctions between crime and work.

280. Conflict, Influence and Radicalization in Online Gaming and Social Media Environments: Risks and Responses

Topic 3: Crime Correlates/Social Media and Crime
Pre-arranged Panel
3:30 to 4:45 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.136

Online gaming and social environments have evolved into complex social ecosystems where interaction, conflict, and influence come together in ways that are increasingly relevant for criminological research. These online environments are no longer a place for entertainment only. They are also a source of toxic behavior and social influence, where conflict and radicalization can emerge. Despite growing public and policy

attention, the dynamics underlying conflict, regulation, and influence in online gaming remain scarcely studied within criminological research. This panel brings together four complementary studies that examine social and gaming platforms as a source for understanding online social harm, influence and intervention. The first study presents a systematic review of restorative justice approaches in online gaming environments. The second study aims to explore how conflicts in online gaming unfold overtime using a multi-method approach. The third presentation will focus on a study on radicalisation and polarisation within gaming contexts and unmoderated all-chats in online games. The fourth paper presented examines strategic social media influencing, focusing on how social, emotional, and cognitive mechanisms shape attitudes and behaviors.

Chair:

Max Friehs, University of Twente

Participants:

To ban or to restore? A systematic review of restorative justice in online gaming environments *Jiska Jonas, University of Twente; Victor Sakonda, University of Twente; Pablo Romero Seseña, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya*

Toxicity and interpersonal harm is ongoing issue in the context of online gaming environments. While current moderation system rely heavily on punitive, exclusions-based sanctions, restorative approaches may offer more constructive and community-oriented responses to digital conflict. In order to summarize the current state of knowledge of the use of restorative justice in online environments and to identify gaps in research, we conducted a systematic literature review examining the potential of restorative justice practices in this toxic environment. Following PRISMA guidelines, 16 studies met the final inclusion criteria after successive screening and full-text evaluation. The selected literature spans research on digital conflicts, online harm, dispute resolution, and restorative practices across virtual communities and adjacent online contexts. Findings reveal that although empirical applications of restorative justice within gaming remain scarce, the theoretical alignment is strong: implementing restorative practices is relevant to meet the needs of gamers and to increase conflict resolution skills. We identified conceptual and practical challenges and suggestions for future research to further examine the possible application of restorative justice practices in online gaming environments.

Troubles in cyberspace: Understanding and improving conflict resolution in online gaming *Max Friehs, University of Twente; Jiska Jonas, University of Twente; Douglas Parry, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*

Social interaction comes with a risk of conflict, and online gaming is a prominent context in which such conflicts often escalate into toxicity. Toxic behaviors, like harassment and threats, are related to negative emotional consequences, including anger, anxiety, or depression. Although research on online toxicity is growing, most focuses on the consequences after the conflict has occurred. Less is known about how these conflicts unfold in the moment. Studying patterns of escalation, de-escalation, and repair can provide important insights into how, and to what extent, gamers are able to resolve conflicts, ultimately informing the design of effective interventions. This project aims to investigate how conflicts in online gaming unfold overtime using a multi-method approach. We will combine rich behavioral log data with survey data from a large sample of gamers. By analyzing in-game chats, Discord interactions and YouTube recordings, we will identify patterns of conflict escalation and de-escalation as they occur in situ. Alongside this, we will conduct a survey among gamers to better understand their experiences with conflict, typical responses, perceived pathways to resolution, and the psychological needs they have. Integrating these data sources will allow us to assess the extent to which players' coping strategies, as reported in the surveys, are reflected in actual interactional dynamics and succeed in fulfilling psychological needs during conflict.

Radicalisation and polarisation in online gaming *Nienke-Martine Terpsma, University of Twente; Tom Nyhoff, University of Twente; Karel Kroeze, University of Twente; Jiska Jonas, University of Twente; Mariet Theune, University of Twente; José Kerstholt, TNO; Max Friehs, University of Twente*

This study will focus on radicalisation and polarisation within gaming contexts and unmoderated all-chats in online games (e.g., pre-game lobby of chatrooms). As online gaming communities continue to grow, they have become significant social platforms where individuals interact, form identities, and engage in discussions. These virtual environments can inadvertently foster radicalisation and polarisation, posing substantial risks to social cohesion and individual well-being. Studying radicalisation and polarisation in these contexts provides valuable insights into the mechanisms of online radicalisation and the factors that contribute to the polarisation of opinions. This knowledge is essential for policymakers, game developers, and community managers to create safer and more inclusive gaming environments. In the future it may be possible that by implementing effective moderation tools, educational initiatives, and community guidelines, the negative effects of radicalisation and polarisation can be counteracted, fostering a more positive and cohesive online gaming culture.

Strategic Social Media Influencing: Disseminating Social, Emotional and Cognitive Influences *Tom Nyhoff, University of Twente; Max Friehs, University of Twente; José Kerstholt, TNO*

In the context of hybrid conflicts, more strategic social media influencing (SSI) is used by foreign actors to interfere with state processes, creating a growing threat to European democracies. From a psychological perspective, these influences appear to rely on social, emotional, and cognitive strategies. However, it remains unclear how these factors, individually or in combination, are associated with the influence SSI has on different individuals. In this study, 1,410 Dutch adults participated in an online experiment in which they were presented with a fictional political scenario

followed by one of eight different social media feeds, including neutral content, social influence content, emotional influence content, cognitive influence content, or any combination of these. In addition, a broad assessment of their demographics, political opinions, social media use, and affective states was conducted. We compared differences in attitudes and behavioural intentions, as well as perceived processing difficulty, perceived social evaluation, and experienced emotions across the SSI conditions. The results showed that while social influence had an immediate impact on attitudes, none of the other factors appeared to be effective. Additionally, no immediate influence on behaviour was found. This study increases our understanding of hybrid conflicts by highlighting the threat of SSI through the immediate and potentially unconscious impact of social influence on individuals' attitudes.

281. Part two: Prison Officer Roles and Responsibilities: International Perspectives

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Imprisonment, Prisons, Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment (Prisons WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
3:30 to 4:45 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.156

Part two, this panel situates prison officer work within a global context, with a particular focus on the differences in the role and how those roles are enacted within diverse penal structures. While prison officers are central to the everyday functioning of prisons, their work often remains underexamined in comparative scholarship. This panel collates chapters from a new edited collection published later in 2026 with Routledge, titled; Prison Officer Roles and Responsibilities: International Perspectives. Drawing on contributions from multiple jurisdictions, this edited collection explores how prison officer roles extend beyond security and control to include care, communication, conflict management, and the facilitation of rehabilitation. The panel highlights how officers navigate complex and often contradictory expectations: maintaining order while supporting prisoner wellbeing, implementing policy while exercising discretion, and operating within resource-constrained and increasingly scrutinised environments. By bringing together international perspectives, the collection demonstrates both the diversity and commonality of prison officer work across different systems. The panel introduces the key themes that run throughout the volume and argues for greater comparative attention to the occupational realities of prison officers and their significance within contemporary penal governance.

Chair:

Matthew Maycock, Monash University

Participants:

Silently Shining the Armour: The effects of emotional labour on prison *Tarmi A'Vard, Monash University*

This paper tells the story of how the emotional labour of prison work seeps quietly into the homes and relationships of those who wear the uniform. It follows one officer's gradual shift from compassion to emotional numbing as the pressures of vigilance, threat, and trauma accumulate, and traces how this transformation reverberates through his family. What begins as a commitment to helping young people becomes, over time, a struggle to remain present, connected, and vulnerable with the people he loves most. His partner witnesses the slow tightening of the unseen armour he carries home—hypervigilance in public spaces, emotional withdrawal, alcohol misuse, and a growing distance that reshapes their relationship and their child's world. Through intimate reflection, the paper reveals the unspoken emotional labour performed by families as they absorb fear, instability, and grief while attempting to preserve a sense of normalcy. It exposes the hidden cost of correctional work: the way institutional cultures follow officers through the front door long after their shift ends. The paper ultimately calls for greater recognition, support, and systemic reform to protect not only the officers who endure these pressures but also the families who walk beside them.

Promoting Empathy and Knowledge: Co-Producing Menopause Education with Prison Officers in the Women's Estate *Sarah Waite, Leeds Beckett University; Hope Stevens, HMPPS; Lydia Thornhill, HMPPS; Danica Darley, The University of Sheffield*

In the current chapter, we present a case study of a co-produced educational intervention focused on menopause in the women's prison estate in England and Wales. Drawing on collaboration between academic staff and prison officers enrolled in a postgraduate programme, the project aimed to address a critical gap in prison officer training around women's health, ageing, and care. While the distinct needs of women in custody have gained increasing policy recognition, menopause remains an under-researched and under-resourced issue within prison settings. Symptoms such as anxiety, fatigue, and hot flushes can be misunderstood or misinterpreted, contributing to stigma, disciplinary responses, and unmet needs. Through a series of workshops, officers and academics collaborated to develop a menopause education resource, culminating in an animated training tool designed to be both practical and reflective of real-world prison dynamics. The project employed a co-production approach rooted in shared learning, mutual respect, and the valuing of lived experience. The chapter draws on autoethnographic reflections from the team, offering insight into the emotional labour, trust-building, and institutional navigation required for meaningful collaboration. Reflections highlight the potential of co-produced training to not only build knowledge and empathy, but to support a shift in how the role of the prison officer is understood, centring relational practice and shared expertise alongside traditional custodial responsibilities. The chapter concludes by exploring the broader benefits of co-producing menopause education with prison officers, arguing collaborative approaches to training can enhance gender-responsive practice, inform more effective practice, and strengthen staff-prisoner relationships. Menopause, we argue, is not a marginal issue, but a powerful entry point for addressing gender inequality and for demonstrating how co-produced training can promote greater empathy, understanding, and dignity within the criminal justice system.

"It's the jewel in the crown of the prison service". The 'Barlinnie Way' as hegemony within the Scottish carceral state *Matthew Maycock, Monash University*

HMP Barlinnie is Scotland's largest and most notorious prison. The approach staff take to work at this prison has evolved into the 'Barlinnie Way', a distinctive and influential mode of deploying penal power. Drawing on Gramsci's theory of hegemony, the paper offers the first analysis of how dominance between different ways of working is sustained within the Scottish carceral state, where not all prisons and practices are equal. This paper argues that the Barlinnie Way holds a hegemonic position within the Scottish penal landscape, shaping how imprisonment is enacted beyond its walls. It suggests that control, professional pride, and a no-nonsense ethos underpin this hegemonic culture, shaping occupational identity and influencing prison practice across the Scottish carceral state.

282. PWG Panel 12: Vulnerability, Mental Health and Support in Custody

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Imprisonment, Prisons, Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment (Prisons WG)
Paper Session
3:30 to 4:45 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.158
Chair:
Catherine Arseneault, Université de Montréal
Participants:

Institutional Responses to Bereavement in Prison: Introducing the Correctional Bereavement Access Framework *Rolando Nooks, Compassionate Reprieve*

Correctional institutions periodically confront situations in which incarcerated individuals receive notification that a close family member has died. Despite the emotional significance of such events, many prison systems lack standardized institutional procedures for responding to bereavement in custody. In practice, responses are often handled informally and may vary across facilities, staff members, or administrative contexts. This paper introduces the Correctional Bereavement Access Framework (CBAS), a conceptual model that examines how prisons respond to bereavement events and how these responses influence institutional stability and prisoner well-being. Drawing on correctional policy analysis, grief research, and institutional response literature, the framework outlines a sequence of administrative decision points following death notification, including verification procedures, authorization pathways, and potential mechanisms for supervised participation in memorial events. Central to the framework is the concept of a "72-Hour Destabilization Window," referring to the period immediately following death notification when emotional distress, behavioral volatility, and mental health risk may increase within custodial environments. The framework suggests that structured institutional responses during this period may reduce behavioral incidents, improve institutional predictability, and support humane correctional practices. By conceptualizing bereavement as a recurring institutional event rather than an exceptional circumstance, this research contributes to emerging scholarship on prison life, institutional governance, and the social consequences of punishment. The paper proposes a structured model that correctional systems may adapt when developing policies addressing family bereavement in custody.

Neurodiversity in(justice): Learnings for Australia from international approaches to supporting neurodivergent people in justice settings *Hayley Passmore, University of Western Australia, Law School*

To function in a world developed for neurotypical people, those who are neurodivergent sometimes require additional support, modified expectations or environmental adaptions. While international evidence indicates a high prevalence of neurodivergent people within the criminal justice system, often their needs aren't recognised or supported adequately. Instead, we see the challenges for neurodivergent people exacerbated within the justice system, given the stressors of these environments and the lack of awareness or capacity to accommodate individual needs. In Australia, there is urgent work to be done to ensure the rights of people with disability are upheld in the criminal justice system. This paper will utilise learnings from a Churchill Fellowship undertaken across England, Wales, USA, Canada and New Zealand exploring best practice approaches within prisons and youth detention centres to support neurodivergent people, and will make recommendations for the criminal justice context in Australia and beyond.

Using evidence to inform activities to promote the mental health of older people in custody - what is important and why? *Amanda Elizabeth Perry, University of York*

The mental health of older people in custody is a growing concern. As the fastest growing population of people in custody; exacerbated health challenges raise questions about how to deliver evidenced-based interventions for common mental health discorders (depression and anxiety) to reduce social health inequalities; improve functioning and reduce reoffending behaviour post release. This study uses a mixed methods approach to the synthesis of evidence combining information from a systematic review; survey data and qualitative interviews leading to a series of co-produced workshops with one male and one female prison in the UK. The combined analysis informed the development of a series of activities with an assessment of feasibility, acceptability and cost. The results identified different gendered preferences; low cost simple adjustments to the prison environment to improve the inclusion of older people in the custody. A gendered tool kit was produced with examples of how activities could be delivered within the prison site; taking account of logistical and practical constraints of the prison regime. The presentation will focus on the novel methodology of the evidence synthesis; the key findings and adaptations and examples of the activities that were conducted.

Challenges and Stigma against Arrested Youth with Reduced Mental Capacity: Comparing the Views of Young People, Police, Parents and Social Workers *Jessica C.M. Li, The*

Hong Kong Polytechnic University

The existing literature has extensively examined procedural justice in police-citizen interactions, yet little attention has been paid to the criminal justice response for individuals with diminished mental capacity (MIP). This diverse group encompasses those with mental illnesses, special educational needs, learning difficulties, and those identifying as "neurodiverse" or "autistic." Navigating the criminal justice system can be particularly challenging for these individuals due to anxiety, social stigma, and self-stigma. Our study aims to compare the perceptions of arrested youth with special needs, their parents, law enforcement officers, and social workers regarding police-youth encounters. To ensure participant well-being, we employed a mixed qualitative approach that integrated visual timelines with semi-structured interviews with arrested youths with MIP, as well as focus group discussions with various stakeholders. Thematic analysis was conducted using NVivo Plus (V12) to identify key themes and patterns in the data, highlighting the unique challenges faced by youths with MIP and their parents from a holistic perspective.

When a Loved One Faces Justice: Family Experiences and Institutional Interactions *Catherine Arseneault, Université de Montréal*

Family members play a central role in the lives of justice-involved individuals, providing emotional, material, and administrative support, as well as accompanying them through the various stages of the judicial process. Yet, their own experiences remain largely overlooked, as most research focuses on justice-involved individuals themselves, leaving in the shadows the realities, needs, and specific challenges faced by those who support them. This project seeks to address this gap by examining the experiences of family members (parents, partners, siblings, and friends) of individuals who have been or are currently involved with the criminal justice system. Based on qualitative semi-structured interviews, it explores how these individuals experience their supportive role, the different forms their involvement takes, the tensions and ambivalences they encounter, and the impacts of this engagement on their own lives. Among the emerging themes, this presentation will focus particularly on interactions between family members and various actors within the justice system (police officers, lawyers, prosecutors, judges, probation officers, and correctional staff). Preliminary findings highlight contrasting experiences: while some participants describe relationships characterized by collaboration and recognition, others report feelings of exclusion, lack of information, or misunderstanding regarding decisions made. These interactions strongly influence their ability to support their loved one and shape their perceptions of the justice system. This presentation will shed light on these dynamics while also highlighting the structural factors that shape the place effectively granted to family members within the judicial process.

283. Women's imprisonment – the state of the field and where do we go from here?

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Imprisonment, Prisons, Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment (Prisons WG)
Roundtable
3:30 to 4:45 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.164

Since, in 1994, Pat Carlen asked, 'why study women's imprisonment?', the field has seen a significant expansion and diversification, which has continued to highlight the gendered nature of women's imprisonment and, increasingly, how this intersects with other 'vectors of oppression' (Carlton & Russell, 2023). Still, parts of the field remain heavily androcentric, with many more empirical and theoretical insights to be gained on the imprisonment of women who, by no means, are a homogenous or fixed group. We have already seen insights emerging about, e.g. the distinctive experiences of imprisoned Black women (Charles, 2025), mothers (Baldwin, 2021), foreign nationals (Cleary et al. 2025) and from the Global South (Chamberlen & Bandyopadhyay, 2024). At the same time, Carlen (1994) expressed concerns that the impetus to 'consider prisons within the wider social contexts' risks 'getting us further and further away from understanding the power of the prison both to promise and deliver pain as punishment' (p138). This roundtable brings together diverse perspectives from scholars who have a wealth of experience in researching women's imprisonment to reflect on the current state of the field and its future directions. More specifically, the roundtable will consider empirical, methodological, and theoretical questions, and the implications of our research for policy and practice at a time when many countries continue to over-incarcerate women despite pledging the opposite.

Chairs:

Daria Przybylska, University of Cambridge
Anna Schliehe, Universität Trier

Discussants:

Silvia Gomes, University of Warwick
Esther van Ginneken, Leiden University
Michele Jane Burman, University of Glasgow

284. Social Bonds and Broken Rules: Interpersonal and Digital Influences on Youth Delinquency

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Learning, Control and Strain Perspectives
Pre-arranged Panel
3:30 to 4:45 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.170

Adolescence and young adulthood are developmental periods marked by intense social immersion—both online and offline—where peers, partners, and digital connections play critical roles in shaping behavior. This panel explores the multifaceted social dynamics that foster or inhibit delinquent tendencies across these life stages. The first talk synthesizes a systematic review of social media use and delinquency, identifying patterns and inconsistencies in the literature. The second and third talks unpack peer influence micro-dynamics, showing how normative beliefs and short-term mindsets drive selection of risky peers and conformity to deviant behaviors. The final talk examines romantic partners' role in justifying, normalizing, or encouraging minor rule-breaking in intimate contexts. Together, these studies illuminate various social contexts shaping deviant decision-making and behavioral trajectories across youth and young adulthood.

Chair:

Yikang Zhang, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law

Participants:

Social Media Use and Youth Delinquency: A Systematic Review *Rhea Mariel Peter, NSCR & Erasmus University; Evelien Hoeben, NSCR & Utrecht University; Frank Weerman, NSCR & Erasmus University Rotterdam*

The widespread use of social media has become a central feature of adolescents' social lives, raising concerns about its potential relationship with delinquent behavior. This systematic review synthesizes empirical research examining the association between social media use and adolescent delinquency. A comprehensive search was conducted across Scopus, PsycINFO, Web of Science, Criminal Justice Abstracts, and the International Bibliography of Social Sciences, yielding 5,572 records that were independently screened using ASReview by two reviewers using predefined inclusion and exclusion criteria. Twenty-two studies met the eligibility criteria, including both longitudinal and cross-sectional designs. Overall, the findings were mixed, revealing direct significant associations, conditional effects, and non-significant relationships between social media engagement and adolescent delinquent behavior, alongside substantial variation in the operationalization of social media use. This review provides a structured overview of the existing evidence and highlights key directions for future criminological research on social media and youth delinquency.

Unpacking Peer Effects: Examining the Role of Normative Beliefs in Peer Influence and Peer Selection *Yikang Zhang, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law; Jean-Louis van Gelder, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law*

Peer influence and selection are fundamental to criminological research, with normative beliefs postulated as the linchpin of these social processes. Yet, exactly how these variables are related is insufficiently understood. In two online experiments ($N_1 = 292$; $N_2 = 299$) using a novel paradigm that experimentally manipulates peer influence and peer selection, participants played an investment game allowing for cheating in the presence of either an honest or a dishonest peer. Results demonstrate that exposure to dishonest peers increases cheating, partly mediated by second-order normative beliefs (i.e., perceived peer expectations). Individuals actively selected peers whose perceived normative beliefs aligned with their own, while mismatches in belief prompted partner switching. Furthermore, personal dispositions shaped perceptions of social situations: those more inclined to cheat perceived higher expectations to cheat from peers. Notably, even brief exposure to dishonest peers shifted participants' own normative beliefs, with greater exposure fostering more favorable attitudes toward cheating. Collectively, these findings provide support that normative beliefs serve as mechanisms linking peer influence and peer selection, and underscore the dynamic, reciprocal processes through which individuals interpret, choose, and are socialized by their peers.

Choosing and Following the Wrong Crowd: Short-Term Mindsets in Peer Selection and Influence *Linda Rosar, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law; Yikang Zhang, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law; Jean-Louis van Gelder, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law*

Exposure to deviant peers is a key factor in adolescent delinquency and prolonged delinquent association. Through immediate situational cues (encouragement, modelling, or mere presence), deviant peers prompt rule-breaking and set stage for homophilic selection, both offline and online. However, deviant peer exposure does not affect all adolescents equally and individual differences may explain this heterogeneity. According to Short-Term Mindsets Theory (STMT; van Gelder and Frankenhuis, 2024), a focus on immediate rewards rather than long-term consequences (i.e., short-term mindsets) lies at the center of individual differences consistently linked to crime, peer selection, and vulnerability to peer influence. Addressing the lack of experimental criminological evidence identified in our systematic review, in this study we test how traits related to short-term mindsets (e.g., self-control, impulsivity, present-orientation) interact with deviant peer exposure to influence cheating and selection in an online experiment. Participants complete a multi-round investment "mind game" allowing cheating via self-reports. After a solo baseline, they play with an alleged peer modelling honest or deviant reporting, whom they can stay with or switch after a few rounds. Trait short-term mindsets are assessed at baseline and state short-term mindsets repeatedly during the task. Primary analyses use generalized linear mixed models to test whether peer condition (deviant vs. honest), trait short-term mindsets, and their interaction predict cheating behavior and partner choice. A multilevel mediation analysis further examines whether exposure to deviant peers increases state short-term mindsets and whether these increases predict higher cheating.

When Love Encourages Rule-Breaking: A Retrospective Survey on Romantic Partner Influence in Delinquent Behavior *Sophie Hetche, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security, and Law; Yikang Zhang, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law; Jean-Louis van Gelder, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law*

Although peer influence is one of the most robust predictors of delinquent behavior, prior research has focused predominantly on friendships, leaving the influence dynamics within adolescent and young-adult romantic relationships far less understood. Existing work on romantic co-offending provides insights into joint criminal participation, but it does not examine how common romantic partner influence on (everyday) rule- or law-breaking is. This study examined the self-reported prevalence and contextual features of romantic partner influence on delinquent behavior during adolescence and early adulthood using a retrospective survey informed by exploratory qualitative interviews. The survey captured lifetime

experiences of both being influenced by a partner and influencing a partner across different behavioral domains including substance use, property violations, or aggressive acts. Participants reported occurrence and recurrence across relationships, motivations for influencing a partner, and provided an event-level description of one incident to document strategies, situational context, and relational dynamics. Relationship characteristics such as power balance, conflict, and relationship importance were assessed alongside individual differences including self-reported delinquency, attachment style, and personality traits. To our knowledge this study provides the first quantitative mapping of romantic partner influence on rule-breaking, delivering both general occurrence estimates and nuanced contextual detail that can serve as an empirical reference point for future research on romantic partner influence in delinquency.

285. EUROC Panel 8. Governing White-Collar and Organisational Misconduct

Topic 2: Types of Offending/White collar Crime, Organizational Crime, Corporate Crime, Financial Crime (EUROC)

Paper Session

3:30 to 4:45 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.014

Chair:

Mike Levi, School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University

Participants:

Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Frameworks and the Changing Landscape of Organisational Crime Governance *Monika Elza Bancsina, Max-Weber-Institute for Sociology, University of Heidelberg; Jon Davies, The University of Manchester; Nicholas Lord, The University of Manchester, UK; Markus Pohlmann, Max-Weber-Institute for Sociology, University of Heidelberg; Wim Huisman, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; Marieke Kluin, Leiden University*

This paper argues that corporate due diligence and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) frameworks increasingly constitute significant mechanisms for governing white-collar, corporate, and organisational crime. While recent political developments, including the anti-ESG rhetoric emerging from the Trump administration, as well as delays across the EU in aspects of ESG implementation, have raised questions about the future of ESG, we contend that ESG governance is far from 'dead'. Instead, these frameworks continue to evolve and exert influence across global regulatory, financial, and organisational fields. Our argument contributes to three core debates within criminology. First, we consider ESG's implications for criminalisation, by examining how soft-law standards and due diligence obligations are shaping expectations of corporate conduct and expanding the boundaries of responsibility. Second, we explore the issue of 'harm', by highlighting how ESG reframes organisational wrongdoing by emphasising social and environmental externalities that are traditionally overlooked within legalistic crime definitions. Third, we examine responses to organisational crime, by demonstrating how ESG-driven monitoring and reporting may complement or challenge conventional enforcement approaches. By situating ESG within broader discussions of regulatory capitalism and corporate accountability, the paper offers a framework for understanding how emerging governance tools can help to address the complexities of contemporary organisational crime and harm.

Risk and regulation in the art and antiquities market: According to Norwegian dealers *Siv Runhovde, University of Oslo*

The paper presents early findings from a questionnaire conducted among Norwegian dealers in art, antiquities, and other cultural objects. The study aims to explore practices and attitudes related to due diligence, transparency, regulation, and vulnerability to illicit trade and other forms of crime within the market. While the art market is often described as opaque and at risk, there remains limited empirical data on how actors themselves understand and manage these risks in practice. The questionnaire was designed to capture insights into everyday business practices, including approaches to provenance, client relationships, and compliance with regulatory frameworks. It also examines perceptions of existing regulations, their effectiveness, and potential areas for improvement. The paper contributes to ongoing discussions on the governance of the market for arts and antiquities and highlights the importance of incorporating industry perspectives into policy development. The findings offer an initial empirical basis for understanding how regulation is experienced in practice and where gaps between formal requirements and market realities may arise.

Shaming and the Epstein networks *Mike Levi, School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University*

The shaming of individual and corporate offenders has been an intermittent area of interest within criminology for some decades. The Epstein social and business network has been the subject of enormous moral and political panic in North America, UK and parts of continental Europe, accelerating during 2025 and 2026. The paper will explore the nature of this network, and what the released files/public discourse suggest about its rationale, mechanisms and plausible limits. The paper will go on to discuss the dynamics of socio-economic, media and political reactions to the scandal, and the extent to which this anathematisation relates to non-criminal and criminal allegations. The extent and impacts of shaming will be explored on those who were exposed in the media for their engagement with Epstein before and after his conviction for 'paedophile' offences. The paper will examine coverage in elite and selected popular press, who was targeted and who was less or not targeted at all for shaming, and the factors that appear to have influenced the outcomes of shaming. This will include patterns and variation in 'accounts' by 'suspects' and – where relevant – by the organisations for which those individuals worked, and how these were received by salient audiences. The paper will use data on resignations, 'stepping side' and

other indicators of demotion or its absence to explore what the scandals tell us (and do not tell us) about the role of morality, public censure and legal risk in different areas of public and private sector life.

286. Child victims of sex crimes and domestic violence

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Sex Crimes, Sex Work and Sex Trafficking

Paper Session

3:30 to 4:45 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.015

Chair:

Edoardo Cocco, University of Lausanne

Participants:

Algorithmic Salvation? Digital Punitive Populism and the Limits of Technological Control in Addressing Domestic Violence in Brazil *Izabella Lacerda Pimenta, Institute for Comparative Studies in Conflict Management at the Federal Fluminense University (INCT-InEAC-UFF) Brazil*

Brazil recorded 1,568 femicides in 2025 — the highest figure since the crime's legal codification in 2015, representing a 4.7% increase over the previous year. Faced with this persistent social emergency, public debate and the legislative agenda have turned emphatically toward technological solutions, culminating in the enactment of Law nº 15.125/2025 and the proposed Bill 750/2026, which establishes a National Program for AI-Based Monitoring of Perpetrators. This proposal critically examines this trend, which we term “digital punitive populism”: the growing institutional reliance on algorithms, sensors, and electronic surveillance devices as swift responses to a problem rooted in deep structural inequalities. Drawing on anthropological and criminological frameworks, and grounded in the analysis of official data, policy documents, and case studies, we argue that although these measures are framed as meaningful advances in victim protection, they risk becoming a new frontier of social control — one that displaces onto technological apparatuses responsibilities historically incumbent upon the state, without dismantling the gendered power dynamics that sustain domestic violence in the first place. We further contend that this technological turn paradoxically expands the penal web into intimate life, imposing new forms of surveillance that may fall disproportionately upon the very women — Black, poor, peripheral, with precarious labor ties and low levels of formal education — the Brazilian state is legally bound to protect. Rather than rupturing punitive logic, these devices may represent its most sophisticated digital iteration. The proposal thus interrogates whether the algorithmic promise inaugurates a new era of protection or merely recodifies, in binary language, the same hierarchies that produce violence — and whether that distinction, for the most vulnerable women, makes any practical difference at all.

Children, War and Online Harm: Evidence from Ukrainian children during the Russian War *Oleksii Serdiuk, Kharkiv National University of Internal Affairs, Ukraine/ Head of Research Laboratory for Psychological Support of Law Enforcement; Anna Markovska, IPPPRI Anglia Ruskin University; Samantha Lundrigan, Policing Institute for the Eastern Region; Vitalii Panok, Ukrainian Scientific and Methodological Center of Applied Psychology and Social Work, National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine; Nadiya Lunchenko, Ukrainian Scientific and Methodological Center of Applied Psychology and Social Work, National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine*

Understanding how children navigate digital environments and the associated risks of sexual violence is essential for evidence-based prevention and safeguarding. The Dity-Online (Children-Online) study, conducted in Ukraine in 2025–2026 with funding from SafeOnline, addresses a critical evidence gap by examining online sexual risks among Ukrainian children, with particular attention to displaced children affected by the full-scale Russian war. The study used a large-scale cross-sectional survey of secondary school students aged 11–15 years (N = 2,482) from 12 schools across three regions of Ukraine, alongside a parallel survey of parents (N = 1,934). Standardised international instruments were translated, culturally adapted and piloted for Ukrainian schools, with data collected via both web-based and paper questionnaires. Measures included online sexual solicitation, sexualised cyberbullying, sexting behaviours, risk-taking practices and other forms of online harm, using tools such as EU Kids Online, QOSSIA, SBQ, ORTS and the Cyberbullying Questionnaire. A key innovation of the study is its controlled de-anonymisation methodology, which allows ethical identification and follow-up in cases suggesting potential sexual violence or exploitation, while maintaining strict confidentiality. This approach overcomes limitations of fully anonymous surveys and aligns with legal and ethical obligations to prevent and respond to violence against children, including in conflict-affected contexts. Findings indicate a low prevalence of direct online sexual interaction with adults, alongside higher levels of peer-to-peer sexualised cyberbullying. Nearly one quarter of children reported at least one upsetting online experience, most commonly addressed by blocking (45%). Only 18% sought adult help, and one in four did not discuss the incident with anyone. Emerging risks include online incitement to criminal or extremist acts (4.4% experienced direct offers; 5.2% reported offers to friends). The study identifies substantial gaps between children’s experiences and parental awareness, as well as limitations in safeguarding provision, including cultural stereotypes and insufficient school-based support.

Child sexual abuse in the catholic church: A scoping review of characteristics, prevalence, and explanatory factors *Edoardo Cocco, University of Lausanne; Yuji Zocatelli Hashimoto, Université de Fribourg; Julien Chopin, Université de Lausanne*

This scoping review examines the academic literature on child sexual abuse (CSA) within the Catholic Church. Although clerical CSA has received significant global attention through media reports and public inquiries, scholarly research remains fragmented across

disciplines and regions. This review synthesizes 50 peer-reviewed articles published between 2000 and 2023. Its goals are to trace the evolution of academic interest, identify dominant research themes, and analyze the disciplinary and methodological characteristics of existing studies. Findings indicate a noticeable increase in publications following major scandals in the early 2000s, particularly in North America, Australia, and Western Europe. The literature is dominated by legal, historical, and psychological approaches, with growing attention to victims' experiences and institutional responses. However, key gaps persist—especially regarding international comparisons, the evaluation of prevention policies, and the inclusion of survivor perspectives from non-Western settings. Quantitative and mixed-methods research remains limited, restricting the development of generalizable insights. This review highlights the need for more interdisciplinary and empirically grounded work, incorporating criminological, sociological, and public health perspectives. By providing a comprehensive synthesis of current academic knowledge, it helps define future research priorities and encourages more systematic, inclusive, and globally informed approaches to institutional CSA in religious contexts.

287. WG Criminology of Mobility. Panel 3. Mechanisms of Control: From Algorithmic Risk to Forced Removal

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Crime Control and the Immigration System (Immigration, Crime and Citizenship WG)

Paper Session

3:30 to 4:45 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.025

Chair:

Maarten Bolhuis, VU Amsterdam

Participants:

Producing the "Risk of Irregular Migration": AI, Border Governance and Risk-Based Policing in the EU *Giulia Fabini, University of Bologna*

Border control and policing increasingly overlap, including at internal borders, and migration control is routinely mobilised for territorial governance, preventive control of disorder and the selective policing of racialised populations. Police authorities have long relied on informal, situated and discretionary assessments of migrants' "risk", even in the absence of automated or data-driven tools. This paper takes this established analytical terrain as its point of departure. It focuses on a recent and under-examined development: the formalisation of the "risk of irregular migration" within the EU Artificial Intelligence Act. Annex III of the AI Act classifies as "high-risk", yet permissible, AI systems intended to assess migration-related risks. The paper argues that the novelty does not lie in the introduction of risk as such, but in its techno-legal codification. Through this process, a form of risk that was previously tacit and situational becomes codifiable, standardisable and potentially transferable across institutional contexts, while also becoming more easily justifiable ex ante. The analysis situates the AI Act within the broader reconfiguration of EU migration governance promoted by the Pact on Migration and Asylum, focusing in particular on the expansion of screening practices, security checks and accelerated procedures based on rapid, risk-based assessments and interoperable databases. While formally anchored to external border contexts, these logics may be mobilised by police authorities within existing frameworks of internal border controls and territorial policing. Rather than positing a rupture in policing practices, the paper examines how the formalisation of a "risk of irregular migration" may standardise discretionary assessments already in place, provide renewed legal and administrative justification for established control practices, and subtly reconfigure when and why migrants come to be treated as "risky" subjects. The paper concludes by outlining directions for future empirical research on AI-mediated risk assessment, border policing and migrant subjectification in Europe.

Unpacking disparities in US immigration courts: A multilevel analysis of case- and place-based influences on removal proceedings *Davis Shelfer, Walsh University*

Recent studies of US immigration courts indicate that immigrants' experiences and access to justice are affected by legally irrelevant factors. Despite recent progress in identifying disparities, theoretical frameworks remain underdeveloped in this area. Given the increasing entanglement between immigration law and the criminal justice system, it is plausible that frameworks which explain criminal court disparities may be applicable to unpacking immigration court experiences. The current study addresses this gap by applying the focal concerns and minority threat perspectives, which are commonly applied to model discretionary judicial decision-making in US criminal courts. These two perspectives are applied to a large, nationwide sample of removal proceedings across US immigration courts, examining the influence of socioeconomic and political contextual factors on access to counsel, immigration detention, and deportation decisions. Secondary data from the US Executive Office for Immigration Review, US Census, FBI Uniform Crime Report, and MIT Election Data & Science Lab are analyzed using multi-level modeling of case- and place-level variables. Findings, implications, limitations, and directions for future research and policy are discussed.

Transparency and civil society counterveillance within the Spanish migration detention system *Elena Algaba González, Universidade da Coruña; Pablo Pinochet-Ábalos, Universidade da Coruna*

Since the early 2000s, the widespread promotion of transparency in Western states has significantly shaped legal frameworks and institutional practices. In Spain, this trend was formalized through the 2013 Law on Transparency, Access to Public Information, and Good Governance. Within the framework of the Prison Transparency Project, this presentation examines the gap between declared and actual transparency within the migrant detention system. It encompasses both the long established migrant detention centres (CIE) and the new types of facilities (CETI, CAED, CATE…)

developed in recent years. The analysis focuses on the availability and flow of information inside-out (Cucciniello et al., 2017), as well as the counterveillance of asymmetric and selective transparency by civil society organizations (Moore et al., 2024), contributing to the literature on Crimmigration (Stumpf, 2006). To this end, the research adopts an exploratory qualitative design, relying on the content analysis of administrative documents, six semi-structured interviews and one focus group conducted with representatives of NGOs working around these centres. The findings indicate persistent limitations in access to information on the location of the centres, the characteristics of the detainees and the detention conditions, which are reported to include several human rights violations. In particular, the interviewees consider this deficiency to have intensified with the proliferation of the new types of facilities, where they identify differentiated levels of transparency and accessibility. Although some transparency gaps are declared to be partially mitigated by the availability of statistical data, requests are frequently denied by invoking concerns related to security, the protection of international relations, and the safeguarding of personal data. Moreover, discrepancies are often observed between official data and information gathered through fieldwork by civil society organizations. In response, NGOs stress the need to counterbalance institutional narratives and propose a range of advocacy measures aimed at strengthening access, oversight, and accountability.

Violence, resistance and negotiations. The dynamics of escorted deportations from the Netherlands. *Mieke Kox, Erasmus University Rotterdam; Abdessamad Bouabid, Erasmus University Rotterdam*

The return of individuals without residence rights constitutes a key component of Dutch migration policy. When voluntary return is unsuccessful, forced return – deportation - may follow. Part of the deportations involves escorts from the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee (KMar), who accompany migrants from departure in the Netherlands to their handover in the destination country. Despite the frequency and sensitivity of these operations, little scientific research has examined how escorted deportations unfold or how the different actors involved experience them. Existing indications suggest that migrants often experience these returns as humiliating due to the use of escorts, coercive measures, or physical force (Argos, 2025; Stichting LOS, 2019), while escorts themselves describe the work as stressful and demanding because of potential violence, tension, and escalation (Argos, 2025; Eijkenaar, 2023). These observations raise important questions about the dynamics of escorted deportations, their impact on those involved, and opportunities for improvement. This study aims to deepen understanding of these processes through an analysis of KMar files on the use of force and tools during deportations (2018–2022), as well as interviews with migrants who have been deported and (former) KMar escorts. In this presentation, we will we will share key findings and emerging insights into the human and operational dimensions of escorted deportations.

Governing Undesirable But Unremovable Migrants: The Rule of Law's Litmus Test? *Maarten Bolhuis, VU Amsterdam; Joris van Wijk, Associate professor VU University*

Worldwide, tens of thousands of (alleged) criminal migrants are 'stuck' in limbo. They cannot be deported because of various reasons, including statelessness, human rights law or political unwillingness. They are 'Undesirable But Unremovable' migrants (UBUs) and include World War II concentration camp guards, small time drugs traffickers, convicted rapists, acquitted genocidaires and children of alleged terrorists. In host countries their presence leads to heated political debates, legal procedures and public outcry. Compared to the total number of migrants worldwide, the number of undesirable but unremovable migrants may be small, but that their political impact cannot be underestimated. Across the globe, populist leaders gain support by promising to rid society of unremovable foreign criminals, placing unprecedented pressure on the carefully constructed post-World War II human rights framework. The problem of UBUs fuels nationalist sentiment and undermines global solidarity. In the name of clearing the streets of criminal migrants, almost any measure now seems permissible and there are no indications that the politicisation of undesirable but unremovable migrants will subside anytime soon. Based on our recently published book "Undesirable but Unremovable Migrants: War Criminals, Terrorists and Foreign Offenders in Limbo" (Routledge, 2026), we argue that many of the modern 'solutions' to deal with unwanted migrants – detention, strict monitoring, third-country resettlements – are effectively non-solutions. They often reflect a 'not in my backyard' mentality, prioritizing domestic political interests over international solidarity, human rights and individual dignity.

288. Contemporary global contexts for youth violence

Topic 7: Comparative and Historical Perspectives/Cross-National Comparisons of Crime and Justice (Quantitative Methods WG)

Roundtable

3:30 to 4:45 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.110

A decline in youth offending participation has been a widespread phenomenon in Western countries over the past 20 to 30 years (Oberwittler & Svensson, 2025). However, the youth crime decline has not been uniform and more diverse youth offending trends have been reported in recent years, particularly for youth violence. Alongside declines in youth offending prevalence, a number of countries have experienced increases in serious youth violence in recent years, including Sweden, the Netherlands, Italy and Australia (McCarthy et al., 2025; Oberwittler & Svensson, 2025; Sivertsson et al., 2025). These differential crime trends suggest that in some jurisdictions, risks of serious violence may be increasing among certain groups of young people. While there is an established evidence base on the drivers of the youth crime decline (Oberwittler & Svensson, 2025), there has been less examination of what factors may explain reported increases in

violence among adolescents (c.f. Sivertsson et al., 2025). This roundtable seeks to explore contemporary contexts for youth violence, and to identify common drivers and responses. The roundtable will commence with short presentations on recent contexts for youth violence in three different jurisdictions – Australia, the Netherlands and Italy - and will then progress to an interactive discussion with roundtable participants. It is hoped that these discussions may foster further collaborative and comparative work in this area.

Chair:

Molly McCarthy, Deakin University

Discussants:

Marco Dugato, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore - Transcrime

André van der Laan, WODC (Research and Data Centre), the Netherlands / Leiden Law School, University of Leiden, the Netherlands

Participants:

Can changes in offending propensity and criminogenic exposure explain youth violence trends? A multi-cohort study of justice-involved adolescents in Australia *Molly McCarthy, Deakin University*

While criminologists have long been interested in the drivers of youth violence, little scholarship has attempted to link macro-level and micro-level influences on violent youth offending. A recent theoretical extension of Situational Action Theory by Wikstrom and colleagues (2020; 2024) - the Developmental Ecological Action (DEA) Model of Situational Action Theory (SAT) - attempts to more clearly connect macro- and micro-level drivers of offending within a comprehensive causal model of crime. This theoretical framework contends that changes in crime at the macro (societal) and micro (within person) levels result from changes in offending propensity—through psychosocial processes—or criminogenic exposure—through structural or selection processes. We use this theory to examine whether changes in offending propensity (comprising self-control and personal morality) and/or criminogenic exposure (reflecting exposure to delinquent peers in morally permissive settings with inadequate deterrents) explain recent increases in violent offending across multiple birth cohorts of justice-involved adolescents in Queensland. Drawing on linked administrative data on proven offences and risk assessments (YLS-CMI) sourced from the Queensland Department of Justice and Victim Support, a balanced panel structure was created, capturing young people born between 1997 and 2006 who received supervised orders and observed across ages 10 to 16, comprising 7,442 individuals. The influences of birth cohort, offending propensity and criminogenic exposure on violent offending was modelled using random-effect Poisson regression models. Results suggest that violent offending is more strongly associated with offending propensity than criminogenic exposure, though neither explains much of the observed increases in violent offending by birth year. However, a significant interaction between birth year and criminogenic exposure suggests that criminogenic exposure is more strongly associated with violent offending in more recent birth cohorts. These findings are discussed in relation to changes in criminogenic exposure in recent adolescent cohorts, including the potential (unmeasured) influence of social media.

Trends in juvenile crime in the Netherlands and what are effective responses *André van der Laan, WODC (Research and Data Centre), the Netherlands / Leiden Law School, University of Leiden, the Netherlands*

Police registered juvenile crime has more than halved since its peak in the early 2000s in the Netherlands. However, this average trend is not equally distributed over types of crime, not in time, and not in geographic region. Violent juvenile crime increased slightly since 2018. Registered juvenile crime does appear to be concentrated in specific neighborhoods. A literature review and empirical data from the Youth Crime Monitor showed no indications that juvenile crime became more serious between 2000 and 2024. Nevertheless, in Dutch media, violent acts by juveniles regularly are ground for the suggestion that juvenile crime is hardening, and offenders are getting younger. Politics, consequently, calls for more repressive sentences. This raises the question whether interventions at neighborhood level are available and needed. From an evidence-based perspective and the database of the Netherlands Institute for Youth we investigated the available effective or promising responses to juvenile crime in the Netherlands. In this presentation we will focus on recent trends in violence in the Netherlands and the concentration of juvenile crime in neighborhoods. Potentially effective responses to recent developments and their requirements are discussed.

Juvenile delinquency in Italy: trends and implications *Marco Dugato, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore - Transcrime*

Juvenile crime has recently emerged in the Italian public debate as a growing and alarming issue. This perception has been largely driven by an increase in reported cases involving minors, particularly violent offenses, and by growing references to the presence of juvenile gangs. This paper aims to critically assess this narrative. First, the study analyzes the historical evolution of official statistics to determine whether current trends can legitimately be interpreted as a juvenile crime "emergency". Second, it presents the results of an in-depth analysis of a sample of case files from two cohorts of juvenile offenders across two periods: 2015–2016 and 2022–2023. By examining socio-demographic characteristics and contextual factors, the study identifies both persistent and evolving patterns in the profiles of minors involved in criminal behavior. The findings provide insights into recent developments in juvenile delinquency in Italy and contribute to a broader discussion of the phenomenon at both national and international levels.

289. From Theoretical Models to Empirical Tests: Improving the Evaluation of Criminological Theories

Topic 8: Methodologies in Criminology/Advances in Quantitative Methods (Qantitative Methods WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

3:30 to 4:45 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.120

Criminological theories often formulate explicit mechanisms that explain why and under which conditions rule-breaking occurs. Yet empirical tests of these theories frequently fall short of the precision implied by their theoretical models. Research designs, measurement strategies, and statistical models do not always align with the theoretical assumptions they are intended to test. In the worst case, empirical findings remain difficult to interpret with regard to the theoretical mechanisms they are meant to evaluate. This panel addresses the challenge of improving the alignment between criminological theories and the empirical tests used to evaluate them. Taken together, the contributions address different challenges that arise when translating criminological theories into empirical research strategies. The papers highlight distinct methodological and conceptual aspects of this challenge. The contribution by Heyden, Wittek, and Kroneberg introduces a novel sociometric measure of "toughness reputation" to more directly capture status dynamics associated with violence in adolescent peer networks and to test theoretical expectations from subcultural criminology. The second paper by Pickartz and Nägel integrates network-analytical approaches with procedural justice theory to investigate how direct and indirect police contacts within friendship networks shape adolescents' attitudes toward the police. The third contribution by Ernst and Trinidad addresses a fundamental identification problem in testing situational explanations of crime by examining how selection processes structure exposure to criminogenic settings and limit the empirical distinction between situational and selection-based mechanisms. The final contribution by Yu examines the role of auxiliary assumptions in theory testing and argues that insufficiently validated auxiliary assumptions undermine the falsifiability of criminological theories. By aligning empirical strategies more closely with the assumptions of theoretical models, the contributions advance methodological rigor and improve the interpretability of empirical findings in criminological research.

Chair:

André Ernst, Department of Sociology and Social Psychology, University of Cologne

Participants:

Visibility Through Violence: Toughness Reputation in Gendered Adolescent Networks *Alexandra Heyden, University of Cologne; Mark Wittek, Central European University; Clemens Kroneberg, University of Cologne*

Drawing on subcultural criminology, this study sheds light on gender differences in the dynamics of youth violence and peer status. Using network data in the school setting, we ask how violence may be linked to status in different ways for boys and girls, taking into account the gender of those receiving and ascribing status. Previous research has highlighted how violent behavior may act as a strategy to gain and maintain status. Studies have argued that this phenomenon is most common among males and that males and females form segregated status orders. In contrast, how violent behavior is rewarded with status depending on the audience, within- vs. cross gender, has remained largely unexplored. Our article advances the literature in two ways. We introduce 'toughness reputation' as a novel sociometric measure that captures a type of status that is related to aggression and deterrence. This allows for a more direct test of theoretical arguments in subcultural criminology. Inspired by ethnographic work on gender and status, we examine the often-overlooked role of girls ascribing status, investigating the asymmetry of attention between both genders, and how cross- and same-gender validation may fuel aggression. Our analyses estimate regression models with network-derived metrics to longitudinal data. Results confirm a positive violence–reputation link for both genders, challenging the assumption that physical violence is primarily a strategy employed by males. We find a steeper status payoff for girls: upon engaging in violence, girls experience a sharper increase in toughness reputation among male peers than do their male counterparts. Moreover, we observe a tendency to attribute toughness to same-gender peers even if they do not engage in physical violence. This points to the role of social distance for status nominations. Our analysis suggest that violence yields reputational gains across the gender divide that characterizes adolescent friendship networks.

Building Trust or Sowing Fear? The impact of contact with the police on police legitimacy among juveniles in Germany *Maximilian Pickartz, Department of Sociology and Social Psychology, University of Cologne; Christof Nägel, Institute of Sociology and Social Psychology, University of Cologne*

In this paper, we examine how direct and indirect contact with the police impacts attitudes towards the police among juveniles in Germany. We are the first study (to the best of our knowledge) that considers the role of peer friendship networks when examining the effects of police contacts on attitudes towards the police. Exposure to the police can affect perceptions of the police in both positive and negative directions, which is largely dependent on the procedural fairness during police contact (Tyler et al., 2014). However, as pointed out by Skogan (2006), there seems to be an asymmetry where perceived procedural unjust treatment by the police can negatively affect attitudes towards the police more than procedural just treatment. In this study, we aim to examine the network effects of how direct and indirect contacts –captured by peer friendship networks– with the police shape the perceptions towards the police among adolescents in Germany. We leverage data from the Friendship and Violence in Adolescence study (Kroneberg et al., 2025), a large-scale school survey of approximately 4,000 students in the 7th and 9th grades across three cities in Germany's Ruhr area. This dataset allows a rigorous analysis of how individual experiences and peer-group characteristics interact to shape the perceptions of police legitimacy. By integrating a network analytical perspective with the procedural justice theory, this paper examines the social processes through which legal socialization occurs during adolescence.

The Relationship between Crime Propensity and Selection Factors: Implications for Identifying Situational Effects *André Ernst, Department of Sociology and Social Psychology, University of Cologne; Alex Trinidad,*

Department of Sociology and Social Psychology, University of Cologne

Rule-breaking can be understood as the result of two mechanisms: selection into situations and action generation within situations. Situational theories of crime, most prominently Situational Action Theory, focus on the action-generating mechanism and conceptualize rule-breaking as the interaction between a person's crime propensity and the criminogeneity of the setting. Counterfactual comparisons serve as a heuristic for articulating situational explanations: they describe what would have happened if a person's crime propensity and a setting's criminogeneity had been different, e.g. would a person with low crime propensity have committed (more) crime if criminogeneity had been higher? From a causal inference perspective, answering such questions requires sufficient overlap between individuals with different levels of crime propensity and the range of criminogenic settings they experience. However, in observational data some combinations of propensity and exposure are rarely or never observed. This lack of overlap arises because exposure to criminogenic settings is structured by selection processes. Preferences for leisure activities, friendship networks, and neighborhood contexts shape which situations individuals encounter and thus structure exposure to criminogenic settings. Selection processes may themselves be related to crime propensity due to common underlying causes. We examine how confounding between crime propensity and selection factors affects the identification of situational effects on rule-breaking. Using simulations, we model the relationship between crime propensity and selection factors that shape situational exposure. The results show how correlations between propensity and selection factors generate systematic gaps in observed combinations of propensity and exposure. Beyond certain levels of association between crime propensity and selection factors, empirical tests increasingly struggle to distinguish the causal effect of criminogenic exposure from selection-based explanations. These findings highlight a fundamental identification problem for empirical tests of situational theories of crime and suggest that tests of action-generating mechanisms require explicit consideration of selection processes that structure situational exposure.

How to test situational mechanism-based theories of crime causation? The first step *Yue Yu, Department of Sociology and Social Psychology, University of Cologne*

Theory testing in the social sciences often relies on problematic auxiliary assumptions, thereby hindering the development of scientific theories. Existing methodological responses either overlook these assumptions or fail to provide ex ante solutions, with only limited attempts to prevent problematic auxiliary assumptions from arising. In criminology, empirical studies that claim to test scientific theories frequently depend on problematic auxiliary assumptions without explicit awareness. To address this issue, this paper clarifies the substantive meaning of auxiliary assumptions, draws on the psychometric literature on validation, and advances a methodological principle: empirical research that claims to test a scientific theory should prioritize the validation of auxiliary assumptions by examining whether theoretical concepts and their corresponding observable indicators comprise consistent constitutive elements. Applying this principle, I analyze two meta-attributes—mechanism and situation—shared by situational mechanism-based theories, and identify some potential key constitutive elements of the relevant theoretical concepts, including implicitness, explicitness, individual-relatedness, and environment-relatedness, which function at the intra-theoretical level, as well as spatiotemporal convergence, which operates at the cross-theoretical level. I then evaluate both existing and prospective empirical methods, showing that real-world behavioral experiments and virtual reality experiments rely on auxiliary assumptions that withstand validation and should be prioritized at the current stage, whereas non-situational survey methods, space–time budget methods, and experimental scenario methods rely on auxiliary assumptions that fail validation and should be treated with caution.

290. Labelling and Interactionist Perspectives

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Labelling and Interactionalist Perspectives

Paper Session

3:30 to 4:45 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.128

Chair:

Max Laube, Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Recht Berlin (Berlin School of Economics and Law)

Participants:

Pupils' Understandings of Cyberbullying in Rights Respecting Schools: An Interpretivist Study *Brian Baker, University of Portsmouth*

Cyberbullying is often treated as a clearly defined and identifiable form of harm. However, less attention has been given to how young people themselves understand and interpret it within the contexts in which it occurs. This paper adopts an interpretivist, interactionist approach to examine how pupils aged 11–16 construct and make sense of cyberbullying within Rights Respecting school contexts. Drawing on a qualitative case study across three secondary schools awarded UNICEF UK's Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA), the study combines focus group data, an individual interview, and thematic documentary analysis of institutional materials to explore how meanings of harm are shaped within school environments. Findings suggest that cyberbullying is not experienced as a fixed or universally agreed category, but is instead interpreted through ongoing social interaction, peer relationships, and institutional practices. While pupils described shifts in school culture associated with Rights Respecting approaches, these were often gradual and uneven. The application of rights-based principles to online spaces was viewed as particularly complex, with tensions around anonymity, accountability, and the limits of institutional influence. The paper contributes to

labelling and interactionist perspectives in criminology by demonstrating how definitions of harm are actively constructed within social and institutional contexts rather than simply identified. It introduces a pupil-informed socio-ecological framework that captures how these interpretations operate across individual, organisational, and wider social levels, offering a way to better understand how cyberbullying is defined and responded to in practice.

Violence Against Emergency Responders as "Orgies of Hate Against the State"? An Empirical Analysis Based on Findings from the "SAGRE" Research Project. *Max Laube, Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Recht Berlin (Berlin School of Economics and Law); Alexander Bosch, Berlin School of Economics and Law; Daniela Hunold, HWR Berlin – Berlin School of Economics and Law; Vincenz Leuschner, Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Recht Berlin*

On New Year's Eve 2022/2023, attacks on fire and rescue services occurred in several major German cities. In the subsequent security policy discourse, the focus rapidly shifted toward Berlin in general and the supposedly "problem district" of Berlin-Neukölln in particular. The well-known narrative of Neukölln as a socially disadvantaged and allegedly dangerous migrant neighborhood provided the backdrop for a premature interpretation: the assaults were framed as "orgies of hate against the state and its representatives" (Die Welt) and primarily attributed to perpetrators of migrant background. For the past eighteen months, the "SAGRE" research project has investigated violence against emergency responders and analyzed the events of that specific New Year's Eve. Utilizing a mixed-methods approach—including extensive participant observations within the Berlin Fire Department, problem-centered interviews with victims of violence, the analysis of video footage from New Year's Eve, and the evaluation of incident reports and criminal case files—comprehensive empirical data was collected. This material allows for an exploration of perpetrator profiles, situational escalation dynamics, and organizational factors. Based on this broad empirical foundation, this paper discusses the extent to which the "political motivation" insinuated in public discourse played a role in the dynamics of violence on New Year's Eve 2022/2023. Were fire and rescue personnel truly perceived as representatives of a hated state and targeted because of this representative function? Were there indeed premeditated acts of violence in which fire engines were lured into ambushes and attacked? What role did other factors play, such as the interaction between responders and bystanders, or the specific social dynamics resulting from the lifted COVID-19 restrictions? The findings provide a nuanced picture of the New Year's Eve events that challenges the politically charged public debates and their normative pressure to categorize events into binary labels of "good" vs. "evil" or "victim" vs. "perpetrator."

Violence Against Non-Police Emergency Responders: The Escalation of the Mundane Between Structural Overload and Societal Irritability *Alexander Bosch, Berlin School of Economics and Law; Max Laube, Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Recht Berlin (Berlin School of Economics and Law); Daniela Hunold, HWR Berlin – Berlin School of Economics and Law; Vincenz Leuschner, Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Recht Berlin*

Public perception of violence against emergency responders is heavily shaped by reports of targeted ambushes and physical attacks. This paper contrasts these media narratives with findings from a mixed-methods research project (participant observations, qualitative interviews, and a quantitative survey of emergency personnel). The results clearly indicate that targeted attacks and severe physical altercations remain the exception. Instead, the primary phenomenon in everyday emergency operations is ubiquitous verbal violence, which serves as the foundation for potential physical escalations in routine deployment situations. Theoretically, this development can be interpreted as an expression of a "stressed society" in which two overburdened systems collide. On one hand, responders describe increasing aggression and impatience in public spaces—for instance, during traffic obstructions caused by emergency vehicles—which is perceived as a direct assault on identity and professional authority (cf. "character contest," Luckenbill 1977). On the other hand, these external stressors encounter internal structural overload within emergency organizations. Rising call volumes, time pressure, and a blatant lack of emotional relief services lead to diminished resilience among responders, causing verbal conflicts to escalate more rapidly (cf. Collins 2011). In conclusion, the study demonstrates that current politico-administrative strategies—such as the introduction of body cams or the tightening of criminal laws—miss the root of the problem. Since the violence primarily results from the interaction between precarious working conditions and an irritable everyday social world, purely repressive or technical measures offer little remedy for the underlying stress and escalation factors. The analysis thus clarifies that effectively addressing this phenomenon requires a fundamental engagement with the organizational and societal frameworks governing emergency medical services.

When Labeling Becomes Identity: Rethinking Peer Bullying in Criminology *Melda Yazıcıoğlu, Üsküdar University Forensic Sciences*

This study reexamines peer bullying through labeling theory, proposing that labeling processes may not only stigmatize but also reinforce deviant identity formation among youth. While traditional labeling theory emphasizes the negative consequences of stigma, this paper argues that, in certain contexts, labels such as “bully” may function as sources of visibility, recognition, and social acknowledgment—particularly for children experiencing neglect, exclusion, or lack of attention. In such cases, the label may represent one of the first forms of social acknowledgment, providing a sense of identity and perceived significance. Building on interactionist perspectives, the study introduces a conceptual mechanism in which initial acts of aggression (primary deviance) are followed by social reactions that assign labels. Rather than leading solely

to stigma, these labels may be internalized as identity, especially when accompanied by attention, fear, or recognition from both peers and authority figures (e.g., teachers, parents). For some children, this may represent one of the first moments of being noticed by adults, reinforcing a sense of significance. This process can strengthen deviant self-concepts, increasing the likelihood of behavioral persistence and escalation (secondary deviance). The paper further argues that this identity-based reinforcement complicates prevention efforts. Interventions that focus solely on behavior may fail, as they overlook the role of identity construction and the social rewards attached to it. In this sense, labeling may unintentionally contribute to the continuity of aggressive behavior and the progression toward delinquency. By reframing peer bullying as an early-stage identity formation process rather than solely a behavioral problem, this study offers a criminological contribution to both theory and practice. It also raises critical questions regarding terminology, suggesting that commonly used labels may inadvertently sustain the very behaviors they aim to prevent.

291. WG EXTREME PANEL 3. Far-Right Extremism: Actors, Violence, Belonging and Institutional Responses

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Terrorism and Terrorism Financing, Radicalization, Extremism (Radicalization, Extremism, Terrorism WG)

Paper Session

3:30 to 4:45 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.132

Chair:

Caitlin Jordan, Edge Hill University

Participants:

Who belongs? Conceptions of National Membership as Drivers of Hostility in Times of Multiple Crises *Rebecca Endtricht, German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA)*

Contemporary European societies are confronted with multiple and overlapping crises, including wars, forced migration, and broader perceptions of economic and cultural insecurity. These developments have intensified public debates about who belongs to the national community and who does not, particularly with regard to foreigners, and especially refugees. This paper argues that individual conceptions of national belonging constitute a key intervening mechanism through which societal threat perceptions are translated into hostility toward minorities. Drawing on data from a large-scale representative survey conducted in Germany in 2025 (N = 4,458), the study distinguishes between civic, cultural, and ethnic conceptions of national belonging. It examines how crisis-related concerns – particularly worries related to refugees, war, and cultural change – contribute to and amplify in-group/out-group distinctions, as reflected in hostility toward refugees, foreigners, and Muslims, and whether these relationships are shaped by individuals' definitions of belonging. The findings show that crisis perceptions are strongly associated with more exclusionary attitudes, but that this relationship varies depending on whether individuals primarily endorse ethnic, civic, or cultural conceptions of belonging, or combinations thereof. These results are discussed in the context of extremism and radicalisation. Hostility toward minorities is not only problematic in itself but also constitutes a central component of broader right-wing extremist attitudes and aligns closely with exclusionary agendas of far-right political actors. By highlighting how crisis perceptions interact with symbolic boundary making, the paper sheds light on an important mechanism through which societal uncertainty can translate into exclusionary and potentially radicalised worldviews.

Imagined Extremist Communities: The Paradox of the Community-Driven Lone-Actor Terrorist *Inger Isabella Storm Sandboe, University of Oxford; Milan Obaidi, University of Copenhagen*

This article introduces the concept of "imagined extremist communities," a term that encapsulates the unique social landscape where right-wing lone actors, despite not being affiliated with organised groups, partake in a form of communal interaction. By examining the cases of Anders Behring Breivik, Brenton Harrison Tarrant, and Philip Manshaus, this article illuminates how group-based and lone actors are more alike than what is conventionally expressed in existing research. Although lone actors are not subject to an external command like group-based actors are, the imagined extremist community functions as a "group" for lone actors and is, for all practical purposes, a corresponding alternative to a terror cell. During the radicalisation process, these individuals seek and turn to the imagined extremist community, enabling them to form a sense of belonging and identification and underscoring that these actors, although conventionally labelled as "lone," are immersed in an alternative culture that nurtures their ideas and sustains their extremist ideology. This becomes particularly evident through their cognitive radicalisation, a process amplified by their psychological predispositions. The concept of the imagined extremist community elucidates how lone actors, especially those embracing right-wing ideologies, are subject to radical influences. Their conservative traits and psychological dispositions make them particularly receptive to the appeal of such communities.

The Militarisation of the Australian Far Right *Raimonn Lim, Deakin University*

This research project investigates how the militarised tactics and ideologies of Australian neo-Nazi groups have changed from the 1980s to present day. This project addresses a gap in existing scholarship, which has largely overlooked the historical development and militarisation of neo-Nazi violence and ideologies in the Australian context. Using a hybrid historical case-study approach, the research conducts a discourse, narrative, and documentary analysis of material produced by prominent Australian neo-Nazi figures and organisations since 1980. Data is drawn from archival sources, media reporting, audio-visual media, academic literature, and propaganda material. The analysis of how neo-Nazi groups engage with military

practices and ideologies is guided by a conceptual framework of militarism and militarisation, informed by historical, ideological, and sociological perspectives The findings indicate a shift in militarised tactics from covert violent enforcement to public performances of masculine strength and intimidation, often incorporating doctrines of psychological warfare. While antisemitic, neo-colonial, and apocalyptic beliefs remain consistent, propaganda narratives transitioned from nationalistic isolationism to constructions of hyper-masculine warrior identities. These shifts frequently occur in response to periods of social disruption, including wars, economic crises, and pandemics - which reshape national identity and perceptions of state legitimacy. These findings have implications for law-enforcement and policy makers, particularly in anticipating how periods of crises may intensify extremist mobilisation. The study also contributes to broader scholarship on the historical evolution of far-right extremist movements in Australia.

292. Crime, Criminal behaviour and the justice system Panel 3. A woman's story

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Criminal Justice Policy (Crime, Science and Politics WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

3:30 to 4:45 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.146

In Sibiu County, Romania, a woman was accused for killing her own mother. According to the prosecutors, on June 2024, after having planned the act for a long time, a 38-year-old daughter of the victim, with the help of a 46-year-old nurse, who provided her with a large quantity of sedatives, slipped the substances into her mother's tea. The act took place at her home in Sibiu. After the 59-year-old victim fell asleep, her daughter called the nurse who was waiting for her in the car parked on the street, and then injected another quantity of a strong sedative into the victim's leg, sufficient to cause her death. Subsequently, wanting to be sure of the victim's death, the two asphyxiated her with a pillow. After her mother's death, her daughter took possession of the inherited assets, which she sold, and later moved to Dubai, Emirates. The case is still under investigation. The accused enjoy the presumption of innocence. The panel investigate the most appropriate mechanisms by which prosecutors or judges use their discretionary decision-making as a means to adhere to or deviate from policies and otherwise adapt in the process of implementing them on the ground as well and the intricate way criminology influence the solution on such cases.

Chairs:

Ștefana-Iuliana Sorohan, Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest

Giulia Bălan, Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest

Participants:

From Story to Sentence: The Individualization of Sentencing for Women *Andreea Elena Ceauș, Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest*

In the case of women, criminal behavior can be influenced by factors such as domestic violence, economic dependency, family responsibilities, or certain social vulnerabilities. Such factors, though external to the criminal act, play a significant role in determining the punishment. How do we move from a complex personal story to a legal decision, maintaining a balance between the legal criteria for determining the sentence and the need for a truly individualized assessment? The paper challenges reliance on a purely formal approach and promotes a perspective more sensitive to context, in order to achieve fair and proportional outcomes.

Crime and punishment in Romania A woman story *Lavinia Valeria Lefterache, Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest; Dorel Herinean, Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest*

Based on officials statistics, the topic delves into how gender influences the nature of crime and the length of punishment. The subject investigates whether there is an orientation of the courts in the matter of preventive arrest that could lead to different solutions, favoring the trial of women at liberty or leading to lighter sentences in criminal cases involving women.

Prosecutor-Led Bail Reform in the United States: Philadelphia as a Case Study *E. Rely Vîlcică, Temple University, Department of Criminal Justice; Sarah D Jones, Temple University, Department of Criminal Justice*

Pretrial justice policies—whether individuals accused of crimes are held in pretrial detention or released in the community—are grounded in concerns for individual liberty, the safety of the community, and the integrity of the judicial process. Thus, the pretrial decisions and practices are some of the most consequential in any legal system. The United States stands apart in the world for its heavy reliance on the use of monetary bail as a main mechanism to determine the accused's pretrial status (i.e., release or detention), which the history of bail reform often criticizes due to the resulting discriminatory consequences. Most recently, bail reform targeting the use of cash, has emerged as a marked agenda item for reform-minded chief prosecutors across the United States. The Philadelphia District Attorney's Office (DAO) has implemented two rounds of bail reform aimed at reducing the use of cash bail and moving toward a binary hold/detain - no hold/release pretrial system. Drawing from 63 rich semi-structured interviews with DAO staff, this study aims to better understand the implementation and challenges of prosecutor-led bail reform in Philadelphia. Findings are categorized in three themes: (1) Transition from Policy to Practice, (2) Locus of Control, and (3) Agents of Change. The study uncovers several mechanisms by which prosecutors use their discretionary decision-making as a means to adhere to or deviate from policies and otherwise adapt in the process of implementing them on the ground. The study points to several limits on the American prosecutor's power to enact bail reform and the individual responsibility borne by prosecutors tasked with operating the pretrial system.

Towards sentencing guidelines in gender crimes *George-Cristian Ioan, Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest*

The most appropriate mechanisms by which judges use their discretionary decision-making as a means to adhere to or deviate from policies and otherwise adapt

in the process of implementing them on the ground. We will evaluate how cognitive biases can influence judges' perception in criminal cases involving women (as well as in cases of domestic violence). Finally, we will address how we can mediate our heuristic approach in such cases, in order to achieve better judgments.

293. Understanding the perception-choice process of criminal action

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Routine Activities and Situational Perspectives (WG on Space and Culture)

Pre-arranged Panel

3:30 to 4:45 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.150

According to Situational Action Theory (SAT), criminal behaviour is the result of a perception-choice process (e.g. Wikström 2004; Wikström et al. 2012; 2024). Taking into account both personal characteristics and the influence of the social environment is central to explaining criminal and deviant behaviour. Therefore, focusing particularly on situational causes of behaviour is key to address the perceptual decision-making process. According to SAT, criminal or deviant behaviour must first be perceived as an alternative course of action before it can be chosen and performed deliberately or habitually. Neither the individual nor the situation in which the action takes place can be said to exclusively predict behaviour. Instead, both deliver aspects of the setting. The person brings their personal morality and self-control to the setting, while the situation provides rules of conduct and social control (deterrence). The interaction between person and situation, as specified in SAT by means of the principle of moral correspondence, shapes the perception-choice process. For this reason, the panel targets three main questions to analyse the perception-choice process: How personal morality can be measured, what role delinquent peers play for social controls and how moral emotions shape the principle of moral correspondence.

Chair:

Alexander Betz, KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt

Participants:

On the Role of General Moral Beliefs in Explaining Fraud Offending *Jasper Bendler, University of Münster; Stefanie Eifler, KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt; Jost Reinecke, University of Bielefeld*

General moral beliefs are widely regarded as a central explanatory factor of criminal behavior and play a decisive role, particularly within the framework of Situational Action Theory (SAT). In interaction with the morality of the setting, they operate as a moral filter that conditions the effects of other influences, such as self-control or deterrence. Empirical tests of these assumptions, however, remain limited, primarily due to persistent challenges in the valid measurement of general moral beliefs. Drawing on the ALLMOR scale developed by Leitgöb, Eifler, and Weymeirsch (2021), this study examines the role of general moral beliefs in explaining adult offending, with a particular emphasis on fraud. The empirical basis is the 13th wave of the Duisburg panel study Crime in the Modern City (CrimoC, 2019; n = 2,709; mean age = 30 years). The analysis estimates the effects of self-control and deterrence and tests potential moderating influences across four groups defined by combinations of personal morality and the moral context of the setting. To distinguish between offense prevalence and offense frequency, a negative binomial hurdle model is employed. The findings indicate no moderating effects of the morality groups and provide no empirical support for the conditional relevance of controls as postulated by SAT.

The situational measurement of perception *Susanne Wallner, KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt; Alexander Betz, KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt; Stefanie Eifler, KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt; Mark Stemmler, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg*

The situational aspect of decision-making has long been one of the cornerstones of criminal action theory, particularly Situational Action Theory (SAT). However, it has rarely been studied due to ethical and practical difficulties. In recent years, however, some researchers have attempted to measure this aspect using vignettes, short descriptions of scenarios. Additionally, various researchers voiced concerns about the measurements used in context of SAT. In this talk, we analyse the perception stage of the perception-choice process using a vignette on theft by finding and traditional measurements, and present preliminary findings on a new measurement instrument for personal morality in the context of (SAT) from the Moral Compass in everyday life (COMPASS) study.

Who has delinquent friends? *Helmut Hirtenlehner, Johannes Kepler University Linz; Jost Reinecke, University of Bielefeld; Mark Stemmler, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg*

Exposure to delinquent peers, often a key part of the moral context of action, has been established as one of the best predictors of criminal behavior. Less is known, however, about the factors that determine the level of delinquent peer association. This is why we analyze panel data from adolescents in Germany to explore who forms friendship relationships with crime-prone others. The findings are supportive of selection effects and the homophily principle, indicating that young people with a high propensity for crime who have problems in other life domains are most likely to acquire delinquent friends. Accordingly, crime propensity is both a cause and a 'cause of a cause' of criminal conduct.

Affective Conditions and the Perception–Choice Process: A Micro-Sociological Specification of Self-Control *Lisa Vollnhals, KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt*

Situational affective conditions and emotional states shape frame and action selection within the Model of Frame Selection. Rather than treating emotions as peripheral correlates, this perspective conceptualizes them as mechanisms that link social context to processes of interpretation and choice. In doing so, it offers a micro-sociological specification of self-control by clarifying how it operates in situations of norm-conforming and non-conforming behavior. Understanding how affect enters decision-making at the moment when alternative courses of action are evaluated is central to explaining the perception–choice process underlying deviant action. This approach refines action-theoretical accounts by specifying how situational perceptions translate into context-sensitive

deviations from normative behavior. Systematically incorporating affective conditions and tracing their causal implications sharpens theoretical accounts of situational decision-making in criminologically relevant contexts.

294. Gender, Crime and Justice Working Group Panel 11: Interrogating GBV through the lens of data, legislation and politics

Topic 3: Crime Correlates/Gender and Crime (Gender, Crime and Justice WG)
Paper Session
5:00 to 6:15 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.110
Chair:
Amanda Robinson, Cardiff University
Participants:

Deconstructing AI Governance and Leadership at the Frontiers of Public Health, Policing, and Family Systems through an Intersectional Lens *Kutisha Ebron, Southern New Hampshire University; Patricia Griffin, Holy Family University*

Ethical leadership is essential for advancing equitable responses at the intersection of public health and justice systems, particularly in fragile and crisis-affected contexts. As artificial intelligence rapidly expands across sectors, leadership education must be fundamentally transformed to prepare leaders who can navigate complex ethical challenges, leverage technology for social benefit, and resist algorithmic systems that reproduce structural injustice. Of particular concern is AI's role in perpetuating technology facilitated gender-based violence (GBV) through surveillance, risk scoring, predictive policing, welfare determination, and reproductive monitoring deployed across healthcare, education, criminal justice, and social services. Contemporary AI systems do not merely exhibit "gender bias" amenable to technical fixes; they function as automated instruments of patriarchal violence at scale (Mishra et al., 2023), intensifying harm by enabling coercive surveillance of survivors, converting poverty and trauma into justifications for child removal and family separation, and reinforcing criminalization over protection (Waelen & Wieczorek, 2022). These harms fall disproportionately on Indigenous, Black, immigrant, and disabled women, whose lives are further shaped by colonial surveillance, racialized child removal, and immigration enforcement. Grounded in ethical, transformational, and sustainable leadership frameworks and the methodology of Appreciative Inquiry, this study advances five interconnected objectives: integrating gender- and violence-informed digital literacy into leadership education; developing experiential models for ethically consequential AI decision-making in GBV contexts (Veronese & Kagee, 2025); identifying competencies for gender-just technology governance; constructing assessment frameworks that evaluate leaders' capacity to challenge algorithmic harm; and designing cross-sector professional development for leaders in government, healthcare, education, civil society, and technology. Centering the experiences of those most harmed by algorithmic systems, this study reframes AI governance as a fundamentally intersectional and human rights imperative.

Examining non-fatal strangulation cases within police data *Amanda Robinson, Cardiff University*

The scholarly study of non-fatal strangulation (NFS) has predominantly focused on female victims, using clinical or community samples often derived from domestic or sexual assault services. Extant research has highlighted the gendered nature of NFS and its co-occurrence with coercive control, serious violence, rape and intimate partner homicide. Thus, the current understanding of NFS is primarily based on research investigating NFS within intimate partner relationships. In England & Wales, the statutory definition of domestic abuse covers intimate partner relationships as well as a broad array of familial relationships. A specific criminal offence of NFS was introduced in 2022 and in the first year 23,817 reports were made to the police in England & Wales. This paper examines NFS cases coming to police attention and covering a wider variety of relationship contexts. It utilises a dataset from one of the largest police forces in England & Wales containing all officially recorded domestic abuse incidents and crimes recorded by the force during 2022-24 (n=114,874), including n=2,155 NFS cases. Analysis showed a five-fold increase in NFS cases from 2022 to 2024. Interestingly, the number of these crimes coming to police attention is growing faster within familial relationships, yet little is known about the nature of these crimes and how they may differ from those committed within intimate partner relationships in terms of victim and offender characteristics, risk profile, co-occurring offences and case outcomes. Addressing these gaps will enable a more comprehensive understanding of NFS and provide some insights into how the police respond to this relatively new criminal offence.

Moral Disengagement: The Hierarchical Architecture of IPV Legitimization *Kaja Glomb, Jagiellonian University in Krakow; Martyna Sekulak, Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Faculty of Management and Social Communication; Andrew M Garcia, East Texas A&M University (USA)*

This research presents a novel hierarchical typology of narratives used to legitimize and normalize intimate partner violence (IPV). By synthesizing interdisciplinary evidence across physical, sexual, and psychological abuse, the study identifies how violence is transitioned from a routine occurrence to a morally sanctioned act. The analysis utilizes Bandura's theory of moral disengagement to demonstrate that the persistence of IPV is sustained by a system of social coherence rather than individual pathology alone. At the foundational level, societal ideologies—such as patriarchal norms and idealized romantic myths—provide the primary moral justification for abuse. These ideologies then license individual cognitive strategies, including the dehumanization of victims and the diffusion of responsibility onto external factors like uncontrollable emotions or substance use. Crucially,

the model reveals that these justificatory narratives are mobilized not only by perpetrators but also by social and legal institutions to manage moral discomfort and maintain a predictable social order. By exposing the hierarchical moral architecture that actively grants moral exemptions for violence, this work offers insights for forensic practice and the development of institutional interventions aimed at deconstructing the cultural foundations of relational harm.

Punishing Domestic Violence in the Czech Republic: An Analysis of Court Decisions *Eva Brucknerová, Masaryk University, Faculty of Law*

The paper presents the results of research focused on the decision-making practice of Czech courts in cases of domestic violence, with particular emphasis on imposed penalties. Based on an analysis of selected court decisions, it examines what types of sanctions are imposed in such cases, to what extent, and which factors courts consider decisive when determining punishment. The research focuses in particular on the relationship between the nature and severity of the violence, its duration, the character of the relationship between the offender and the victim, possible recidivism, and the resulting criminal sanction. The aim of the paper is to identify the main tendencies in judicial practice and to assess whether the penalties imposed correspond to the seriousness of domestic violence and to the specific features of this form of victimisation. Attention will also be paid to whether judicial practice reveals signs of differing approaches among courts and whether current criminal policy provides a sufficient framework for an effective response to domestic violence.

Theoretical Interventions Amid Political Ruptures: Mapping the ongoing mutations of patriarchy during gender moral panics and state 'securitization.' *Gwen Hunnicutt, UNC Greensboro*

The literature on gender-based violence (GBV) typically evokes some form of patriarchal theory to lend explanatory power. There has been a recent resurgence of the term “patriarchy” in both academic and ordinary usage, as well as lay theories circulating in meme culture, prompted by recent gender moral panics and the resulting increase in state surveillance, control and policing of gender presentation. This is a unique historical moment where the state has been aggressively asserting what ‘counts’ as gender, while a sort of resistance has emerged that regularly employs the term “patriarchy” in brief, everyday exchanges, intended as a critique of such oppression. In this talk, I will argue that the resurgence and collision of these forces produce ever shifting ‘mutations of patriarchy.’ I explore why the 'spectre of victimization' is a major through line in reconstituting and sustaining various patriarchal forms. I will consider what this means for scholars seeking to make use of this line of theorizing in their work. Lastly, I will highlight some of the perils and paradoxes that such theorizing demands us to confront, and make the case that good political analysis should accompany theoretically-supported empirical work on GBV

295. Intergenerational Criminology

Topic 3: Crime Correlates/Family and Intergenerational Perspectives (Intergenerational Criminology WG)
Paper Session
5:00 to 6:15 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.120

Chair:

Steve van de Weijer, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement

Participants:

Differential impacts of parental incarceration: Heterogeneity in crime involvement, school performance and health outcomes across migration background and gender *Suzan Eriş, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement; Steve van de Weijer, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement; Elanie Rodermond, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; Catrien Bijleveld, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement*

Parental incarceration is widely recognized as a key mechanism of intergenerational disadvantage, as it disrupts family stability, reduces economic resources, and exposes children to social stigma. These cumulative disadvantages increase the risk that children of incarcerated parents experience poorer outcomes in education, health, and involvement in crime. Therefore, this study examined how parental incarceration is associated with children’s outcomes in the Netherlands, using population-wide administrative microdata from Statistics Netherlands (CBS). Focusing on children aged 12–16, this study took a step further in analyzing how exposure to parental incarceration between ages 0 to 12 years old relates to crime involvement, school performance and (mental) health outcomes. Instead of only assessing the general effect of parental incarceration, there was a focus on heterogeneity in outcomes across subgroups. Differences were examined by the gender of the incarcerated parent (mother versus father), the gender of the child (sons versus daughters), and migration background, based on the most prevalent groups in the Netherlands during the studied period of 2005 to 2023. The findings reveal variation in outcomes across these dimensions, indicating that the consequences of parental incarceration are not evenly distributed. These results underscore the importance of accounting for subgroup differences when assessing the intergenerational effects of incarceration.

Family Relations and Recidivism: An Evaluative Study on Released Female Offenders in Tangail, Bangladesh from Social Bonding Theory. *Habiba Lilun Nahar, PhD Researcher, University of Kassel, Germany.; Mohammed Jahirul Islam, PhD Student, Law and Legal Studies, Carleton University*

The article endeavours to provide an in-depth and comprehensive understanding of the impact of family relations on the description of female recidivism. Using Hirschi’s (1969) Social Bonding theory, we examine how family relations, particularly parental attachment, family members’ criminal records, and abuse in the family, promote or deter recidivism in the peri-urban Tangail district in Bangladesh. We followed an

exploratory research design to examine the nature of the influence of family factors on the likelihood of female recidivism. by analyzing cases from in-depth interviews using the qualitative research approach. As a result, this study explores the women who are more likely to be involved in recidivism, who have experienced parental negligence, family dysfunction, an abusive relationship, criminal history among family members, the burden of supporting family, economic hardship, lack of support from a husband, weak family ties, etc. Moreover, divorced or separated women from lower socio-economic classes and large family sizes are also found more likely to be involved in criminal activities. Besides, the incarcerated women experience an unparalleled sense of isolation, frustration, anxiety, conflict, and guilt of being both separated from family and unable to care for their children and family members. In this sense, the women often experience and worry about being abandoned by their families, spouses, children, and job sectors after release from prison. Hence, we concluded that strong family relationships, maintaining family ties, and parental supervision are protective family factors that can effectively prevent recidivism. Keywords: Family relations, Social Bonding; Parental Attachment, Recidivism, Female Released Prisoners.

Parental attitudes and dysfunctional behavior in youth *Justyna Kurtyka-Chałas, University of Warsaw Institute of Social Prevention and Resocialization; Grzegorz Kudlak, University of Warsaw, Institute of Social Prevention and Rehabilitation*

The aim of this presentation is to present the connections between parental attitudes towards children during childhood and adolescence and the development of dysfunctional behavior in young people. The paper will present a theoretical framework explaining how parenting behaviors and parental attitudes influence the development of children and adolescents. Selected research findings will also be presented, relating to the connections between the way parents build relationships with their children, parenting attitudes, and the relationship with their children, and the tendency for dysfunctional behaviors to emerge in young people. The paper will be a theoretical and empirical analysis, with elements of practical preventive solutions.

The role of an official bias towards known criminal families in the intergenerational transmission of crime *Steve van de Weijer, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement*

A vast and growing amount of studies have shown that criminal behavior tends to concentrate within families and is transmitted from parents to children. However, as many previous studies rely on officially registered criminal behavior (e.g., police arrests or convictions), it is possible that the degree of intergenerational transmission of crime is overestimated in these studies. This would be the case when children from parents who are known in the criminal justice system are more likely to be arrested and convicted for their delinquency than children from parents who are unknown to law enforcement. This mechanism is also referred to as an official bias towards known criminal families. However, only one previous study has examined to what extent such an official bias exists and could explain patterns of intergenerational continuity of criminal behavior among British families (Besemer et al., 2013). Therefore, the current study will combine self-reported and register data from 17.208 Dutch youths, to replicate this previous study and further explore the existence of a possible official bias towards known criminal families. Self-reported data on 21 types of delinquency were obtained from the Youth Delinquency Survey and coupled to data on police registrations from Statistics Netherlands. Moreover, police registrations of their parents were used. Respondents were grouped into five groups based on their self-reported delinquency: 0 offenses, 1 offense, 2 offenses, 3-5 offenses and 6+ offenses. Within each group with a similar degree of self-reported delinquency, it was found that those with parents who were known to the police were significantly more likely to have been a crime suspect than those with parents who were not registered as suspects. These results are in line with the study of Besemer and colleagues (2013) and suggest that the intergenerational transmission of crime might be overestimated when it's based on register data.

296. Ethnicity, Crime, and Justice: Evidence, Contexts, and Methodological Challenges

Topic 3: Crime Correlates/Ethnicity and Crime
Paper Session
5:00 to 6:15 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.128

Chair:
Alessandro Corti, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Participants:

Roma Crime – Gaps, Risks and Challenges *Lukasz Wieczorek, University of Warsaw*

The ethnic dimension renders almost every issue in the social sciences sensitive, particularly in the field of social pathology. For this reason, the problem of Roma criminality constitutes one of the most challenging issues in contemporary criminology. Any analysis of this phenomenon requires particular methodological caution, as the absence of such caution may easily lead to oversimplification, the ethnicization of criminal behaviour, and the reinforcement of stereotypes concerning the Roma community. The aim of this paper is to discuss three major issues related to Roma criminality. First, it addresses the existing gaps in research on this subject, including the lack of reliable empirical data, the limited number of studies, particularly in Poland, and the shortage of comparative research. In particular, there is still no clear answer to the question whether Roma groups operating in Poland function in the same way in other European Union countries. In other words, the paper asks whether Roma criminality differs across states or remains relatively unchanged. Second, the paper examines the risks involved in studying social phenomena that are regarded as sensitive and are sometimes avoided for reasons of political correctness. From a criminological

perspective, however, difficult topics should not be excluded from scholarly inquiry. As Durkheim argued, such phenomena should be studied as social facts, that is, they should be examined, recorded, and explained objectively. Third, the paper discusses the challenges of researching ethnic groups in a manner that does not reproduce stereotypes, reinforce negative social judgments, or contribute to prejudice against the communities under study.

Ethnic Inequalities in Violence: Synthesising VISION Findings on Ethnic Differences in Understanding, Experiencing, and Responding to Violence *Annie Bunce, City University (London); Hannah Manzur, Violence and Society Centre, City St George's University*

This presentation synthesises key findings on ethnicity and experiences of violence from across a 5-year interdisciplinary research project on violence, inequalities, and health. Drawing on insights from 40+ publications from the Violence, Health and Society (VISION) Consortium, our report compiles new evidence on ethnic inequalities in the prevalence, forms, fears, risks, harms, interventions, and contexts of violence in the UK. Our findings are based on a diverse range of methods, including statistical and qualitative analyses as well as scoping and systematic reviews, analysing national survey, police, health, and specialist services data. Across six thematic areas of knowledge production, victimisation, risk-factors, harms, services, and sites of violence, VISION researchers found that: (1) Ethnic inequalities are embedded into processes of evidence-building on violence through data biases, exclusions, and barriers to disclosure; (2) victimisation rates vary by ethnic group, form of violence, and data sources, with Mixed ethnic populations most at risk; (3) minoritised ethnic people face greater risks of social, economic, and health disadvantages associated with violence risks and harms; (4) harms vary by ethnicity, with the emotional impact of IPV greatest among minoritised ethnic groups across multiple IPV types; (5) minoritised ethnic victims face greater barriers to public and specialist services support; and (6) ethnic patterns and experiences of violence vary across social and spatial environments, including workplace, neighbourhood, and institutionalised spaces. In synthesising a diverse body of new evidence, this project maps new insights and recommendations for addressing ethnic variations in how violence is understood, experienced, and responded to.

Procedural Justice and Legal Cynicism: The Role of Optimism Among El Paso, Texas, Residents *Chris Guerra, The University of Texas at El Paso; Theodore R. Curry, The University of Texas at El Paso; Hyunjung Cheon, The University of Texas at El Paso*

Latinos in the United States (U.S.) have a strained relationship with the criminal justice system, which is largely characterized by mistrust and cynicism. At the same time, U.S. Latinos, especially those situated alongside the U.S.-Mexico border, are resilient against discrimination, struggle, and persecution. This study investigates the role of optimism—a stable trait that reflects individual capacity to cope with impediments to goal-directed activities—on procedural justice views and legal cynicism. To do so, this project analyzes survey data from a sample of over 900 Latinos from El Paso, Texas. This culturally and economically homogenous area is distinct from the rest of the country with its incredibly complex roots with Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, and immigration more largely. By highlighting optimism in the understanding between fair police evaluation and what drives cynical views of the criminal justice system, this study will provide insight into the mechanisms contributing to the relationship between Latinos and legal authorities.

Chinese Financial Crime, Social Embeddedness, and Territorial Opportunity Structures in Italy *Alessandro Corti, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore; Sara Valle, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore – Transcrime; Michele Riccardi, Transcrime - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore*

Chinese financial crime in Italy is often discussed through local case studies or broad references to transnational illicit flows. Much less attention has been paid to its territorial distribution across Italy and to whether the observed emergence of cases across provinces is associated with local demographic, economic, and commercial conditions. This paper addresses that gap through an original dataset of about 350 Chinese financial crime cases identified in Italy between 2010 and 2025, reconstructed through news scraping, LexisNexis, NewsAPI, and manual case consolidation. The paper combines a social embeddedness perspective with a territorial opportunity approach. Provincial case counts are interpreted not as a direct measure of criminal prevalence, but as an indicator of the observed territorial emergence of the phenomenon. Each case is coded for territorial footprint, financial scale, and mechanism profile, including false invoicing, shell companies, customs and VAT fraud, under- and over-invoicing, money transfer, underground banking, and cross-border financial arrangements. Case-level data are matched with provincial information on Chinese resident populations and socio-economic indicators from ISTAT, and on Chinese business presence from ORBIS. The paper addresses two questions. First, do provinces with stronger Chinese resident presence and specific socio-economic characteristics show higher observed intensity of Chinese financial crime cases? Second, is the gradual expansion of detectable Chinese financial crime into provinces initially absent or weakly represented associated with growth in Chinese-registered firms relative to the total provincial business base? The paper therefore assesses whether the observed spread of Chinese financial crime follows the broader demographic and economic expansion of Chinese presence across Italy, or whether no clear association emerges.

297. Narrative Victimology: Approaches and Methods

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Narrative Criminology
Pre-arranged Panel
5:00 to 6:15 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 -

Room 1.141

Narrative has emerged as a central but undertheorised concept in victimology. While victims' stories are routinely invoked in research, policy, and practice, the narrative dimensions of victimisation have received insufficient systematic attention. This panel brings together four presentations that collectively advance a narrative victimology, addressing its theoretical foundations, empirical applications, and methodological innovations. The panel is anchored by Pijlman's presentation of a new five-year research project that places narrative at the centre of victimological inquiry. The project examines four interconnected domains: victims' experiences with criminal justice, public perceptions of victims' position, the framing role of advocacy organisations, and the construction of victims' position in law and policy. Using the Netherlands as a critical case and with particular attention to victims of sexual abuse, the project combines qualitative, quantitative, socio-legal, and discourse-analytical methods to investigate how narratives shape both lived experience and institutional understandings of victimisation. The remaining presentations illustrate the range and productivity of narrative approaches across different contexts. Jiménez-Ribera et al. examine child-to-parent violence, showing how culturally dominant narratives of parental responsibility actively structure victims' experience, reinforcing stigma and silence. Mulder analyses governmental acknowledgement of institutional injustice in the Netherlands. Her work reveals how misalignment between official narratives and victim experience undermines recognition. Van den Berg explores how computational text analysis can be integrated with longitudinal narrative interviews in a study of victims of online fraud. This novel approach demonstrates how victim articulate and reinterpret their needs over time. Together, the presentations demonstrate that narratives do not merely describe victimisation but constitute it — shaping how it is understood, experienced, and acted upon. The panel thus makes the case for narrative victimology as both a theoretical orientation and a methodological programme.

Chair:

Antony Pemberton, Katholieke Universiteit of Leuven (KU Leuven)

Participants:

A Narrative World of Victimisation: Understanding the Relationship Between Victims and Criminal Justice Through Narrative *Valerie Pijlman, Postdoc Onderzoeker en PhD Coördinator | Nederlands Studiecentrum Criminaliteit en Rechtshandhaving NSCR*

The relationship between victims and the criminal justice system remains insufficiently understood. This presentation argues that a key reason for this is the relative neglect of the narrative dimensions of this relationship. It introduces a new five year research project that places narrative at the centre of victimological inquiry and examines four interconnected domains: (1) victims' experiences with criminal justice, (2) public perceptions of victims' position in criminal justice, (3) the framing of this relationship by victim advocacy and support organisations, and (4) the construction of victims' position in law, policy, and legal discourse. The presentation will outline the project's theoretical framework and the methodological design of its four subprojects, which combine qualitative, quantitative, socio-legal, and discourse-analytical methods. Using the Netherlands as a critical case study, the project explores how narratives shape both lived experience and broader institutional and societal understandings of victims and their role in criminal justice. Particular attention is given to victims of sexual abuse, including online forms of sexual abuse, such as image-based sexual abuse, and offline contact sexual violence. These forms of victimisation provide a particularly important lens through which to examine narrative rupture, victim recognition, credibility, access to justice, and the risk of secondary victimisation. The project aims to generate new empirical and conceptual insights into how victims' relationships with criminal justice are narrated, experienced, and constructed.

When victims are held responsible: Narratives of blame in child-to-parent violence *Adrian Jiménez Ribera, Catholic University of Valencia; Marie Jose Beneyto Arrojo, Catholic University of Valencia; Isabel Iborra, Catholic University of Valencia; Carmen Moret Tatay, Catholic University of Valencia; Silvia Sempere Faus, Catholic University of Valencia*

Who is held responsible when violence occurs? In most forms of interpersonal violence, such as intimate partner violence (IPV) and sexual abuse, the answer is straightforward: the perpetrator. Child-to-parent violence (CPV), however, follows a different logic, as responsibility is frequently redirected towards parents, who are expected to account for their children's behaviour. Despite a significant increase in CPV cases in Spain over the past two decades, with more than 4,000 cases reported annually, this phenomenon has received less attention than other forms of domestic violence. Moreover, existing research has been largely dominated by quantitative approaches focused on perpetrators, leaving a critical gap in understanding how parents experience, interpret, and narrate their victimisation. This contribution draws on the qualitative component of a multidisciplinary mixed-methods project conducted in Spain to examine CPV victimisation. The analysis was based on life-story interviews with twelve parents physically abused by their children and five focus groups with professionals involved in prevention and intervention. Adopting a narrative victimology framework, we examined how parents and practitioners construct, interpret, and respond to CPV. Findings indicate that both victims and professionals draw on shared social and cultural narratives that locate responsibility for CPV within parenthood itself. Grounded in dominant expectations of care, responsibility, and moral accountability, these narratives reinforce stigma and contribute to patterns of silence, delayed reporting, and limited help-seeking amongst victims. From a narrative victimology perspective, narratives do not merely describe victimisation, but actively structure how it is understood, experienced, and acted upon.

A narrative approach to victim acknowledgment *Eva Mulder, University of Humanistic Studies, Utrecht*

This paper-in-progress explores how a narrative approach can illuminate the challenges of governmental efforts to acknowledge victims of

institutional injustice. In the Netherlands, several large-scale institutional injustices have prompted governmental responses aimed at victim acknowledgment. Such responses are intended to recognize groups of individuals as victims, affirm past events as violence and injustice, and often to imply or assign some form of responsibility. The paper builds on a research project commissioned by two Dutch ministries and completed with colleagues at the University of Humanistic Studies. The research project evaluated governmental measures designed and implemented to acknowledge those who experienced violence in youth care, for which the government has assumed partial responsibility. These 'acknowledgment measures' included, amongst others, symbolic financial relief, formal apologies, and the facilitation of a physical and digital monument. Despite these efforts, our findings revealed that victims largely felt unrecognized. Preliminary analyses suggest misalignment between official narratives and victim experiences, particularly in temporal framing and constructions of causality. Furthermore, the contexts in which stories were invited, facilitated, and validated often detached narratives from current reality, limiting their urgency and impact on governmental action. This paper proposes that a narrative approach can shed light on these mismatches, providing insight into why official acknowledgment measures may fail to resonate with and do justice to victims' experiences.

Using computational text analysis in longitudinal narrative victim interviews: A mixed-methods perspective *Chantal van den Berg, NSCR; Julia Kornet, NSCR, Amsterdam*

Victimization is not a static event but a process that unfolds over time, encompassing the pre-victimization phase, the victimization itself, and its aftermath. Research on the aftermath often focuses on the immediate period following victimization, with particular attention to the study of consequences and victims' needs. However, there are indications that both consequences and needs also evolve over time. A longitudinal approach is therefore pivotal to understanding changes in victims' needs and experienced consequences. Examining victim narratives is especially valuable in this regard, as it reveals how victims make sense of what happened and how needs and consequences are articulated and reinterpreted over time. This contribution explores how computational text analysis can contribute to longitudinal research on victim narratives. It draws on a larger mixed-methods study of victims of online fraud, in which episodic narrative interviews and qualitative life history calendars are conducted across three waves during the first year after victimization. The focus will be on how computational text analysis can support the identification of recurring themes, lexical patterns, and shifts in the articulation of victims' needs and consequences across interview waves and respondent groups. Its particular value lies in making it possible to systematically study the actual formulation of needs and consequences by victims themselves, rather than through interpretive categories. Computational text analysis can thus be used as an additional analytical layer alongside narrative analysis. During the presentation we will also reflect on the challenges of applying computational techniques to victim narratives.

298. Penal Severity, Resources and the Uses of Data

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Courts and Sentencing and Penal Decision Making (Sentencing and Penal Decisionmaking WG)
Paper Session
5:00 to 6:15 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.147
Chair:
Stefan Schumann, University of Graz
Participants:

Does Health Matter? How Health Status Influences System Actors Perceptions of a Person's Ability to Pay Legal Financial Obligations *Timothy Edgemon, University of Birmingham; Brittany Martin, The University of Rhode Island*

Objectives/Specific Aims Past literature indicates that criminal justice system involved populations have high rates of both poor mental and physical health and that these health problems can negatively impact the ability to repay legal finical obligations (LFOs); however, we know little about how perceptions of health problems influence the assessment of ability to pay LFOs by system actors. To address this gap, we investigate how perceptions of health problems influence the behavior of system actors when levying and assessing LFOs for defendants. Data/Methods We use ethnographic and interview data from Georgia state courts to explore if health status is used by system actors when they make determinations of ability to pay. Findings Through ethnographic and interview data, we find clear patterns of disparity between how physical and mental health status is used by system actors in their evaluation of ability to pay LFOs. Here, we found that system actors were more willing to give leniency in payment for physical health problems than mental health problems. Implications Research on how health status is used by system actors when assessing ability to pay LFOs is limited. These findings add to previous knowledge by specifically considering the differences between how physical health and mental health status impact these decisions by system actors.

Embezzlement of public vs private funds: consequences on penalties under the Romanian system *Raluca-Alexandra Tănase, University of Bucharest*

This paper aims to analyze the sanctioning regime applicable in the case of the offense of embezzlement committed by public servants, in comparison with the sanctioning regime applicable in the case of embezzlement committed by private sector employees, namely individuals who permanently or temporarily, with or without remuneration, hold any position of any nature in the service of an assimilated public servant or within a private company. In this context, the examination will begin with the current objective considered by the Romanian legislator regarding the offense of embezzlement, namely the reduction of penalty limits and the mandatory application of the additional penalty consisting of the prohibition on

exercising the right to hold a public office. The analysis will reveal that, although in the case of the offense of embezzlement committed by public servants, the damage is considerably less significant than in the case of embezzlement committed by private sector employees, the penalty applied is a more severe one. Although the immediate main consequence specific to the offense of embezzlement is the same both in the case of the offense committed by a public servant and in the case of the offense committed by a private sector employee, the damage caused to the legal entity in which the latter operates is significantly higher. Thus, criminal liability for the offense of embezzlement appears to be primarily shaped by the status of the person committing the offense, that of a public servant, rather than by the immediate secondary consequence specific to this offense, the value of the damage, which ultimately differentiates the two forms of the offense.

Indeterminate Sentences of Imprisonment for the Protection of the Public: What Do Reconsideration and Set Aside Tell Us About IPPs in England and Wales? *Stephen Cameron Shute, University of Sussex*

This paper will present the author's analysis of more than 500 prisoners serving indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for the protection of the public (IPPs) who were in prison in England and Wales between 22 July 2019 and the end of February 2026. In each case, the Parole Board made a provisional decision – either to refuse parole or to direct release – which was then challenged by way of an application under one of the two new 'second-look' parole review mechanisms, 'reconsideration' which first became available on 22 July 2019 or 'set aside' which came into force on 21 July 2022. The paper provides, for the first time, large scale qualitative and quantitative data relating to the 'residual group' of IPPs who remain in custody and is thus able to fill the evidential gap which has emerged in the debates regarding what should happen to these prisoners. The paper will show that many claims made about IPPs (who are serving sentences which are closely aligned to life sentences) are at best misleading and at worst false.

Numbers and figures do not lie?! Data as a legal argument. *Stefan Schumann, University of Graz*

In addition to the laws, language and logic are the most important tools of legal professionals. Both are used in combination when figures are used as arguments. This happens in academia, in legal policy, and in court. It is difficult to escape the (seemingly) objective significance of figures. Whether and to what extent such figures are objective, or whether the appearance of objectivity is deceptive, depends on many factors. However, the danger of mere apparent logic, of error on the part of the recipient, should not be underestimated. This presentation investigates three examples - ranging from facial recognition technologies over measurements of blood alcohol rates to the liability of eye witness' memories - illustrating such errors based on apparent logic.

299. Police ethics and police accountability in Europe

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

5:00 to 6:15 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.152

Important research questions intersect with ongoing and highly salient political debates concerning police conduct, particularly the use of lethal force, and its regulation by the state. Significant gaps remain in our understanding of complaints procedures across the multiple layers of policing (local, national), as well as of incidents involving the use of lethal force within a European context. The development of European Union–level policing mechanisms further complicates existing national regulatory frameworks. Despite notable advances in recent years, the study of police regulation remains comparatively underdeveloped. Established EU democracies have followed distinct historical trajectories, resulting in divergent conceptions of oversight and ethical regulation, both in legal and normative terms. As demonstrated by research in history, law, and the sociology of policing, EU member states have developed highly heterogeneous regulatory arrangements, encompassing both internal and external mechanisms, alongside the more recent supranational dimension. This panel seeks to present national case studies and comparative analyses addressing complaints procedures and the regulation of police ethics across a range of EU countries. Discussant : Francis Dodsworth.

Chair:

Sebastian Roche, Sciences-Po Grenoble / Université de Grenoble-Alpes

Participants:

Holding transnational policing and street-level policing accountable – two separated worlds? *Hartmut Aden, Berlin School of Economics and Law, Berlin Intitute for Safety and Security Research (FÖPS Berlin)*

This paper looks at (potential) interconnections between accountability in the areas of transnational policing and street-level policing. For transnational policing, the paper has a special focus on EU agencies such as Europol, Frontex and eu-LISA. Both transnational and street-level policing have been under pressure to establish independent accountability settings in light of the far-reaching powers that police agencies exert and of recurrent scandals caused by cases of misconduct. Both areas can be supposed to have a number of interconnections, for example with street-level policing relying on information stemming from transnational policing. False information in a European Union database such as the Schengen Information System, for example, may lead to an unlawful arrest. People may be kept unlawfully in detention if inaccurate data produces a "false positive" with someone's biometric data. However, while accountability settings have been established for both levels, interconnections between them seem to be rare or even inexistent. Theoretically this may be explained with gaps that accountability studies have observed in multilevel systems such as the EU, where multilevel activities in particular tend to escape from effective accountability. The paper is based on empirical results from a comparative research project (Police Accountability – Towards International Standards). It discusses the fragmented world of complaints bodies,

ombuds institutions, data protection agencies and fundamental rights offices that characterise accountability of policing in a multilevel perspective.

The Long History of Police Oversight: State Accountability Since the 1500s *Kristine Eck, Dept. of Politics and Society, Aalborg University*

Standard historical accounts of police oversight typically date the start of such efforts to US cities in the early-1900s. This paper suggests that in fact, nascent forms police oversight can be found as early as the mid-1500s. The empirics draw on the case of Sweden, where the necessity of governing a sparse and dispersed population prompted an early expansion of the central government and its internal control apparatus. In turn, citizens made demands for justice which drew on a long tradition of customary rights. Accountability in this period took the form of direct appeals by the peasantry to the monarch, which sought to punish officers of law and order who engaged in abuse of office. The paper traces these processes of state accountability in Sweden as they waxed and waned, highlighting both continuities and disjunctures. Rather than viewing these early efforts as removed from contemporary understandings of accountability and oversight – typically associated with modern bureaucracy – this paper takes them seriously as part and parcel of a broader statebuilding process.

Citizens' complaints against the police in pre-democratic and democratising societies: critical perspectives on democratic policing *Anja Johansen, University of Dundee*

The concept of 'democratic policing' has been contested by many social scientists pointing to the inconsistent definitions of concept and the problematic assumptions about Western democratic systems implicit in the claim that police in democratic regimes is or ought to be more accountable to the public collectively and to citizens individually. Historians have generally refrained from engaging with this concept, as the conceptual linking of 'police accountability' to 'democracy' makes this debate inherently inapplicable to most studies of the policing from before 1900. Yet, this scholarly disconnect is detrimental for our understanding of long-term trends in police accountability. This paper identifies three key phases characterising parallel changes from the rise of modern policing in the 1820s to the professionalisation and police monopolisation of complaints handling in the 1870s-1880s to the challenge of this police monopoly during the 1970s-1990s, leading the establishment of Independent Police complaint Bodies in many countries since the turn of the millennium.

A comparative overview of internal police accountability structures in Europe *Sebastian Roche, Sciences-Po Grenoble / Université de Grenoble-Alpes*

External oversight has attracted the attention of scholars due to its democratic connotation, and to disillusionment with internal oversight of police. However, internal oversight remains the main instrument of police regulation of use of force, and more largely of police ethics. Hence it is surprising that so little works are devoted to that issue. Here we share the first findings of comparative research on the structure and resources of internal oversight bodies in a selection of 20 European countries. We then categorize the types of internal oversight bodies, and we try to explain their distribution with several variables pertaining to various theories (depth of democracy, economic resources, path dependency …).

300. Racism, Stereotypes, and Group-Focused Enmity in German Law Enforcement Institutions

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
5:00 to 6:15 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.158

This panel brings together empirical research and critical perspectives on racism, stereotypes, and group-focused enmity in German law enforcement institutions. It focuses on discrimination, attitudes and biases, as well as institutional cultures that shape policing and judicial processes in Germany. Recent research reveals persistent challenges to democratic policing in Germany. Empirical studies indicate that prejudicial attitudes remain present within law enforcement institutions, with some internal surveys suggesting a significant minority of officers expressing far-right or devaluating views toward refugees and minority groups. Such attitudes can foster organizational cultures that tolerate discriminatory practices. Against this backdrop, the panel's contributions collectively explore a) how discrimination is experienced and perceived by diverse populations in contact with law enforcement, and how discrimination and racism do not merely unfold in singular interactions but appear as embedded structural dynamics that shape legal outcomes as well as everyday courtroom and policing practices; b) how group-focused enmity changes over the course of theoretical and practical police training, and which personal and organizational factors are boosting or buffering this development.; c) how racism, stereotypes, and group-focused enmity are produced and enacted in everyday policing practices and e) how motivation and opportunity determine whether implicit prejudices translate into ethnic profiling intentions.

Chair:

Stefanie Kemme, University of Münster

Participants:

The MODE Model in Policing: How Internal vs. External Motivation Regulates Prejudice Leakage *Stefanie Kemme, University of Münster; Cevdet Zengin, University of Muenster; Julia Clasen, Hamburg Police University; Eva Maria Groß, Police University Hamburg; Joachim Häfele, Police Academy of Lower Saxony/Institute for Crime and Security Research; Ilka Kammigan, Hochschule der Akademie der Polizei Hamburg; Amelie Nickel, University of Applied Sciences; Anabel Taefi, Police Academy of Lower Saxony; Ulrike Zähringer, Hamburg Police University*

Police decision-making under operational stress often reveals a "leakage" of implicit biases into discriminatory behavior, despite explicit professional norms. Our previous work has already identified links between cop culture and group-focused enmity (Taefi et al., 2025), yet the underlying cognitive mechanisms remain insufficiently explored. The MODE model (Olson and Fazio, 2009) posits that motivation and

opportunity determine whether implicit prejudices translate into controlled (explicit) actions. This study examines whether Internal Motivation to Respond without Prejudice (IMS) functions as a robust filter against both explicit and implicit prejudices, whereas External Motivation (EMS) produces only situational compliance. Using quantitative self-report data from the Hamburg Police (DeWePol project, N=1,394), we specified a hierarchical regression model to test the following hypothesis: Police officers with high IMS regulate explicit prejudice (Group-Focused Enmity [GMF] and also Social Dominance Orientation [SDO]) as well as implicit prejudice (Threat associations via exemplar ratings) more consistently in line with professional norms (ethnic profiling intentions) than officers primarily driven by EMS. IMS and EMS moderate the pathway from prejudice activation to ethnic profiling intentions. The findings show that Internal Motivation (IMS) emerges as the strongest protective factor against ethnic profiling intentions, independent of the level of implicit prejudice (threat level). External Motivation (EMS), by contrast, proves vulnerable under conditions of high implicit prejudice (threat level), allowing prejudices to 'leak' into behavioral intentions. The full model explains approximately one fifth of the variance in profiling intentions. These findings confirm that Internal Motivation (IMS) constitutes a stable 'robust' filter aligning both explicit, ideological (SDO/GMF) and implicit threat-related channels with non-discriminatory professional standards, whereas External Motivation (EMS) fails. Interventions should therefore prioritize the internalization of non-prejudiced norms over mere external compliance training in order to reduce bias leakage in policing.

Governing Through Space: Ethnographic Perspectives on Racism and Group-Focused Enmity in Policing *Daniela Hunold, HWR Berlin – Berlin School of Economics and Law*

This contribution examines how racism, stereotypes, and group-focused enmity are produced and enacted in everyday policing practices in Germany, with a particular focus on the spatial dimensions of these processes. Rather than treating racism as an individual attitude or deviation, the paper conceptualizes it as embedded in routine practices through which police officers perceive, classify, and govern urban spaces. Drawing on qualitative empirical research, including ethnographic insights and interview material, the analysis explores how certain places become marked as "problematic," "dangerous," or "out of order," and how these spatial attributions are closely intertwined with group-based constructions of belonging and otherness. Building on praxeological and relational theories of space, the paper shows how policing actively contributes to the production of social order by linking spatial categorizations to implicit and explicit forms of differentiation. The contribution highlights how, in situations of uncertainty and time pressure, officers rely on situational heuristics that connect place, appearance, and assumed group membership. These practices are not random but shaped by organizational routines, institutional knowledge, and broader socio-political discourses. In this way, stereotypes and group-focused enmity are reproduced not only through discourse but through spatially situated practices of control, presence, and intervention. By situating these dynamics within the specific institutional context of German policing, the paper contributes to a better understanding of how racism operates through the governance of space. It argues that critical engagement with racism in policing requires attention to the spatialization of suspicion and the everyday practices through which social boundaries are enacted and stabilized.

Explaining the Development of Group-Focused Enmity (GFE) in Police Service: A Longitudinal Study *Tabea Fleps, Hochschule für Polizei Baden-Württemberg; Thomas Mößle, Hochschule für Polizei Baden-Württemberg*

This contribution reports key findings from longitudinal association analyses on the development of GFE among students in the higher police service in Baden-Württemberg. The study is based on a quantitative panel analysis conducted within the research project "Werte – Value Development in the Police Baden-Württemberg: Training and Education," comprising three measurement points from the beginning of studies to the completion of the first field training phase (six months). The analyses draw on a panel sample of N=525 students. Participants are predominantly in their early twenties, approximately half are female, and around 20% have a migration background. The aim is to identify risk and protective factors during early stages of professional socialization. The results indicate, besides an overall low level of GFE, a high degree of temporal stability: baseline levels at the beginning of training emerge as the strongest predictor of later attitudes. Beyond this, specific initial attitudes significantly shape subsequent development. In particular, conformist value orientations and stronger tendencies to attribute blame to marginalized groups are associated with increases in GFE. In contrast, attitudes supporting unbiased thinking and behavior, as well as more lenient punitive orientations, function as protective factors that mitigate the development of prejudicial attitudes. Additional partial correlation analyses highlight the importance of practical experiences. Frustration during field training is positively associated with GFE, as are burdensome encounters with specific population groups. Conversely, positive and respectful interactions with citizens are associated with lower levels of GFE, highlighting the relevance of practice related experiences for attitudinal change. A further regression model shows that frustration itself is shaped by organizational factors. Perceived internal appreciation and a culture of conscientiousness act as protective factors, whereas a stronger perceived emphasis on sanctioning increases frustration. Overall, the analyses illustrate the interplay between individual dispositions, practical experiences, and organizational conditions in shaping value development.

Policing Diversity? Exploring Racism and Discrimination in Police Encounters in Germany *Eva Maria Groß, Police University Hamburg; Anabel Taefi, Police Academy of*

Lower Saxony; Tobias Singelnstein, Goethe University Frankfurt/Main; Tanita Jill Poeggel, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main; Amelie Nickel, University of Applied Sciences; Ilka Kammigan, Hochschule der Akademie der Polizei Hamburg; Mara Simon, Police University Hamburg

In the context of the growing politicization of diversity, empirically capturing racism in policing has become increasingly challenging. This presentation addresses that challenge by drawing on the collaborative project Racism and Discrimination Experiences in Police Contact (RaDiPol), which examines experiences of racism in interactions with the police in Germany. We focus on the situations in which negative and perceived discriminatory police encounters are reported and ask how these experiences are shaped by processes of racialization. The presentation is based on a mixed-methods design that combines quantitative analyses of frequencies, situational contexts, and group differences with qualitative interviews reflecting both the perspectives of those affected and of police officers. Our analysis explores how group-specific self-identification and perceived external racial ascription relate to negative and discriminatory police experiences, how different forms of racialization shape these experiences, and which racist narratives emerge in interviews with police officers. We also examine which situations and locations are especially relevant in the accounts of affected individuals and how racialization is articulated in these contexts. Our findings point to the central role of racialization in shaping both the frequency and quality of police encounters. At the same time, they show that these experiences vary considerably across contexts and social groupsand cannot be understood through racialization alone. Rather, racialization intersects with other axes of inequality such as gender, age, class, homelessness, and health. The presentation highlights the value of an intersectional anti-racist perspective that places the experiences of those affected at the center of the analysis.

How not being a member of the hegemonic group plays out badly in court *Nicole Bögelein, University of Cologne*

While courts assume the law does not allow biases based on race, the legal reality says otherwise. An There is a connection between social prognosis, nationality, race and sentencing in Germany. Quantitative studies have shown that non-nationals receive harsher sentences; this means more daily rates in penal fines, imprisonment rather than suspended sentences and longer prison terms. Unfortunately, these studies tell us nothing on why this is so. In the suggested paper we draw on data from courtroom observations and interviews with defendants. They were conducted in a project called "Performances and Manifestations of Institutional Racism in the Criminal Justice system". In this project during eight months of fieldwork, ethnographic data of low-level offences were gathered – we ended up having observed more than 300 cases altogether. In our grounded theory approach to data analysis, it became apparent that the court's evaluation of the defendant's social circumstances was important to the outcome. As one judge put it: "No education, no job, no plan" meant a harsher sentence. The so-called "social prognosis" is an important determinant in decision-making. We found that the factors which account for a positive assessment are often more difficult for marginalized groups to meet as they reflect classic white middle class standard biographies. For people who have accumulated disadvantages, this will spiral in the courtroom.

301. From Prevention to Protection: Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Violence and Victimization

Topic 4: Victimology/Policy and Prevention of Victimization (Victimology WG)

Paper Session

5:00 to 6:15 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.162

Chair:

Irene Montiel Juan, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Participants:

Preventing Adolescent Sexual Violence: Findings from a School-Based Bystander Cluster Randomized Trial in Portugal *Eunice Carmo, Center for Psychology at University of Porto, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, University of Porto, Portugal; William James Center for Research, Department of Education and Psychology, University of Aveiro, Portugal; Nélio Brazão, University of Coimbra; Bárbara Moreira, Center for Psychology at University of Porto, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, University of Porto, Rua Alfredo Allen, 4200-135 Porto, Portugal; Patrício Costa, Center for Psychology at University of Porto, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, University of Porto, Rua Alfredo Allen, 4200-135 Porto, Portugal; Joana Carvalho, William James Center for Research, Department of Education and Psychology, University of Aveiro, Campus Universitário de Santiago, 3810-193 Aveiro, Portugal*

Background Sexual violence (SV) among adolescents constitutes a public health problem with serious individual and societal consequences. Despite growing recognition of the importance of primary prevention, evidence-based interventions adapted to European contexts remain limited. School-based bystander programs have emerged as a promising strategy to address SV by promoting prosocial responses in situations of risk. However, empirical evidence on their implementation and effects in European school contexts remains scarce. This study reports findings from a cluster randomized trial (CRT) of the Stand Up Now against Sexual Violence (SUN) Program in Portugal. Methods A mixed-method, parallel-arm CRT was conducted with adolescents from secondary schools in the North and Centre of Portugal. Classes were randomized to either the SUN intervention or a control condition. The program comprises ten weekly sessions combining psychoeducation and skills training, targeting bystander attitudes and behaviors, empathy, sexual violence myths, and sexism. Data collection included longitudinal self-report measures across five time points and qualitative focus groups. Analyses examined intervention effects over time

alongside feasibility and acceptability indicators. Results The program was feasible to implement within school settings and achieved high levels of adherence. Participants reported strong engagement and perceived relevance of the content to real-life situations involving SV. Qualitative findings highlighted the importance of interactive components in facilitating reflection on social norms and responses to SV-related situations. Quantitative analyses of intervention outcomes are ongoing and will be reported at the conference. Overall, findings support both the acceptability of the intervention and its potential to inform prosocial responses to SV. Conclusions This study contributes to research on the primary prevention of sexual violence by providing evidence from a cluster randomized trial of a school-based bystander intervention with adolescents. The findings highlight the value of integrating implementation and outcome data to inform the development of scalable prevention strategies in European contexts.

Preventing secondary victimization: opportunities and barriers to implementing the Barnahus model for child victims in North Macedonia *Aleksandra Gruevska Drakulevski, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Iustinianus Primus Law Faculty in Skopje*

This paper examines the potential of the Barnahus model as a victim-centred approach to reducing secondary victimization among child victims within the criminal justice system in North Macedonia. Children who are victims or witnesses of violence are frequently exposed to multiple interviews, fragmented institutional responses, and procedures that may lead to retraumatization. In this context, the Barnahus model offers an integrated, multidisciplinary framework designed to ensure a coordinated, trauma-informed response. The study is based on qualitative policy analysis, including a review of national legislation, strategic documents, and relevant international standards, complemented by comparative insights from European jurisdictions where the model has been implemented. The analysis focuses on the extent to which the Barnahus model can address gaps in the current system, particularly in preventing secondary victimization and enhancing the protection of child victims' rights. Findings indicate that the implementation of the Barnahus model has the potential to significantly reduce secondary victimization by enabling single, child-sensitive forensic interviews, improving interagency coordination, and ensuring access to comprehensive support services. At the same time, several structural challenges are identified, including insufficient legal harmonization, limited institutional capacity, lack of specialized training, and concerns regarding long-term sustainability. The paper argues that the Barnahus model represents an effective policy response to victimization of children, contributing to both prevention of harm and strengthening of procedural justice. A phased implementation strategy is proposed, emphasizing legal reform, institutional cooperation, and capacity building. The study contributes to victimological research by highlighting the importance of trauma-informed, child-centred justice responses and by providing a policy-oriented case study from a transitioning legal system.

Responding to the Sexual Abuse of Children who live with Intellectual Disability/ies: Policy and Practitioner Perspectives in Victoria, Australia *Daniel Ian Walsh, Deakin University*

Children who live with intellectual disabilities can be at heightened risk of sexual abuse. Yet research suggests that, when disclosures are made, they are less likely to result in timely, effective or sufficiently protective responses. In Australia, despite the implementation of mandatory reporting and safeguarding frameworks, there is limited understanding of how core expectations are interpreted and enacted in response to the reported sexual abuse of this vulnerable cohort. This presentation reports preliminary findings from a study that is examining how disclosures of the sexual abuse of children who live with intellectual disabilities are responded to in Victoria, Australia. Situated within a socio ecological framework, qualitative policy analysis and semi-structured interviews with disability and sexual violence support practitioners are informing an exploration of the interaction between policy and organisational practice. The study is examining current guidance and supports available to practitioners to understand how they shape post-disclosure responses and to identify systemic and organisational barriers that may limit effective practice. The study will analyse the implications of the barriers identified - at a macro, meso, and micro-level - across policy, organisational/operational practices, and individual support experiences. It will also consider the potential application of key findings beyond Victoria.

#SchoolWithoutViolence: Longitudinal Impact of a Comprehensive School-Based Program on Child Victimization Reporting and Detection *Irene Montiel Juan, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya; Ana M. Greco, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya; Marina Bartolomé, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya*

Childhood victimization is a pervasive global issue, with approximately 90% of cases remaining unreported to official authorities. Building upon promising preliminary results, this study presents final outcomes of #SchoolWithoutViolence (#EscolaSenseViolencies), a pioneering comprehensive program in Spain. The intervention provides the educational community with resources to prevent all forms of interpersonal violence—including physical, emotional, sexual, and digital—within a Developmental Victimology framework, and act protectively and in accordance with the Organic Law 8/2021, of June 4, on the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents against Violence. The goal was to analyze effects on students' knowledge, staff preparedness, and real-world institutional reporting over two years. A longitudinal controlled design across four waves (2022 and 2024) included baseline, post-intervention, and a six-month follow-up. The sample consisted of 599 students and 51 school staff members from five experimental and four control primary schools. Assessment utilized validated psychometric

scales and institutional records of suspicions, disclosures, and formal notifications to external protection agencies. Findings indicate significant improvements in the experimental group's protective capacity. Students demonstrated sustained gains in knowledge regarding rights and self-protection strategies. School well-being increased significantly (d = 0.16) and remained high; although the significance was not sustained at follow-up, the positive trend persisted. Stable psychological well-being confirmed no negative effects. School staff reported significant, long-term gains in preparedness to manage disclosures, sustained six months post-training. Critically, institutional data revealed a 166% increase in violence disclosures and a wider variety of victimization types, such as neglect and sexual abuse. Formal reporting to external agencies rose to 87.5% for disclosures and 100% for registered concerns in the final year. The #SchoolWithoutViolence program provides concrete longitudinal evidence of reducing the "dark figure" of victimization. By empowering children and providing professionals with effective resources, this model successfully operationalizes legal protection mandates into effective school practice.

302. POLWG Panel 8: Building Police Science: Technology, Receptivity, Research, and Reform across Europe

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)

Paper Session

5:00 to 6:15 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.168

Chair:

Megan O'Neill, University of Dundee

Participants:

Police Administrators' and Police Executives' Receptivity to Police Research: Does Hierarchy Matter? *Sanja Kutnjak Ivković, Michigan State University; Krunoslav Borovec, Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia*

Existing research on police receptivity to research has largely been situated within the domains of evidence-based policing (EBP), research translation, and police–academic partnerships. However, this body of scholarship remains geographically limited, with most empirical studies conducted in a small number of countries, including Israel, South Korea, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Consequently, little is known about receptivity to research in other institutional and cultural contexts. Croatia, one of the most recent members of the European Union, provides a valuable case study due to its highly centralized policing system, characterized by uniform organizational structures, culture, and procedures. In the spring of 2025, we conducted a survey of 519 Croatian police administrators and executives to assess their familiarity with, and receptivity to, academic research. The questionnaire was developed based on prior studies conducted in the United States and Israel, as well as the broader literature on evidence-based policing and research utilization. Preliminary findings indicate that receptivity to research varies across different levels of the police hierarchy. Specifically, administrators and executives at local, regional, and national levels exhibit differing degrees of openness to engaging with and applying research evidence in their professional roles. These findings suggest that organizational position within a centralized policing system may shape attitudes toward research, with important implications for the implementation and diffusion of evidence-based practices.

Police Science: Defining a Discipline and Confronting Its Challenges *Cecilia Jonsson, Department of Criminology and Police Work, Linnaeus University; Magnus Persson, Department of Social Studies, Linnaeus University*

Police research has been conducted on a broader scale in Sweden since the 1990s, a decade often cited as the point at which academic interest in police research began to make its mark in the field. However, the academic disciplines of 'police science' and 'police work' are of much more recent origin. 'Police work' was established as a major subject at Swedish universities at the undergraduate level in 2015, and 'police science' at the postgraduate level in 2025 respectively. The aim of this paper is to outline the emergence of police science and to analyse its current state and development. The analysis draws on theories concerning the emergence and establishment of classical academic disciplines. These theories identify six criteria that constitute a social system for academic communication: scientific communities, institutional structures and roles, differentiation from related disciplines, standardised scientific publication, the establishment of scientific research as a distinct form of activity, and links to the education system. Using these criteria as a starting point, the status of police science in Sweden is discussed, and conditions and concerns shaping its future development are identified.

Professionalising Police Education in Iceland: Purposes and Knowledge Priorities *Olafur Orn Bragason, University of Iceland/National Police/UNAK; Guðmundur Oddsson, University of Akureyri*

Iceland's police service has, in recent decades, been profoundly shaped by both external and internal pressures to professionalise. A key milestone was reached in 2016, when the Icelandic government moved initial police education to the university level. In this article, we examine to what extent Iceland's 2016 police education reform has reshaped the professional purposes and knowledge priorities of initial police education as understood across policy, educational, and occupational domains. For our data, we analyse policy, legislative, and program documents alongside survey data from police students (N=504 and 193) and active police officers (N=360), which we interpret using Gert Biesta's tripartite model of educational purposes (qualification, socialisation, and subjectification) as an analytical lens. Our findings indicate that the reform has strengthened qualification and broadened the ethical and relational dimensions of socialisation, while support for subjectification is only beginning to emerge through new opportunities for critical reflection and independent judgement.

Beyond Barriers and CCTV: The Role of Communication and Data Sharing Practices in Securing Public Gatherings

Roger von Laufenberg, Vienna Centre for Societal Security, VICESSE Research

The occurrence of tragic incidents with mass casualties at public gatherings – such as the Hillsborough disaster in 1989 in Sheffield or the Loveparade disaster in 2010 in Duisburg, as well as a general trend of securitization and the fear of terrorism following 9/11 has significantly contributed to an increased focus on how to purposefully design public gatherings of all kinds – concerts, sport events, demonstrations – which emphasise the provision of security and safety for the attendees of these events, through complex security measures and an interplay of multiple agencies and organisations. Ranging from accurately placed barriers for so called crowd management, over digitized and 'intelligent' means of surveillance in the forms of CCTV (with or without facial recognition), drones and others, to the network of organisations involved, such as private and public security organisations, emergency services, event organisers – and finally the plethora of regulatory frameworks. The proposed contribution will focus on this complex socio-technical assemblage and the data and information sharing practices that lie at its core. To ensure that all these actors – human and technical – co-operate and engage within this network, communication and interaction is key. Based on qualitative research from 3 Case Studies on the organisation, security and surveillance of public gatherings in Austria, Bulgaria and Greece, we showcase how these communication practices involve both formal and informal channels (e.g. official preparatory meetings; informal debriefings after the event) on an intra and inter organisational level, and include official digital channels and networks as well as informal networks such as WhatsApp groups. Finally, the contribution will highlight both the integrations of these practices as well as the frictions that emerge (e.g. as some groups are left out of informal channels) and discuss its impact on the security practices on the one and the attendees of public gatherings on the other.

The usual suspects? The importance of mentors and 'tech champions' in digital evidence investigation systems *Megan O'Neill, University of Dundee; Amy Long, Univesity of Dundee*

Keeping pace with the rapid evolution of cyber-enabled crimes and the complexity of its resulting digital forensic evidence (DFE) is a critical priority for policing internationally. In striving to foster the requisite expertise to meet this challenge both locally and across Europe, Law Enforcement Agencies have by necessity invested in specialised digital forensic labs to carry out the work and implemented or outsourced for specialist knowledge repositories and top-down training programs. Underpinning these, formalised processes and standards are in place to ensure integrity maintained. Yet the involvement of DFE does not begin and end in these specialised environments. From crime scene to court, digital evidence is collected, processed, interpreted and integrated into investigations or final prosecution cases by officers across a diverse network of policing specialisms with disparate levels of technical expertise. This presentation will explore how learning is shared, sought and nurtured both formally and informally within and between teams and specialisations across this digital forensics' workflow. We draw on interviews and the daily diaries of practitioners, undertaken as part of CLARUS, a Horizon EU funded project aiming to enhance the quality, impartiality and reliability of digital forensics. Key findings include how informal networks of mentors and 'tech champions' compensate for knowledge gaps outside of the labs, while expertise within specialised labs is maintained through both formal and informal routes which extend beyond police organisational boundaries. These diverse forms of learning, alongside top-down efforts to train and to professionalise those within the system can interact in both helpful and unhelpful ways. Further, training and knowledge gaps create vulnerabilities to bias within the system, risking the integrity of the evidence pathway.

303. Hidden Patterns in Violence: Homicide, Socioeconomic Gradients, Non-Reporting and Sexual Victimisation

Topic 4: Victimology/Patterns and trends in Victimization (Victimology WG)

Paper Session

5:00 to 6:15 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.172

Chair:

Polina Obolenskaya, City University (London)

Participants:

Sexual Victimisation of People with Intellectual Disabilities in Catalonia *Alba Marsol, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya; Alba Águila-Otero, Universidad de Barcelona; Josep Tamarit, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya; Noemí Pereda, Universitat de Barcelona*

People with intellectual disabilities are at increased risk of experiencing different forms of victimisation. This heightened vulnerability is particularly evident in the context of sexual violence, where individuals with intellectual disabilities consistently report higher prevalence rates than their non-disabled peers. The aim of this study is to examine sexual violence against people with intellectual disabilities in Catalonia, specifically by estimating the prevalence of sexual victimisation during both childhood and adulthood. To achieve this objective, a sample of approximately 100 individuals aged 18 years and older was surveyed. Data were collected using an online and adapted version of the Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire (JVQ; Finkelhor et al., 2005), focusing exclusively on items related to sexual violence, including online and electronic forms. Additional items assessing sexual exploitation were incorporated based on recent European research (Averdijk et al., 2020; Fredlund et al., 2013). Furthermore, an ad hoc item was included to capture experiences of victimisation involving sexually explicit material generated through artificial intelligence. Participants reported experiences across their life course, specifying the age at which incidents occurred to differentiate between childhood and adult victimisation. The adaptation of the instrument aimed to facilitate communication and cognitive accessibility

for all participants. To this end, pictograms were incorporated into both the questions and response options, along with auditory supports. Prior to data collection, the survey was validated by a group of individuals with intellectual disability, which enabled the adaptation of the language and structure of the questionnaire. Preliminary results indicate a high lifetime prevalence of sexual victimisation among people with intellectual disabilities, affecting both childhood and adulthood. These findings highlight the urgent need to strengthen prevention, detection, and intervention strategies tailored to this particularly vulnerable population, as well as to address emerging forms of sexual violence in digital environments.

From Small to Grown Victims: Contrasting Crime-Scene and Post-Crime Circumstances of Homicides of Children and Adults with Disposed Bodies *Vitor Goncalves, Texas A&M - Central Texas; April Miin Miin Chai, Douglas College*

This study examines the crime-scene and post-crime characteristics of homicides involving disposed bodies, with a particular focus on differences between child and adult victims. While prior research has predominantly emphasized typical child homicide cases—often involving caregivers, domestic settings, and minimal post-crime manipulation—less is known about atypical cases in which victims' bodies are moved and concealed. Drawing on a sample of 743 homicide cases involving disposed bodies, collected from the Homicide Investigation Tracking System (HITS) database in Washington State, USA (1990–2020), this research explores how victim age and victim–offender relationships influence crime dynamics and body disposal patterns. Results suggest that variations in victim age are associated with distinct crime-scene and post-crime behaviors, including differences in offender organization, methods of killing, and body disposal strategies, reflecting both situational factors and relational dynamics between victims and offenders. Discussion and implications for homicide investigations will be presented and discussed.

To serve and to protect: Insights into crime non-reporting by nationality *Julia Weymeirsch, German Federal Criminal Police Office; Julia Rüdel, Federal Criminal Police Office*

Effective police work and crime control rely heavily on citizen reporting. Against the backdrop of debates surrounding so-called „migration crises", this study examines whether differences in reporting behavior exist between individuals with and without migration background. Our analysis draws on two waves of the periodical and nationwide victimization survey „Security and Crime in Germany" (SKiD 2020, 2024) conducted by the Federal Criminal Police Office and the federal state police offices in Germany. The findings reveal that individuals with an indirect migration background report violent and sexual offenses less frequently than those without a migration background. We consider these insights in relation to German police-reported crime data (Polizeiliche Kriminalstatistik, PKS), shedding light on the complex dynamics of crime reporting among migrants and non-German populations. This analysis makes a significant contribution to the field, providing valuable insights for the development of effective crime prevention and control. Our research has important implications for the protection of vulnerable groups, ultimately benefiting police work, society, and policy-making.

Socioeconomic gradients in violence victimization: Exploring victim-offender relationships in England and Wales *Elouise Davies, Office for National Statistics; Polina Obolenskaya, City University (London)*

A link between socioeconomic indicators and risk of violence victimization is relatively well documented, with existing research highlighting an association between lower socioeconomic circumstances and increased risks of violence. Less is known about the differential risks of violence victimization risks across socioeconomic characteristics by type of victim-perpetrator relationship, especially when disaggregated by gender. Using data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales, this paper explores the differences between socioeconomic gradients of violence perpetrated by domestic relations, acquaintances and strangers for men and women. We use a range of socioeconomic indicators, including individual (employment and education) and household level (income, tenure and benefit receipt), to show clear gendered differences in the socioeconomic gradient of violence victimization, particularly for domestic and acquaintance violence. The widening socioeconomic inequalities in the UK and other countries, it is likely that violence victimization could disproportionately impact individuals and households in more precarious economic positions.

304. DRUGS Panel 4. Drug Policy Responses, Policing and Criminal Justice

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Drugs and Crime (European Drug Policies WG)

Paper Session

5:00 to 6:15 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.510

Chair:

Kim Moeller, Aalborg University

Participants:

Learning community for enhancing policing practice *Michiel Beukers, Technologies for Criminal Investigations; Niels Beijer, Saxion University; Gerke Damsma, Saxion University*

Abstract Criminal investigations into violations of the Dutch Opium Act are becoming increasingly complex, requiring new forms of collaboration between investigative professionals and technological experts. This paper examines how and under what conditions learning communities facilitate the effective adoption of technological tools in Dutch drug-related investigations. In this context, a learning community refers to a structured form of collaboration in which investigative professionals and technical experts work together, share experiences, and learn from one another in an ongoing process. Within the learning community, practice and technology are closely connected through iterative learning cycles. Investigators discuss cases, experiment with tools such as sniffer technology, drone

technology, and handheld sensors, and reflect on their experiences in a structured way. This approach helps to identify what works in practice, what does not, and why. At the same time, attention is given to the legal and ethical frameworks that guide investigative work, including principles such as proportionality, subsidiarity, and the protection of privacy. The study is based on a qualitative case study, including observations, discussions with investigators and technical experts, and analysis of learning sessions. As a result, investigations can be conducted in a more effective and adaptive way. The paper also highlights the importance of embedding the learning community within the organization and ensuring sufficient support and leadership to sustain its long-term impact.

Impact Evaluation of the UK County Lines Programme *Tom Trower, UK Home Office*

The County Lines Programme aims to tackle the drug gangs that run county lines in England and Wales through violence and exploitation. The Programme is funded at scale, with allocations exceeding £42 million annually, to support national coordination, regional taskforces, and specialist interventions. 'County lines' is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs (primarily crack cocaine and heroin) into one or more importing areas (within the United Kingdom), using dedicated mobile phone lines or other forms of "deal line". They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store drugs and money. The UK Home Office produced an updated assessment of the effectiveness of the County Lines Programme in addressing its key crime outcomes, expanding on the previous evaluation conducted in 2024 by the London School of Economics. The report is published https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/evaluation-of-the-county-lines-programme The research evaluates the programme's impact on various aspects of crime, including serious violence and acquisitive crime, law enforcement activities, safeguarding referrals, drug misuse hospitalisations, and County Lines Programme metrics. Using a difference-in-differences methodology, the analysis compares changes in outcomes between areas affected by the programme and those unaffected, before and after its implementation. The 2025 evaluation and previous 2024 evaluation both indicate that the County Lines Programme leads to reductions in knife crime (measured through hospitalisations due to assault with a sharp object), and drug-related harms, as indicated by drug-misuse hospitalisations, within the exporter forces. Additionally, the evidence suggests that police-recorded crimes, such as violent offences and law enforcement efforts are increasing due to the County Lines Programme. However, this likely reflects heightened and targeted policing and changes in recording practices.

Addressing the Recruitment of Young People into Orgainsed Drug Crime and European Drugs Markets: Insights from the Safe Futures Project *Eóin O'Meara Daly, University of Limerick*

Young people's recruitment into organised drug crime represents a rapidly evolving criminal justice challenge, shaped by intersecting individual vulnerabilities, social influence pathways, and structural disadvantage. This paper presents the work of the Safe Futures project, a European Union Drugs Agency funded multi-phase research initiative that aims to develop a conceptual framework to guide future responses to the issue. Following a rapid evidence review (RER), it is presented that recruitment is rarely a single event but a cumulative process, increasingly facilitated through digital platforms, peer networks, and community-embedded criminal actors. The evidence review highlights eight complementary intervention approaches: (1) network-informed disruption; (2) family-centred, trauma-informed interventions; (3) rapid-engagement and embedded delivery models that prioritise swift contact; (4) place-based and collective-efficacy strategies that strengthen community resilience; (5) digital-safety and online counter-recruitment approaches; (6) school-based relational and mentoring interventions; (7) justice-adjacent 'reachable moment' interventions; and (8) economic opportunity and prosocial identity-building programmes. Evidence emphasises that multi-component strategies, and trauma-informed practice can be more impactful than standalone interventions. Despite promising developments, rigorous causal evidence remains limited, particularly in relation to digital recruitment and high-risk contexts. To address this gap, Phase Two of Safe Futures employs a qualitative, deliberative methodology across core European jurisdictions (Sweden, France, Ireland, Northern Ireland, and the Netherlands). The paper will present detailed findings from the RER and updates from phase two where semi-structured expert interviews are taking place to test, refine, and contextualise initial findings. The goal is to co-produce a prototype conceptual framework capable of guiding cross-sectoral responses to prevent youth recruitment and strengthen protective systems across Europe.

Drug Checking Services as frontline sentinels against synthetic opioids: Early Warning Systems in the context of shifting drug markets *Mireia Ventura, Director of international drug area of ABD*

The 2022 Taliban ban on opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan poses a serious threat to European drug markets. Historical evidence from the 2000–2001 ban suggests that heroin supply disruptions do not simply reduce consumption, they can trigger market shifts toward more dangerous substances. One of the most alarming plausible scenarios is the emergence of illicitly manufactured synthetic opioids as a heroin substitute, a transition that proved catastrophic in North America with over a quarter of a million people dying from drug overdose. Drug Checking Services (DCS) represent a critical, yet underutilized, component of Europe's public health response to this threat. By monitoring drug markets from the end-user's perspective, DCS offer real-time intelligence data on emerging substances and adulteration patterns that formal surveillance systems frequently miss. Case studies from the Spanish Energy Control and the European TEDI network illustrate how DCS have

successfully detected synthetic opioids, including fentanyl analogues sold as heroin, and disrupted supply chains through targeted early warnings at local, national, and transnational levels. The contrast between the Netherlands and the UK in the PMMA case where pills sold as Ecstasy actually contained lethal doses of PMMA further demonstrates that the speed of risk communication directly determines whether laboratory data saves lives. This presentation argues that integrating DCS systematically into national and European Early Warning Systems constitutes an essential drug policy priority, particularly as the risk of synthetic opioid infiltration into heroin markets grows.

The role of the Dutch club and festivalinfrastructure in normalizing drug use *Gijs Custers, Erasmus University*

The normalization thesis dates back to the 1990s, through which Parker et al. (1998) described how drug use among young people was becoming increasingly mainstream in postmodern society. The current study builds on theoretical explanations about normalization by considering how the contemporary club and festival infrastructure in the Netherlands is intertwined with drug use, and may play a role in the further normalization of drug use. The popularization of various electronic music genres such as house, techno, and hardcore has translated into an extensive club and festival infrastructure that relates in complex ways to the use of party drugs. This study examines this club and festival infrastructure more closely in terms of its historical development, political economy, and the actors operating within it. It will be argued that studying this infrastructure requires greater attention in order to understand party drug use among young people.

305. Media and social construction of crime III

Topic 6: Perceptions of Crime and Justice/Media and social construction of crime

Paper Session

5:00 to 6:15 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.511

Chair:

Jens Alvén Sjöberg, Malmö University

Participants:

Awareness, Knowledge and Involvement in Intimate Partner Violence (IPV): A Comparative Study amongst Undergraduate Students in Federal University of Lafia and Nasarawa State University, Nigeria *Sadiq Ewaoda Amali, University of South Africa*

Despite growing scholarly and policy attention to intimate partner violence (IPV) in Nigeria, a significant gap persists between heightened awareness and actual behavioral change, particularly within tertiary institutions. This study seeks to address this gap by systematically examining the awareness and knowledge levels of university students regarding IPV. A quantitative, cross-sectional survey design was employed, targeting undergraduate students from two higher education institutions in Nasarawa State: Federal University of Lafia (FULafia) and Nasarawa State University, Keffi (NSUK). A total of 1,337 respondents participated, with data collected through structured, self-administered questionnaires. Descriptive statistical analyses were conducted to explore the relationships among awareness, knowledge, and IPV involvement, while inferential statistics were applied to examine associations between variables and to test for significant differences between the two universities. Some selected findings indicate that gender, institution, and knowledge level are significant predictors of IPV engagement, highlighting the persistent influence of demographic and contextual factors on students' IPV experiences. Multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA) further revealed statistically significant differences in IPV involvement based on sex and institutional affiliation. These results underscore that IPV remains a pressing issue among undergraduates in Nigeria and cannot be mitigated through awareness alone.

News-making practices and constraints in the media coverage of illicit drugs *Liviu Alexandrescu, Manchester Metropolitan University*

News media depictions of drug use and drug-related crime have been criticised for their oftentimes sensationalist and reductionist storytelling frames, but equally for the dehumanisation and stigmatisation of people who use illicit substances or are otherwise involved in supply (Habib et al., 2023; Sumnall et al., 2025). Studies have shown that newsrooms routinely fail to apply ethical codes or harness field-specific expertise when reporting on such typically vulnerable groups and complex issues (Coomber, 2000), depending on a narrow range of institutional actors for information (Manning, 2013) and recycling pre-packaged content from criminal justice agencies' communications departments (Colbran, 2022). Drawing on in-depth, qualitative interviews with UK news professionals experienced in reporting on such topics and their wider impact, this paper discusses some of the cultural, practical and economic factors (and constraints) that shape the current media common sense (Gramsci, 1971) around illicit drugs (Alexandrescu, forthcoming). Though the journalists interviewed here seem to hold generally progressive views towards decriminalisation, they point to the difficulty of accessing people who use drugs and those directly involved in the illicit trade, alongside an overreliance on state sources and diminishing resources of time and staffing (particularly in regional contexts), limiting the depth and nuance of coverage. Equally, despite being aware of the potential risks of stigmatisation and stereotyping resulting from reporting, particularly when amplified through social media, they prefer self-regulation over the adherence to more formal, 'person first' language guides such as those proposed by advocacy organisations, seen as overly rigid, in shaping the tone and framing of news outputs (Global Commission on Drug Policy, 2017; International Network of People who Use Drugs, 2020). These findings emphasise the importance of understanding the wider organisational contexts and structural conditions of media production, alongside discourse itself, in analysing the oftentimes problematic interpretations of drug problems in the public arena.

The media's framing of Ceasefire Malmö to address gun-related gang violence *Jens Alvén Sjöberg, Malmö University*

News media remain pivotal intermediaries that help the public interpret societal developments through journalistic quality, professional accountability, and established editorial norms, particularly in relation to gun-related gang violence. One approach to addressing this issue in Sweden is the Group Violence Intervention (GVI) model, implemented locally as Ceasefire Malmö (Sluta skjut), which began in Malmö in 2017. Ceasefire Malmö is a complex, multi-agency initiative involving public authorities and community stakeholders, and it has attracted sustained media attention over the years. Thus, this study examines how news media have framed Ceasefire Malmö in its attempts to reduce gang violence, as well as public attitudes towards the project. Drawing on 69 news articles published between 2017 and early 2026 in local newspapers in Scania—the region in which Malmö is located—the analysis traces how media narratives and attitudes toward the initiative have evolved over time. Using framing theory and qualitative document and text analysis, the study investigates how Ceasefire Malmö has been represented as a social phenomenon, revealing competing interpretations of its aims, effectiveness, and legitimacy. Preliminary findings indicate that media portrayals cluster around three categories: criminal perspective, organizational collaboration, and shifting public attitudes. Each category reflects distinct evaluative stances toward the initiative for framing and shaping public understanding of the project. These framings shed light not only on the role of the media and the initiatives taken by various actors to prevent violence, but also on how the significance and perceived value of Ceasefire Malmö have changed in response to the broader public debate on gang violence. Ultimately, the study underscores the influential role of news media in constructing, contesting, and reshaping the public significance of violence-prevention initiatives in contemporary society.

306. Access, Gatekeeping and Situated Fieldwork

Topic 8: Methodologies in Criminology/Advances in Qualitative Methods (Qualitative Methods WG)
Paper Session
5:00 to 6:15 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.516
Chair:
Lorielle Elizabeth Giffin, University of Alberta
Participants:

"I Think I Have Been Ghosted… Again": Perspectives and Lessons from Researching Police Decision-Making in Ireland *Áine Bernadette Mannion, University College Cork*

Conducting social research with any cohort presents its own unique set of challenges and opportunities. This paper explores experiences and lessons learned from engaging in a PhD research project with members of An Garda Síochána (AGS). The study explored police decision-making regarding the admission to the statutory Garda Diversion Programme, an alternative to prosecution for children in Ireland. The participants were invited to take part in in-depth qualitative semi-structured interviews to illuminate on an area in which both the subject matter and jurisdictional context is underexplored. The research project was approved by AGS, and a gatekeeper from the relevant unit was assigned. Spoiler alert! After 2 years of attempting to gain access to participants the interviews never took place. However, what did occur, unknown to the researcher, after I informed AGS that I would no longer be pursuing interviews with their members, was AGS sent the qualitative interview schedule to 11 Gardaí who responded to the questions in writing. Therefore, this paper will reflect on lengthy ethical review processes, significant access challenges, and managing shifting institutional engagement. It also provides the findings from the unexpected data and examines the methodological implications of receiving written responses to an interview schedule originally designed for dialogical, researcher-led interaction. Particular attention is given to questions of data richness, reflexivity, power dynamics, and the integration of unanticipated data into a qualitative research design. By illuminating the methodological and relational dimensions of researching decision-makers in the Irish criminal justice system, this paper offers insights and practical strategies for researchers engaging with police or hard-to-reach professional groups. More broadly, it contributes to discussions on adaptability, researcher resilience, and the generation of meaningful qualitative insights in constrained research environments.

Researching Community Responses to Sex Offender Reintegration: Exploring the Value of Qualitative Case Study Research with Communities *Jordan Anderson, Swansea University*

Strong public responses to the reintegration of individuals convicted of sex offences have been observed in communities across the Anglophone liberal democracies. This paper explores the value of using qualitative case study research to understand the responses from communities to these events. It draws on case study research conducted in New Zealand across three communities that experienced high profile instances of notification of the release of individuals convicted of sex offences. It will also provide an overview of upcoming qualitative case study research on this issue being conducted across North and South Wales. The design of qualitative case study research is considered here, and in particular the value of working with community leaders to understand the concerns of community members and the nuances of the socio-cultural setting of the community. Qualitative case study research is an effective means of working with communities to develop an academic evidence base reflecting the complexity of their experiences, and it contributes to upending harmful dominant narratives about communities' understandings of what is happening to them. Finally, this paper explores the challenges posed by this type of research, and sets out how these can be navigated and ethically addressed. This paper provides a useful insight into the significant value of qualitative case study research for sensitive research into fraught and complex social issues.

Researching migrant smuggling narratives: access, power, and the politics of knowledge production *Stefani Efraimidou, HELLLENIC OPEN UNIVERSITY (H.O.U.); Myrna Papadouka, Senior lecturer in Criminology, Middlesex University, London; Nicola Montagna, Middlesex University London*

The present paper reflects on the methodological, ethical, and practical challenges of researching narratives on migrant smuggling across different stakeholder groups, drawing on ongoing qualitative fieldwork in Greece. Situated within recent developments in qualitative criminology—including narrative criminology (Presser and Sandberg 2019) and reflexive methodologies (Park 2010, Matos et al 2023)—the project examines how humanitarian practitioners, legal professionals, law enforcement agents, and migrants construct and negotiate narratives around migrant smuggling, and how these narratives shape broader understandings of mobility, agency, and criminality. Preliminary findings highlight significant differences in access, participation, and openness across groups. NGO workers, social workers, and legal practitioners were highly accessible, flexible, and transparent in sharing their perspectives. In contrast, access to law enforcement actors was shaped by bureaucratic gatekeeping, institutional sensitivities, and varying degrees of narrative control. Notably, coastguard representatives proved the most difficult to recruit, potentially reflecting their much-debated role in migration governance. Engagement with migrants posed distinct ethical and methodological dilemmas, including issues of compensation, trust, anonymity, and power dynamics shaped by gender and researcher positionality. Participants' reluctance to disclose personal details and constraints related to precarious working conditions highlighted the already known and acknowledged vulnerabilities. Rather than treating these challenges as obstacles to be overcome, the paper conceptualises them as constitutive of the research process itself. Building on contemporary debates around co-produced knowledge and the politics of representation, it argues that fieldwork encounters actively shape the narratives that can be told—and those that remain silenced. In doing so, the paper contributes to ongoing discussions on reflexivity, power, and ethics in criminological research on securitised and marginalised populations.

Weather on the Streets: The Structuring Force of Extreme Heat and Cold for Harm Reduction Outreach in Edmonton, Canada *Lorielle Elizabeth Giffin, University of Alberta*

Weather is everywhere. Despite this obvious fact, weather has rarely been taken up as a phenomenon of inquiry within social sciences, including criminology. Heeding Souhami's (2023) call to broaden our criminological imaginations through engaging with environmental factors often sidelined in urban criminological research, I explore the following weather specific research questions: (1) In what ways might weather structure the everyday practices of harm reduction-based street outreach in the context of Edmonton, Canada? And (2) How might considerations of the structuring force of weather be productive for criminological inquiry? To answer these questions, I use data from a 2.5-year carnal ethnography (Wacquant, 2015) with a volunteer-based harm reduction street outreach team in Edmonton. Like many Western Canadian cities, Edmonton is currently confronting intersecting crises of fentanyl-related drug poisonings and homelessness, both of which are unfolding under extreme seasonal weather conditions ranging from -30°C winters to +30°C summers. Weather, then, is an omnipresent structuring force in this urban locale, shaping both the needs of unhoused people who use drugs and how street outreach workers respond to them. These harms include heatstroke, hypothermia, sunburns, and frostbite, all of which co-occur alongside the provision of safer drug-use supplies and responding to open-air opioid overdoses. As such, I ultimately argue that extreme weather structures how outreach is logically organized and materially enacted. I also suggest that looking towards weather, rather than treating it as inconsequential background context, opens up new analytical questions for criminologists. Namely, how might weather shape substance use and culture on the streets? What implications might shifting weather conditions hold for the surveillance of homeless and/or substance using populations? And, more generally, where else might criminologists trace the structuring force of weather, including but not limited to research about violence, prisoner re-entry, and/or policing?

307. Radical Right, Authoritarianism, and Penality (III)

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Penology and Theories Punishment (Crime, Science and Politics WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
5:00 to 6:15 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.517

Over the past four decades, scholarship on punishment and society has centrally engaged with contemporary penal change, particularly the so-called punitive turn. While early work focused on the United States and the rise in punitiveness since the 1970s, this concern has since extended to diverse national contexts across the Global North and South. From the outset, debates have examined the role of governmental rationalities in shaping penal transformations. The concept of neoliberalism—variously understood as governmentality or a phase of capitalist development—has featured prominently since the 1990s, albeit with divergent theoretical inflections. By the late twentieth century, authors such as O'Malley (1999) highlighted the hybridisation of neoliberalism with neoconservatism within concrete political alliances, often articulated through the notion of the 'new right'. More recently, across Europe and the Americas, right-wing radicalisation has produced new political formations and realignments, achieving significant electoral success. Terms such as 'far right', 'radical right', and 'alt-right' seek to capture these developments. In this climate, penal discourses and policies are increasingly connected to emergent authoritarianisms, inviting renewed engagement with concepts like 'authoritarian populism' (Hall et al., 1978; Hall, 1985) and 'socially implanted authoritarianism' (Pinheiro, 1991). Despite these shifts, existing literature remains limited, with analyses of cases such as Trump-era US being relatively superficial and

lacking comparative depth. This panel series addresses that gap by bringing together cross-national research on the penal impact of new radical right coalitions and agendas, exploring ruptures with prior penal trends, the relationship between rhetoric and practice, carceral expansion, and the emergence of resistance to punitive proposals.

Chair:

Maximo Sozzo, Universidad de A Coruña / Universidad Nacional del Litoral

Participants:

Custody Hearings at stake: the new advances of authoritarian interests in the criminal justice system in Brazil *Bruna Diniz, Federal Fluminense University; Paula Rosa, Northumbria University; Ian Matozo Especiato, PhD in Criminal Law from the University of São Paulo*

Populism and punitiveness in Brazil seem to walk hand in hand, and the discourse of 'tough on crime' is commonly adopted by politicians to attract votes. The criminal justice system, human rights and judicial guarantees, public safety policies and policing, seem all to be topics ever present in the political arena, and even more so with the rise and popularisation of far-right politicians and a new type of conservatism. In this context, we have conducted research into 68 legislative bills regarding custody hearings to verify what has been proposed in the Brazilian National Congress in this topic so far, and what are the discourses that permeate the justifications presented. During the analysis, we also looked at the political position of the politicians that have proposed the bills, to understand if there is a relation with the type of discourse adopted. Custody hearings were chosen because of the debates they generate around topics such as models of criminal justice system, human rights, limits to punitive power, policing activities, the role of the Judiciary, amongst others. What we found were a smaller number of bills that sought to implement or expand custody hearings, and a larger number of bills that sought to abolish, decharacterise, or limit them. We used thematic analysis to identify and organise the main arguments used to support the bills proposed, and we found arguments that ranged from the use of human rights and need to control police activity to the need to protect society and fight against impunity.

Surrendering to anti-gender ideology: sex law reform and counterreform in Spain *Patricia Faraldo-Cabana, Universidade da Coruña*

In this paper, I demonstrate how changes to Spanish criminal law produced a highly contradictory outcome, which constitutes the most astonishing volte face in the recent history of the Spanish criminal justice system. I explain how a 2023 law reform, which changes the consent standard in rape cases, was a counter-reform, a backlash due to the political confluence between a disgruntled part of the feminist movement and the anti-gender conservative agenda. I argue that even a feminism that seeks more lenient penalties is susceptible to strong criticism that undermines its achievements. I offer a critical analysis of how, and under what circumstances, a gender-informed, feminist-inspired legal policy can be successfully challenged, questioning what 'counts' as rape and how it should be legally defined.

Criminalizing Youth: Italy's authoritarian drift between public discourse and the politics of punishment *Daniela Ronco, University of Turin - Department of Law*

This paper examines the punitive turn in Italian governance over the three-year period starting in October 2022, when a right-wing coalition came to power and began implementing a series of legislative measures characterized by authoritarian rhetoric and a repressive approach to social control. It investigates how these laws operate simultaneously as instruments of political communication—serving to consolidate ideological consensus—and as mechanisms that concretely curtail civil liberties, particularly those of younger generations. Focusing on three key laws — the Anti-Rave Decree, the Caivano Decree, and the Security Decree — the analysis highlights their cumulative role in normalizing state repression and undermining democratic safeguards. While presented as responses to public order emergencies, these decrees extend criminalization to civic and protest activities, expand the carceral system for minors, and impose severe penalties on nonviolent dissent. Together, they exemplify the government's strategic use of emergency legislation to consolidate executive authority, erode the rule of law, and curtail spaces of democratic participation.

308. Attitudes about Punishment and Criminal Justice System II

Topic 6: Perceptions of Crime and Justice/Attitudes about Punishment and Criminal Justice System

Paper Session

5:00 to 6:15 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.610

Chair:

Katarzyna Jakubczak-Fopke, University of Gdansk, Department of Material Criminal Law and Criminology

Participants:

Before the encounter: Sources of anticipatory injustice *Natasha Madon, Griffith University; Maria Jung, Toronto Metropolitan University; Carolyn Greene, Wilfrid Laurier University*

How people perceive encounters with police has been the focus of a great deal of research, with many of these studies pointing to the role of procedural justice in shaping citizens' evaluations of police. More recently, scholars have questioned whether people bring non-normative expectations of how they will be treated by police officers into interactions with police potentially shaping whether procedural justice, even when given, is received. Emerging research on anticipatory justice supports this and suggests that these preconceived expectations can indeed shape how people interpret police-citizen interactions. However, to date, no research has explored the correlates of police anticipatory injustice. This study seeks to begin to address this gap by examining individual and police related factors associated with anticipatory injustice. Drawing on a sample of over 700 immigrants to Canada, we examine how individual factors such as prior victimisation and perceptions of bias against

one's ethnic group, as well as police factors such as contact with police in one's home country, experiences of intrusive policing, and perceived moral alignment with police predict anticipatory justice or injustice. As the first study to unpack the factors related to perceptions of anticipatory injustice, the findings will inform further research on which factors matter more and for whom when it comes to the development of anticipatory justice or injustice. In addition, the findings of this study have important implications for both theoretical and measurement refinement of this emerging concept.

Everyday Theories about Crime Causation and Punitive Attitudes: A Large-Scale Study of Social Work Students in Germany *Michael Hanslmaier, Technische Hochschule Nürnberg Georg Simon Ohm*

Social workers often act as 'gatekeepers' within the welfare and criminal justice systems, making their punitive orientations a matter of significant practical relevance. Yet, the socio-psychological roots of these attitudes remain largely under-researched within this profession. This study examines how everyday lay theories about crime causation shape punitive attitudes among social work students in Germany. Drawing on a large-scale sample of N = 2,052 first-year students across seven universities, we test whether internal and external causal attributions predict punitiveness. To address ongoing debates about measurement validity in criminological research, we utilize multiple punitiveness indicators: death penalty support, sentencing leniency evaluations, specific sanction preferences, and punitive reactions in a casework vignette. Multivariate regression analyses reveal that structural/societal attributions—locating crime causes in poverty, exclusion, and socialization failures—consistently predict lower punitiveness across most indicators. Conversely, migration-related attributions are strongly associated with higher punitive attitudes, including harsher proposed reactions in everyday casework. Rational choice and family/education attributions yield weak and largely inconsistent effects. These patterns remain robust after controlling for fear of crime, anomie, perceived crime trends, and sociodemographic factors. The findings contribute to the literature by extending attribution research to the German context and demonstrating that measurement choices matter significantly, as the strength and direction of effects vary across punitiveness indicators. Ultimately, the results underscore the necessity of critical reflection on causal assumptions during professional social work education.

False Confidence in Understanding the Police Caution: Criminal Thinking Predicting Miscomprehension in a Lay Sample *Ioannis Spyropoulos, Kingston University London; Aiman El Asam, Kingston University London*

Understanding the police caution is a critical safeguard in the early stages of the criminal justice process, yet research consistently shows that only a small minority of the public fully comprehend it. This study examined whether criminal thinking style predicts a specific non optimal decision: confirming understanding of the police caution while being unable to explain its meaning. Using a video game simulation of the journey from arrest to the police interview, 292 participants with no prior arrest experience were repeatedly presented with the police caution and asked whether they understood it. Participants who confirmed understanding were then required to explain its meaning. Consistent with previous findings that people often "confirm that they understand it when in fact they do not," many participants partially or completely failed to explain the caution. Logistic regression analysis showed that elevated general criminal thinking and criminal sentiments significantly increased the likelihood of this non optimal caution decision, defined as claiming understanding but demonstrating miscomprehension. As noted in the study, participants with higher criminal thinking scores were more likely to report understanding the caution despite failing to articulate its meaning. These findings suggest that biased cognitions associated with criminal thinking may reduce suspects' willingness to seek clarification and increase false confidence in comprehension. This has important implications for policing practice: individuals who appear to understand their rights may in fact be operating under significant misapprehension, potentially undermining the fairness of subsequent legal decisions.

Chemical and surgical castration of sex offenders - effective punishment, therapeutic measure or dehumanizing torture? *Katarzyna Jakubczak-Fopke, University of Gdansk, Department of Material Criminal Law and Criminology*

The phenomenon of child sexual abuse and more broadly, sexual crime, is a burning crime policy problem in the 21st century, both globally and in Europe. Recent date indicate that the scale of sexual violence is still on an upward trend in the majority of EU countries. The growing problem of sexual crime has become a critical point for discussion on the effectiveness of existing methods of combating and preventing such offenses, including the need for more radical measures. In recent years several countries adopted harsher punishments and additional measures, including chemical and surgical castration. A fundamental question arises about the permissibility of such measures. It seemed that the experiences of the 19/20th centuries, particularly the atrocities of World War II, eugenics programs, and subsequent racial cleansing, had brought about a shift toward human rights, temporarily supplanting interest in the idea of forced castration. The rising interest in compulsory medical intervention along with a global shift from punishment to broader criminal measures - that go beyond preventive and compensatory goals, has sparked renewed interest in the idea of castration. Public opinion, strongly resonating with penal populism, demands immediate and effective punishment. Whatever one may say, castration, fits these requirements perfectly. The article will present results of the research, carried out within the framework of the National Science Center grant: Chemical and surgical castration of sex offenders - effective punishment, therapeutic measure or dehumanizing torture? A comparative legal analysis of

American and European models.(2022/45/N/HS5/00905). The author will discuss a comparative analysis of American and European regulations, as well as legal and human rights standards on physical and chemical castration—focusing on the prohibition of torture, privacy, and sexual and reproductive rights. Author aims to determine whether "libido-reducing therapies" constitute a legally admissible criminal law sanction.

309. Gender, Victims and the Emotional Politics of Security

Topic 6: Perceptions of Crime and Justice/Political and Social Discourses about Crime and Justice (Crime, Science and Politics WG)

Paper Session

5:00 to 6:15 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.616

Chair:

Elke Evrard, Ghent University

Participants:

FEELING POLITICAL: A multi-modal and comparative investigation of the emotional politics of populist discourse on security *H Bowman, Maynooth University; Claire E Hamilton, Prof. Claire Hamilton*

The rise of populism is widely regarded as one of the most significant phenomena in today's political world with important implications for democracy and the rights of minorities. Unpicking the role of emotion in this rise, this paper compares inclusionary and exclusionary populist discourse across three case study jurisdictions that exhibit notable variation in populist actors' proximity to political office (France, Ireland and Poland). 'Security populism' underpins discourse around crime and protection and is often particularly emotionally charged. Populist political actors trade in claims to protect an imagined heartland and its 'people' from 'dangerous Others' through the performance of security. Given that communicating (in)security is a relational and emotional process, this paper interrogates the affective power of populist security narratives ─ beyond traditional text-based sentiment analysis to include other modalities such as speech and images. Applying multi-modal sentiment analysis supported by supervised machine-learning, we combine analysis of leaders' speeches, party manifestos and press releases. In this paper we offer preliminary findings to respond to the question: how are explicit and implicit appeals to emotion conveyed multi-modally in populist security discourse? We highlight the performative spectacle of security within populist discourse and present insights on the use of framing, staging and projected affect.

Femicide in Romania: Between Media Discourses, Public Pressure, Political Agendas and Legislative Reform *Ana Visan, University of Bucharest*

This article examines the issue of femicide in Romania during the period 2025-2026, from the perspective of the interplay between social discourses and perceptions, political responses, and legislative intervention. It is grounded in the premise that the definition and legal regulation of crime do not merely reflect empirical realities, but are also shaped by specific social and political contexts. Amid intensified media coverage of cases involving the killing of women, the term "femicide" has been progressively incorporated into public discourse in Romania, serving to reframe such acts as manifestations of gender-based violence rather than isolated incidents. This discursive shift has been advanced by both institutional and non-institutional actors, thereby generating significant pressure on political decision-makers to adopt swift normative responses. In this process, media framing and advocacy discourses have played a central role in transforming individual cases into a perceived structural phenomenon. In this context, 2026 marks the adoption of new legislation that explicitly introduces the notion of femicide into Romanian criminal law and strengthens the sanctioning framework applicable to offenses committed in the context of violence against women. This legislative move reflects not only a punitive turn in criminal policy, but also a broader dynamic of symbolic responsiveness to public concern. The article interprets this legislative development as the outcome of a convergence between symbolic and social imperatives – such as recognition or visibility – and political considerations, while also underscoring the limitations of such an approach, particularly in the absence of effective implementation mechanisms. In conclusion, the paper demonstrates how discourses on crime and justice shape both the political agenda and legislative developments, raising critical questions about the effectiveness and sustainability of legislative interventions adopted under conditions of public pressure. It also highlights the tensions between legal redundancy, normative innovation, and the politics of visibility in contemporary criminal justice reforms.

Securitizing Gender and the Problem of Extremist Men Online *Sara Salman, Victoria University of Wellington Te Herenga Waka; Veronika Nagy, VU Amsterdam*

This paper traces the systematic invisibility of gender as a structural factor in early terrorism scholarship, and its selective reappearance as a psychologized risk category when the profile of perpetrators shifted from othered Muslim men to white, domestic lone actors. We argue that the conceptual migration from terrorism to radicalization to violent extremism"reflects not simply an evolution in the phenomenon itself, but a transformation in state objectives, from external military response to internal preventive governance of thought and digital behavior. The stretching of definitions across these categories depoliticizes violence, recasting acts of political aspiration as expressions of individual status frustration and masculinity crisis. Drawing on Science and Technology Studies, we further argue that contemporary digital platforms function as socio-technical infrastructure that actively co-produces extremist identities, constituting a third generation of online radicalization characterized by ideological fluidity, algorithmic amplification of aggrieved entitlement, and the collapse of the distinction between "doing gender" and "doing extremism."

Victim Mobilisation Strategies and the Making of Public Discourse on Reparations in Canada and Spain *Elke*

Evrard, Ghent University

Addressing the legacies of widespread state-sponsored violence remains one of the most complex challenges in contemporary justice systems. Reparation programmes have emerged as pivotal mechanisms for redress and have gained increasing prominence in political and societal debates on historical and colonial injustices, racial and political oppression, conflict-related violence and other forms of harm - including in consolidated democracies. Reflecting this reality, victimology and socio-legal studies have increasingly examined the protagonism of victim-survivor movements in advancing reparation claims, through litigation, advocacy and other forms of mobilization. However, far less attention has been given to how these strategies contribute to shaping public understandings of repair. Rather than assessing effectiveness or explaining the strategic choices of mobilising groups, this paper therefore asks: What are the predominant state-facing repertoires used by victim groups to pursue reparations in consolidated democracies, and how do these contribute (both intentionally and unintentionally) to structuring public discourse and narratives surrounding harm, responsibility and repair? Drawing on comparative legal and policy analysis across a range of consolidated democracies, the paper first develops a high-level typology of adjudicative strategies (e.g. strategic litigation), investigative and quasi-legal strategies (e.g. truth-seeking) and negotiated and policy-based strategies (e.g. coalition-building), as well as cross-cutting pathways such as international escalation and memory-based recognition. The paper then turns to Spain and Canada as exemplifying case studies, bringing in further insights from expert interviews to examine how, in these contexts, different repertoires interact with media and institutional narratives, and how these dynamics are mediated within public discourse through processes of victim definition, understandings of harm, responsibility attribution and the construction of legitimate forms of justice, producing distinct (and often contested) discursive environments around reparations that may influence public attitudes towards reparation claims and measures.

310. Working Group on Organized Crime and Criminal Networks - Panel 4 - Illicit Markets and Cross-Border Trade

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Transnational Crime (Organized Crime WG)

Paper Session

5:00 to 6:15 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.014

Chair:

Dan Maurice Silverstone, Liverpool John Moores university

Participants:

Assessing the risk of firearm-related incidents: a pan-European exploratory analysis *Marina Mancuso, Transcrime - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore; Deborah Manzi, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore – Transcrime*

Predicting and mitigating gun violence remains a critical challenge for European public safety. The drivers underlying illicit trafficking and the criminal use of firearms are inherently dynamic, varying significantly across both time and space. This study introduces an innovative methodological framework designed to estimate European geographic zones with a higher likelihood of firearm-related incidents. To achieve this, the study developed a composite risk indicator composed of distinct dimensions, which together provide a multifaceted assessment of risk. This disaggregated structure enables users to monitor specific contributing factors more closely and gain a more nuanced understanding of the local context. The proposed approach allows obtaining an updated intelligence picture of the phenomenon, enhancing the identification of new traffic trends and the definition of refined risk profiles. It is also instrumental in informing decision-making, serving as a powerful tool to proactively address firearms trafficking. Ultimately, this research bridges the gap between theoretical modelling and operational strategy, guiding responses to a growing transnational challenge.

Cross-border crime, South American style: the case of migrant smuggling *Roberto Navarro-Dolmestch, University of Tarapaca, Chile*

Traditional approaches to migrant smuggling tend to distinguish between two reference models for the penal control of transnational flows. The first, devised within the framework of the Palermo Convention, is characterised by the functional linkage between migrant smuggling and transnational organised crime. Under this model, what is sanctioned is the activity of the organised smuggling of migrants as an organised criminal enterprise. The requirement that the smuggler obtain a financial or material benefit is an expression of this functional linkage between the phenomenon and organised crime. The second model is that adopted by the European Union, which dispenses with the profit requirement and, consequently, what is sanctioned is not smuggling in the strict sense, but rather the facilitation of irregular migratory flows. South American legal systems incorporate, without exception, the profit requirement. However, this does not warrant their classification as expressions of the Palermo Convention model. These systems construct a third model, equidistant between the Palermo and the European frameworks. This differentiation rests upon two elements. The first pertains to legal design: South American states have configured their migrant smuggling offences in a manner that is functionally detached from transnational organised crime; accordingly, the sole element of transnationality they retain is the criminalisation of assistance rendered to a migrant for the purpose of irregularly crossing the border of another state. The second element is phenomenological. Based on empirical evidence drawn from the adjudication of cases in Chile the evidence suggests that the interpretation of profit has been narrowed from the obtainment of a financial or material benefit to the mere receipt of income, however negligible it may be. Charging a minimal fee for assistance with irregular entry, practically at subsistence level, has sufficed for the courts to deem

such facilitation as constitutive of a criminal offence.

Fellow-Countryman Associations, Irregular Migration and Crime: Vietnamese Networks Following the Essex Lorry Tragedy *Dan Maurice Silverstone, Liverpool John Moores university; Hai Luong, Griffith University*

The 2019 death of 39 Vietnamese migrants in a refrigerated lorry in Essex highlights the tragic consequences of irregular migration and organised crime in Europe. This case revealed complex social, economic, and criminal networks linking Vietnamese rural communities with labour and illicit economies across the UK and the EU. Using Granovetter's (1973) "Strength of Weak Ties" theory, the analysis emphasises that weak social bonds, such as acquaintances and distant relatives, are crucial for disseminating information and opportunities. In Vietnam, migration is often facilitated by brokers within loosely connected networks that rely on word-of-mouth and trust rather than formal organisations, enabling migrants to access routes with limited knowledge of criminal involvement. Combining Granovetter's theory with Luong's concept of fellow-countryman associations in Vietnamese syndicates overseas, the study examines how strong ties (family) and weak ties (diaspora contacts, informal brokers) form a migration infrastructure. A qualitative, network-based approach analysed interviews with Vietnamese victims, Law enforcement in both the UK and Vietnam and court transcripts from Ha Tinh Court and the British High Court has been implementd. Findings reveal three key dynamics: fellow-countryman associations as informal migration links; intersections with organised crime involved in human smuggling, labour exploitation, and cannabis cultivation; and how ethnic solidarity can be exploited by criminals to expand transnational activities. The Essex tragedy illustrates that irregular migration is not solely an individual choice but is embedded within collective social networks shaped by structural inequalities, cultural norms, and transnational criminal opportunities. By placing Vietnamese migration within broader criminological debates on ethnicity, social capital, and crime. The findings have implications for policy approaches that move beyond punitive migration control towards community-based prevention, victim protection, and international cooperation targeting networked criminal facilitators.

311. Cybercrime Governance, Infrastructure and Policing

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Cybercrime (Cybercrime WG)
Paper Session
5:00 to 6:15 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.116

Chair:
Maryja Šupa, Vilnius University

Participants:

Beyond cybersecurity: cyber-physical threats to critical water infrastructure *Daniel Cooper, University College London; Angelina Magal, University College London; Wael Mahlous, University College London; Eleanor Wong, University College London*

Drinking water and wastewater systems are increasingly digitised and interconnected, expanding their exposure to adversarial exploitation. At the same time, the threat landscape is evolving toward hybrid forms of conflict, in which malicious actors blend cyber and physical attack modalities. This article presents a systematic review of research on hybrid threats in these systems, focusing on (i) cyberattacks that induce physical consequences and (ii) integrated attacks combining simultaneous cyber and physical mechanisms. We characterise the literature in terms of threat models, representation and modelling methods, countermeasures, and documented impacts. We also identify areas for further study, including under-explored threat vectors and impacts, and robustness in experimental evaluation.

Breaking Bad: The Metastasis of Indian Call Centre Scams and the New Policing Challenge *Mark Button, University of Portsmouth; Suleman Lazarus, London School of Economics; Branislav Hock, University of Portsmouth; Paul Gilmour, University of Portsmouth; Durgesh Pandey, Unaffiliated; James Sabia, Ghana Armed Forces*

This paper addresses a critical gap in cybercrime scholarship. We examine Indian call centre fraud operations targeting English-speaking nations. Despite generating estimated annual losses exceeding $1.9 billion in the United States alone, this phenomenon has received minimal academic attention. We draw on qualitative interviews with fraudsters, law enforcement officials, journalists, and scambaiters. We analyse enforcement actions and victimisation data from 2016 to 2024. Our research documents a fundamental transformation in the operational landscape. Initially, the sector featured large-scale "behemoth" operations concentrated in established call centre hubs. The sector has undergone what we term "metastasis". Operations have fragmented into dispersed micro, small, and medium enterprises following intensified enforcement from 2023 onwards. This displacement extends geographically into neighbouring countries. It extends linguistically beyond Anglophone markets. Our findings raise questions regarding established displacement theory assumptions developed for traditional crimes, which the authors argue require more research. We reveal minimal diffusion of benefits and significant adaptive capacity among transnational cyber offenders. We advocate for enhanced international cooperation and prosecution-focused enforcement strategies.

The UN Convention against cybercime. The legal challenges and dillemas *Katarzyna Badźmirowska-Masłowska, War Studies University, Faculty of Law and Administration, Warsaw Poland; Wiktor Wilkołaski, War Studies University*

The UN Convention Against Cybercrime, adopted through the General Assembly resolution 79/243 (24 Dec. 2024, opened for signature on 25 Oct. 2025) is the first international instrument and unprecedented framework harmonising the global response to prevent and combat cybercrime within the risky-opportunity environment of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs). However, several questions have arisen. Methodologically grounded in a doctrinal

analysis of the Convention and a comparative legal assessment of the post-2025 EU regulatory paradigm, this study introduces structural paradoxes that might significantly hinder the treaty's operational feasibility in 2026. First, the Extraterritorial Surveillance Dilemma has occurred due to doubts regarding the way of creation of the international cooperation mechanisms, in the context of categorizing metadata analysis as a lower-tier privacy intrusion. Second, the query about Privatization Friction emerges: to what extent does the UN framework's mandate for state-driven data interception collide with the crystallized post-2025 European Union paradigm? Following the late-2025 "Chat Control" compromise, the EU has pivoted toward a "voluntary" risk-management model. Does this divergence functionally outsource surface-web corporate liability management to commercial technology architectures? Crucially, it seems that both the UN and EU approaches remain structurally insufficient to truly provide peer-to-peer topologies, where the most severe exploitation networks currently operate. Ultimately, the justifiable inclusion of offences related to online child sexual abuse or child sexual exploitation material (CSAM) within Chapter II presents a substantial criminological and structural challenge. It seems that without structurally decoupling CSAM enforcement into a highly conditioned, opt-in plurilateral protocol attached to the UN Convention (or an entirely separate Convention) – thus creating a trusted inner circle for direct-to-provider data production that imposes heightened, proportionality-tested evidentiary thresholds upon metadata requests originating from the base Convention might fail as a tool of systemic security of minors.

Innovation, deviance, and offending: three decades of Internet development in Lithuania *Maryja Šupa, Vilnius University; Jovita Žėkaitė–Maconko, Vilnius University*

Since the first Internet connection was established in Lithuania in 1991, the network has developed alongside with social, political, and economic changes of a society in post-Soviet transition. Alongside academic and business organisations, the infrastructure had become inhabited by pioneers and digital subcultures, and subsequently became a ubiquitous part of the mainstream everyday. From the perspective of cultural criminology of the Internet, we explore this topic through a cultural lens and juxtapositions of intersubjectively lived experiences. Part of a larger research project, this paper presents the results of an ongoing study about the development of internet deviance and online offending in Lithuania. It is based on oral history interviews with members of online communities active in different periods and using different communication platforms (Fidonet, BBSs, world wide web, social media etc.). The paper traces the development of creative innovations, subcultural and institutional deviance, and online offending throughout the three decades of Internet in Lithuania. Early on, these activities fell into legal gray areas and included examples such as: early cases of illicit access to digital infrastructures; distribution and consumption of digital content (software, music, film, games, fonts), or legal workarounds used by early IT for-profit businesses. While the legal system and criminal justice system struggled to adapt to new technologies, it was often up to communities and informal arrangements to react to cases that stretched the limits or misused digital technology. In the later years, the focus has shifted to institutionalised responses and increasing regulation of the digital realm. In turn, these narratives reflect broader sets of normative conflicts and power relations around digital technology -- and their evolution through different development periods.

312. Memory and narratives in organized crime and corruption: how stories shape the underworld

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Narrative Criminology
Pre-arranged Panel
5:00 to 6:15 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.130

This panel examines how stories, memory practices, and cultural scripts shape understandings of organised crime and corruption across contexts. The four papers trace how narratives construct villains, legitimize authority, and translate past violences into present-day social power—from an Australian journalist's archive on the 'ndrangheta and mafia-themed tours in New York's Little Italy to conspiratorial media memory of corruption in post-socialist Czechia and the internal rhetoric of the Almighty Latin King and Queen's Nation used to train gang members. Together they highlight the political and moral work of storytelling—how selective framing, nostalgia, and rhetorical repertoires produce reputations, territorial claims, and collective identities that sustain or contest underworld influence.

Chair:
Grazia Enerina Pisano, University of Perugia

Participants:

Finding the Villain Between "Honoured Society" and the Italian Community in the Personal Archive of an Australian Journalist *Grazia Enerina Pisano, University of Perugia; Anna Sergi, University of Bologna*

After his death in 2008, Roderick (Rod) Campbell, an investigative journalist for the Canberra Times, left behind an archive principally centred around clippings - collected and organized throughout his life from 1974 to 2004 - which form a distinct personal archive. Characterized by a strong degree of intentionality in its organization and curation, this research adopts a historiographical-narrative perspective, viewing the archive as a self-representation of the journalist. The collection is thus examined as a "testament of memory" concerning organized crime in Australia and, specifically, Italian mafia-type group: the so-called "Honoured Society" (the 'ndrangheta). While the corpus includes articles concerning other types of crimes and organised crime - categorised by different ethnicities, from Chinese to South American (among others) - the vast majority focuses on Italian organised crime and the Italian community, even when the latter is not directly involved in organized crime or crime in general. This prompts a research question: how does the private archive of an Australian journalist map the boundary between the Honoured Society and the Italian community? Adopting a perspective of historical

criminology to understand the links - and the boundaries - between the "Honoured Society" and the Italian migrant community in this testament of memory, this contribution also proposes an analysis of Australian newspapers concerning this topic, published in "The Canberra Times" and "The Area News" from 1974 to 2004 to match the dates of the journalist's archive. Drawing on both migration studies and critical criminological research, and the analysis will explore the narrative threads within the archive: "Italian crimes, murders, and violence not necessarily linked to organised crime/mafia"; "the Honoured Society"; "Narrative construction of the 'bad guy'"; and "Italian families and the Italian community".This study examines the framing transmitted by this self-representation of the author's knowledge concerning the "Honoured Society," the Italian community, and the links, and boundaries, between them.

How La Cosa Nostra survives in NoLiTa: walking through Little Italy in NYC between mafia landmarks and nostalgia *Anna Sergi, University of Bologna*

This article uses a walking-methodology focused on mafia-themed tours (both in groups and self-conducted) through Little Italy and Nolita in NYC to interrogate how storytelling and nostalgia reproduce La Cosa Nostra's, the Italian-American mafia contemporary relevance. By following guided routes, narrated landmarks, and performative stops, the study shows how touristic scripts distil complex histories into marketable myths that stabilize past reputation and translate it into present-day social power. The walking approach—combining participant observation, audio-visual records of guides' narratives, and mapping of gentrified Nolita's altered streetscape—reveals four interlinked processes: (1) selective amplification of iconic names, sites, and rites that act as reputational signposts; (2) narrative compression that converts episodic violence and organised practices into coherent brand stories; (3) spatial re-inscription of mafia (alleged) authority onto gentrified commercial corridors, producing symbolic territoriality; and (4) reciprocal reinforcement between tour narratives and wider public expectations (victims, debtors, competitors) that sustain an 'heritage brand'. The chapter argues that mafia tours function not merely as entertainment but as active cultural infrastructure: they perform, legitimize, and circulate the symbolic currency by which LCN remains legible and actionable in contemporary urban life, namely nostalgia.

Narrating the past through corruption: Conspiratorial memory and the media construction of political corruption scandals in Czechia *Petr Kupka, University of Ostrava; Veronika Pehe, Czech Academy of Sciences, Institute of Contemporary History*

Within criminology, political corruption is often thematized as a form of crime of the powerful, which receives less media attention than violent crime. In this paper, we study a postsocialist context - Czechia - where mainstream media have extensively written about political corruption. However, we argue that in their efforts to expose corruption and abuse of power, the media have inadvertently produced conspiratorial narratives about the past. Based on ethnographic media analysis of 585 documents covering the four most significant corruption scandals in Czechia since the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989, we will demonstrate that in writing about corruption, media employed a discursive repertoire evoking elite secret societies, historical references, tropes of organized crime, "puppet master" figures and dossiers of secret documents. By using this repertoire to refer to past corruption scandals in order to explain current ones, corruption and the struggle against it became one of the dominant tools for the narrativization and interpretation of the entire postsocialist period in Czechia. We thus argue that the media discourse around corruption scandals can be interpreted as a form of "conspiratorial memory". Our wider suggestion is that narrative and cultural criminological approaches to the study of corruption and organized crime can be enriched by tools from memory studies in order to grasp how societies make sense of their recent past through ideas of crime.

313. Sharenting as Child Data Exposure: From Everyday Sharing to Digital Risk.

Topic 3: Crime Correlates/Social Media and Crime
Pre-arranged Panel
5:00 to 6:15 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.136

Sharenting, parents' online sharing of children's personal information, has become normalised in digital family life. While parents share information about their children to keep their network updated on milestones and everyday moments, increasing attention is being paid to potential risks. Through sharenting, it may become possible to identify a child's location and routines or gain insight into potential vulnerabilities. Bringing together empirical, theoretical, and legal perspectives, the panel explores how sharenting practices are embedded in everyday family life, where parents and children actively negotiate privacy boundaries. It interrogates the criminogenic and possible social harm dimensions of sharenting, including risks related to privacy violations, identity misuse, and long-term digital exposure. Further, the limitations of existing regulatory frameworks are critically assessed, particularly in light of emerging technologies such as generative AI, where children's data may be incorporated into training datasets, challenging established principles such as consent and the right to erasure. The panel also critically examines the allocation of responsibility, moving beyond a sole focus on parental behaviour to consider the role of platforms and third parties. Drawing on findings from qualitative research, survey studies, and legal analysis, the panel advances understanding of sharenting-related risks and the prevention and intervention strategies needed. It calls for child-centred approaches that address responsibilities across families and platforms, a need the panel addresses by advancing the criminological debate on the challenges of children's digital presence.

Chair:

Michel Walrave, University of Antwerp

Participants:

Building Awareness for Safer and Technology Savvy Sharenting: Criminological insights from the ProTechThem project. *Pamela Ugwudike, University of Southampton; Anita Lavorgna, University of Bologna;*

Morena Tartari, Northumbria University; Silke Roth, University of Southampton; Natalie Djohari, Bournemouth University

The growing pervasiveness of social media platforms and other digital technologies in everyday life has amplified the practice commonly known as sharenting: the online sharing of identifiable or sensitive information about minors by parents or other adults within the child's social circle. Far from being merely a cultural trend of sociological interest, sharenting is increasingly recognised as a phenomenon with potentially significant short and long term implications. These risks warrant deeper examination of its criminogenic dimensions and the broader social harms it may generate, particularly as digital traces of childhood become enduring, searchable, and repurposable across multiple online environments. This presentation offers an up to date and multidimensional analysis of sharenting, situating it within the complex interplay of individual motivations, socio cultural dynamics, and enabling technological infrastructures. Such an intersection of factors not only normalises and facilitates the practice but also mirrors broader patterns observed in other digitally mediated behaviours of criminological relevance. By exploring these entanglements, the presentation aims to illuminate why sharenting has become both widespread and socially accepted, despite growing evidence of its potential to expose minors to privacy violations, commercial exploitation, identity misuse, and various forms of digital risk. We will present a selection of empirical findings and conceptual reflections emerging from the research project ProTechThem: Building Awareness for Safer and Technology Savvy Sharenting, highlighting key challenges, emerging trends, and avenues for promoting more informed, responsible, and child centred digital practices.

What Changed in Sharenting's Risk for Cybervictimisation among Romanian Children? A 2018–2026 Comparison. *Anca Velicu, Romanian Academy Research; Gyongyver Tokes, Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania; Bianca Balea, Romanian Academy Research*

Sharenting is at the same time one of the most widespread practices among parents and one of the most neglected risk factors for cybervictimisation in children by research, despite being widely claimed to be such a factor. Based on Romanian data collected in 2018, a recent study (2025) delved into sharenting's connection with three forms of cybervictimisation that exposed children could experience. The results of the study show that, while when taken alone, sharenting is a significant risk factor for general cybervictimisation, cyberhate and personal data misuse, when sharenting is considered alongside other individual risk factors documented by the literature, it only accounted for cyberhate and personal data misuse, but not for general cybervictimisation. However, since 2018 the digital landscape has been changing, with the dominance of short-form video, the switch from the social-graph to the interest-graph in AI-driven algorithms, the focus on authenticity and the increased importance of micro- and nano-influencers and, last but not least, important changes in regulations, from the introduction of General Comment 25 to the UNCRC, to the DSA. Although, presumably, all these changes could have influenced the above-mentioned link between sharenting and the risk of cybervictimisation in children, no studies have tested this idea. In the present study, we examine what has changed in sharenting's role in children's risks of cybervictimisation during this period, by re-testing the hypotheses from Velicu and Tokes' study on a new set of data collected among 10–16-year-old Romanian children between February and March 2026. Both sets of data (2018 and 2026) are part of the international EU Kids Online project, bound by the EU Kids Online network's commitment to ethical research centred on children's rights.

Sharenting: A matter of parental responsibility or of criminal responsibility? *Claire Bessant, Northumbria University*

Globally, millions of parents engage in sharenting. Although some disclose only limited information to family and friends, substantial numbers share information with followers worldwide. Many engage in monetised sharenting. With parents the primary actors in the sharenting context, much sharenting literature focuses upon the parent-child dyad. Sharenting is, however, facilitated and encouraged by others, by platforms, brands, family, and friends. Furthermore, the risks which some scholars suggest sharenting poses to children result primarily from third party actions; from individuals and organisations using children's information in ways that parents did not anticipate or desire. Sharented images have been uploaded by third parties to sites displaying paedophilic content. Concerns are expressed that AI-facilitated manipulation of children's images and voices will in future result in children becoming the victims of identity fraud, blackmail, and 'sextortion'. In some jurisdictions, steps have been taken to inform and educate parents about the potential risks. Increasingly, however, scholars recognise that focusing upon parents and upon regulating parental behaviours may not be the most appropriate approach, or most effective means of protecting children from sharenting-related harms. Some scholars suggest a shift in attention is needed, from parents to the social media platforms that facilitate and encourage sharenting, who profit from collecting and reusing sharented information, and who have created the environment in which children's lives are exposed to diverse, international audiences. This paper suggests another alternative. It uses Martha Albertson Fineman's vulnerability theory as a heuristic device to explore the nature of individual and state responsibility in the sharenting context. It argues that the law needs to more effectively address the actions of the third parties who misuse, manipulate and exploit sharented information, suggesting greater attention should be given to the role of the criminal law in the sharenting context.

Towards Mindful Sharenting: Reconciling Parental Online Sharing Practices with Children's Privacy and Security. *Michel Walrave, University of Antwerp; Lara Hallam, University of Antwerp - AP University College; Luna Staes, University of Antwerp*

Despite increasing public debate on sharenting, research on how families negotiate tensions between sharing and protecting children's personal data remains limited. This presentation focuses on the findings from two qualitative studies conducted in Belgium: one examining parents' insights into sharenting-related risks, their motives for sharing their children's personal information online, and family negotiations; the other focusing on parents' protective practices, conceptualised as mindful sharenting. The first study draws on 30 semi-structured interviews with parents and adolescents. Parents report sharing content primarily out of pride and to maintain social connections. Adolescents' attitudes towards their parents' sharenting are nuanced and depend on the type of content shared. While positive portrayals and milestone events are generally accepted, adolescents express discomfort with embarrassing, overly personal, or unapproved posts. Both groups are aware of privacy and security risks and describe strategies to manage boundaries, such as prior consultation and informal rules on acceptable content. The second study, based on in-depth interviews with eight mother–father dyads, explores parents' more cautious sharenting practices. These are often triggered by prior negative experiences, exposure to risk narratives, and concerns about identity misuse and online harassment. Parents also emphasise the importance of preserving children's future autonomy over their online presence. To balance social and emotional benefits with privacy concerns, they adopt several strategies to reduce identifiability. However, these practices also generate tensions. Parents report criticism from relatives and situations where others share identifiable images of their child, prompting ongoing negotiation of privacy boundaries. Overall, the findings highlight sharenting as an evolving practice shaped by continuous negotiations within families and extended social networks. These negotiations are also shaped by social expectations and can lead to tensions with both children and relatives. Finally, the presentation further illustrates how privacy management is collaboratively negotiated between parents, children, and their broader social network.

314. Pockets of Punitiveness in the Welfare State: Rethinking Nordic Penal Exceptionalism

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Imprisonment, Prisons, Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment (Prisons WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
5:00 to 6:15 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.156

This panel marks the launch of a 2026 themed issue of Incarceration, which sets out a new conceptual agenda for studying Nordic penality by moving beyond the familiar benchmark of "exceptionalism." Rather than asking whether Nordic systems are humane, we examine how comparatively humane welfare state arrangements can nonetheless generate and sustain pockets of punitiveness — sites where penal intensity crystallises within otherwise mild regimes. These punitive pockets are not necessarily anomalies or institutional failures. They may arise through design, historical inertia, bureaucratic drift, or as unintended consequences of policies framed in the language of rights, protection, or rehabilitation. By foregrounding these pockets, the panel sidesteps the binary of either celebrating or debunking Nordic exceptionalism. Instead, it asks how punitive intensity is produced, justified, and experienced within systems widely understood as benevolent. This includes practices not formally defined as punishment — such as voluntary isolation, youth interventions, and treatment regimes. Empirically, the panel spans multiple sites of coercive confinement, both inside and beyond prisons, showing how punitive pockets cluster around particular populations or become embedded in institutional logics. Analytically, it contributes to debates on the ambidextrous nature of penal welfare states, the high expectations placed on the welfare state, and the normalisation of punitive practices within systems oriented toward care.

Chairs:

Julie Laursen, University of Copenhagen
Frederik Rom Taxhjelm, University of Copenhagen

Participants:

Conceptualising punitive intensity beyond exceptionalism *Julie Laursen, University of Copenhagen; Frederik Rom Taxhjelm, University of Copenhagen*

This paper develops the concept of 'pockets of punitiveness' as a theoretical framework for analysing variation in penal intensity within comparatively humane welfare-state regimes. Rather than positioning Nordic penality along a spectrum from humane to punitive, the paper reconceptualises punishment as internally differentiated, drawing attention to localised sites where coercion intensifies within relatively moderate systems. The analysis specifies the analytical properties of "pockets" – including their depth, visibility, and degree of institutionalisation – and examines the mechanisms through which they emerge and persist. These include legal constructions that mask harm, welfare interventions that extend control, and organisational dynamics such as risk management and resource constraints. The paper further advances a relational account of punishment, showing how experiences of severity are shaped by expectations of the welfare state. In doing so, it clarifies how punitive practices can be normalised within benevolent systems and outlines how the concept can be applied comparatively across different sites of coercive confinement.

Penal-welfare and youth pockets: A historical case study of the indeterminate youth prison sanction in Denmark *Lea Cecilie Brinkgaard, University of Copenhagen*

This paper explores the concept 'pockets of punitiveness' by tracing the historical origins, transformations, and resilient features of the relatively indeterminate Danish Youth Prison Sanction (YPS), in force from 1933 to 1973. Drawing on archival and published sources from the 1890s to 1930s, the study examines how the YPS's 'coercive confinement' practices were shaped by key professionals, experts, and politicians within penal and social spheres. Situating these sources within influential Nordic welfare historiography, penal studies, and youth history, the analysis highlights the sanction's inter-institutional nature and deep rootedness in welfare governance emerging in the late nineteenth century.

Building on a pluralistic understanding of historical time, the article suggests that youth deemed a(t) risk constitutes a 'pocket' within the fabric of the Danish welfare state. Ultimately, the study offers an expanded understanding of the resilience of these penal-welfare entanglements and the historical and structural dynamics shaping Danish youth crime control today.

Contrasts in legitimacy: Indefinite preventive sentencing in Norway and England and Wales *John Todd-Kvam, University College of Norwegian Correctional Service; Catherine Appleton, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Department of Mental Health, Norway.; Sophie Ellis, Prison Reform Trust; Harry Annison, University of Southampton*

This article explores an ostensibly strange legitimacy gap between two forms of indefinite preventive detention in Norway and in England and Wales – jurisdictions, respectively, considered progressive and punitive outliers in Europe. Despite their differing penal traditions, both jurisdictions have employed indefinite post-conviction preventive detention, through the Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) sentence in England and Wales and forvaring in Norway. A key distinction is that IPPs were legislatively abolished after widespread criticism, while forvaring retains high levels of legitimacy, representing a pocket of indefinite punishment within Norway's penal-welfare state. Our comparison analyses four contributory explanations for this: burden of proof; scale, resourcing and delivery; position in the penal hierarchy; and different penal cultures. We conclude that Norway's emphasis on rehabilitation fosters a more permissive context for change-based sanctions, while the availability of formal life sentences in England and Wales facilitated the abolition of IPPs without a major penal shift.

New logics of (un)deservingness? The discursive construction of a 'punitive pocket' in Danish penal policy *Asbjørn Laursen Storgaard, University of Southern Denmark*

This article examines the emergence of a 'punitive pocket' within contemporary Danish prison and probation policy discourse, focusing on how specific offender groups—particularly gang members—are discursively constructed as less deserving of rehabilitative support. Through a close reading of a key policy document, the so-called Framework Agreement for 2018–2021, alongside related policy developments, the article explores how heightened emphasis on security, staffing challenges, and prison capacity constraints have contributed to rhetorically delineating certain inmates as inherently problematic. These developments are situated within broader debates on bifurcation, bordered penality, and the erosion of Nordic exceptionalism. Rather than identifying a punitive turn, the analysis reveals a more fragmented shift that selectively reconfigures access to core welfare values. In doing so, the paper provides further empirical nuance to ongoing theoretical discussions about how a changing representation of 'criminals' in policy may be subtly reshaping the ideological foundations of state-sanctioned punishment in Denmark.

The depth of imprisonment revisited *Ben Crewe, University of Cambridge*

As this themed issue suggests, it might be argued that forms of imprisonment, such as the 'exceptional' prison conditions associated with the Nordic nations – and the more punitive pockets within them – can only ever be understood relative to other systems and experiences. Indeed, many aspects of confinement are intelligible only when understood comparatively, or in light of prior experiences of autonomy, coercion and other such matters. This is especially true of the 'depth' of imprisonment, a concept which is in large part about the distance or polarity between life in prison and in the community. Drawing on a range of studies and research literature, this article reflects on and develops the concept of the depth of imprisonment' Its aim is to clarify some of the complexities and co-ordinates of depth, set out how experiences of different forms of depth can vary, illustrate how subjective experiences of depth do not always correspond with its objective features, and offer some suggestions for further exploration of this aspect of imprisonment.

315. PWG Panel 13: Comparative Prison Governance, Standards and State Capacity

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Imprisonment, Prisons, Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment (Prisons WG)
Paper Session
5:00 to 6:15 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.158

Chair:

Marta Campos Pinto da Cruz, University of Amsterdam

Participants:

Between Symbolic Compliance and Transformative Change: Female Imprisonment and the Internalisation of the Bangkok Rules in Brazil and Ireland *Larissa Leilane Fontes de Lima, PhD candidate, School of Law, University of Galway*

Almost sixteen years after the adoption of the Bangkok Rules by the UN General Assembly, female imprisonment continues to rise worldwide, raising critical questions about the effectiveness of gender-sensitive international standards. Drawing on feminist criminology, critical criminology and critical theories of human rights, this study examines the persistent expansion of female incarceration despite international human rights law commitments to non-custodial measures for women offenders as a matter of priority. Adopting a comparative and intersectional approach, the study is based on qualitative analysis of legal frameworks, policy documents and institutional practices in Brazil and Ireland, exploring how different regional institutional settings, legal traditions and socio-penal dynamics shape the internalisation process. In Ireland, the incorporation of the Bangkok Rules has largely occurred through gradual policy alignment, institutional translation and ongoing monitoring within a European human rights framework, whereas in Brazil it has taken place through formal incorporation into the legal system. However, in both countries, the lived realities of imprisoned women continue to reflect significant gaps, including overcrowding, inadequate

healthcare, violations of reproductive rights and the limited use of non-custodial measures. The findings suggest that the internalisation of the Bangkok Rules cannot be understood as a purely legal process, but rather as a multi-layered transformation involving normative diffusion, institutional practices and structural constraints. Despite distinct trajectories, both jurisdictions reveal a shared pattern in which formal recognition coexists with persistent barriers to effective implementation. The paper highlights the limitations of international standards that remain embedded within existing penal structures. It argues that meaningful implementation requires not only formal legal adoption but sustained decarcerative strategies and structural reforms capable of addressing the underlying causes of women's criminalisation. Keywords: Female Imprisonment; Feminist criminology; Bangkok Rules; Intersectionality; Internalisation; Brazil and Ireland.

Between the Official and the Demanded: Types of Transparency and Surveillance around Prisons in Spain *Pablo Pinochet-Ábalos, Universidade da Coruna*

Laws are shaped by specific ideals and purposes, establishing an analytical axis between what is formally declared in legal norms and what is ultimately realized in social reality. In 21st-century Western societies, transparency has gained unprecedented prominence as a fundamental requirement for democracy, governance, and public accountability. In Spain, this mandate is embodied in Law 19/2013 on Transparency, Access to Public Information, and Good Governance (LTAIBG). Despite a long tradition of research on both the static and dynamic aspects of penitentiary systems, there remains a gap in understanding how the implementation of the LTAIBG influences both how prisons are understood by human rights NGOs and criminology. This study aims to explore the gaps between declared or ideal prison transparency and the forms of transparency effectively implemented by Spanish penitentiary administrations, from the perspective of human rights–oriented organizations. To this end, the research adopts an exploratory qualitative methodology, including 11 semi-structured interviews with NGO representatives and one focus group, complemented by the analysis of administrative documents and databases of information requests from the Transparency Portal. The empirical findings suggest that, although there are institutional efforts to promote openness, official prison transparency is selective and performative. While increased access to aggregated and statistical information about prisons is acknowledged, there remain significant information gaps regarding time-bound events such as allegations of ill-treatment, torture, and other issues frequently raised by NGOs. Empirically examining the dimensions of prison transparency enables the integration of prison studies into broader contemporary criminological frameworks, including studies on panopticism, surveillance, and counter-surveillance, among others. This research is part of the international project Prison Transparency Project funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Selective state capacity and the politics of containment in Southeast Asian prisons *Nasrul Ismail, University of Bristol, United Kingdom*

Chronic neglect of prison health in low- and middle-income countries is widely attributed to fiscal scarcity or weak state capacity. This paper challenges that assumption. Drawing on the COVID-19 pandemic as a diagnostic stress test, it asks why states that routinely neglect incarcerated populations proved able to intervene decisively in prisons during the crisis, yet failed to translate intervention into sustained reform. The study employs a convergent mixed-methods design across Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand, integrating comparative analysis of 154 policy documents, regression analysis of prison expenditure data (2010–2023), and 37 elite interviews with senior policymakers, prison officials, health professionals, and civil society actors. The paper advances the concept of selective state capacity: the conditional deployment of state resources in politically marginal institutions, activated when crises threaten spillover into the wider community and withdrawn once the external risk recedes. The findings show that governments mobilised fiscal and administrative resources during the pandemic, but only when outbreaks threatened populations beyond prison walls. Crucially, higher national income did not predict greater protection for incarcerated populations, indicating that the binding constraint on prisoner welfare is political valuation, not economic capacity. This containment logic operated across three distinct regime configurations: carceral democracy, semi-democratic marginality, and authoritarian stability, yet converged on the same outcome: medicalised containment without decarceration. The paper reframes protection failures in carceral systems from questions of development to questions of political economy, with implications for how criminology theorises state responses to marginalised populations under crisis conditions.

Youth Confinement in Taiwan: The Interplay of History, Culture, and Relational Governance *Pei Ying Wang, University of Reading*

This study examines youth confinement in Taiwan as a historically layered system in which colonial discipline, authoritarian governance, and contemporary human-rights reforms coexist. Drawing on twelve months of ethnographic fieldwork with twenty-five young men in a state correctional facility, it explores how these legacies continue to shape everyday life, social relations, and institutional order. Practices introduced during the Japanese colonial period and intensified under authoritarian rule—such as militarised routines and hierarchical evaluation—remain embedded in daily life. At the same time, post-democratisation reforms, influenced by frameworks such as the UNCRC, have restricted coercion and introduced new vocabularies of care. These layers do not replace one another, but interact in the present. Engaging with Southern criminology and an Asian relational perspective, the study argues that correctional practice operates through relational governance, in which authority is produced

through relationships rather than imposed solely through rules. Staff adopt parental roles, combining care and discipline, and creating an emotional grey zone in which support and control intertwine. Over time, this fosters internalised regulation, as young people adjust their behaviour in response to relationships. This relational logic is also reproduced among peers. Hierarchy is shaped not only by strength, but by relational competence—the ability to read situations and manage interactions. Even material objects, such as Hello Kitty display books, function as markers of social capital, making hierarchy visible. When relationships function well, the institution can feel like a home. However, this sense of home is fragile, as it depends on relationships structured by power and constraint.

The Treatment of International Prisoners in Domestic Penal Systems: A Sore Thumb Amongst the Foreign Prisoner Population? *Marta Campos Pinto da Cruz, University of Amsterdam*

Without a penitentiary structure or prison system of their own, international criminal courts and tribunals (ICCTs) must rely on states to enforce the sentences they mete out. By being left as a matter of domestic regulation with limited supervision from the international institution, the practical enforcement of international prison sentences is a black box in the law and practice of the ICCTs. This leads to questions over potential inequality in the treatment of prisoners (depending on where they are serving their sentences), as well as over the rehabilitative and reforming effects of the sentence. The latter issue is particularly prominent in the case of internationally convicted persons who serve their sentences away from their countries of nationality or residency, thus putting them in an arguably analogous position to that of foreign national prisoners. Foreign national prisoners face specific challenges and vulnerabilities inherent to incarceration in a foreign country, including language barriers, cultural deprivation, and discrimination in access to rehabilitation services. While international prisoners may face some of the same issues, it is not certain that their experience may be conflated with that of other foreign prisoners, insofar as (i) their sentences are adjudicated and supervised (albeit to a limited extent) by an international institution, and (ii) the purpose of their incarceration is defined by the goals of international criminal justice, rather than the penal policies of the states of enforcement. This paper seeks to interrogate whether these and other specificities inherent to the condition of 'international prisoner' lead to contrasts amongst the foreign national population. If so, this might reveal that, despite lacking their own penitentiary system stricto sensu, ICCTs have a more definitive role in shaping the carceral conditions and treatment of international prisoners than previously assumed, despite their subordination to the carceral sovereignty of enforcement states.

316. Poverty and Structural Inequalities Panel

Topic 3: Crime Correlates/Poverty and Structural Inequalities
Paper Session
5:00 to 6:15 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.164

Chair:

Paulina Waszkiewicz, Wyższa Szkoła Kształcenia Zawodowego

Participants:

Homelessness, imprisonment and volunteering. The role of support during life crisis *Karolina Anna Całkowska, Akademia Wymiaru Sprawiedliwości (The University of Justice)*

The presentation will provide an overview of the results of the research project 'Community participation in the enforcement of the sentence of imprisonment – rehabilitation, readaptation and reintegration aspects of the return of convicts to society", the aim of which was to identify the extent of community involvement in postpenitentiary help activities aimed at people in life crisis, i.e. those experiencing homelessness, including those with a history of imprisonment. The main aim of the research project was to identify the role played by volunteers in helping people overcome the life crisis associated with homelessness and the experience of imprisonment. The research project aimed to identify the scope of assistance provided by volunteers to people who have completed their prison sentences and remain in a crisis of homelessness, as well as to identify the main needs associated with this type of life situation, from the perspective of both those providing assistance and those receiving it. The research was conducted using a questionnaire survey (60 people were surveyed – beneficiaries of support who were in a life crisis, including homelessness and a history of imprisonment) and interviews (5 interviews were conducted with volunteers working with homeless people and those experiencing other crisis situations). During the presentation, the findings of the research will be presented and discussed – what are the main support needs associated with the situation of staying in a crisis of homelessness after leaving prison, from the perspective of both volunteers and the beneficiary of such support; what difficulties arise when providing support and what methods are suggested for overcoming them; and what role the relationship established between the volunteer and the person in need of help plays in overcoming the life crisis and achieving social reintegration.

Socioeconomic Moderation of Childhood Adversities and Violent Criminal Offending *Janne Vepsäläinen, Tampere University; Mikko Aaltonen, Faculty of Law, University of Eastern Finland; Joonas Pitkänen, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Helsinki; Noora Ellonen, Research director; Pekka Martikainen, Population Research Unit, University of Helsinki, Finland*

This study examines how socioeconomic status (SES) moderates the association between childhood adversity and later violent criminal behavior. Grounded in the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) framework, the analysis focuses on whether structural resources and disadvantages in childhood households shape the developmental consequences of early-life adversities. The study uses Finnish administrative register data covering all children born in Finland between 1987–

2000 (N = 835,512). Parental adversities reflecting household dysfunction—parental death, substance abuse, mental health problems, and criminal convictions—are measured from ages 0 to 14. SES indicators, including parental education and household income, are incorporated to capture socioeconomic context. Violent criminal offending between ages 15 and 20 serves as the outcome. Analytical methods consist of regression models with interaction terms between ACE indicators and SES variables, complemented by average marginal effects and predicted probabilities. We hypothesize that the association between childhood adversity and violent offending is amplified in low SES contexts, reflecting reduced buffering resources and cumulative disadvantage. By integrating structural and developmental perspectives we contribute to broader discussions on inequality, risk accumulation, and the social determinants of crime.

Homelessness as a Criminogenic Context: Patterns of Offending and Victimization among Homeless Individuals *Paulina Waszkiewicz, Wyższa Szkoła Kształcenia Zawodowego*

Homelessness constitutes one of the most extreme forms of social marginalization and, at the same time, an important yet still insufficiently explored context of crime. In public discourse, homeless individuals are often portrayed primarily as perpetrators of minor offences or public order violations, while their experiences of victimization remain largely overlooked. The aim of this presentation is to conceptualize homelessness as a criminogenic context in which offending and victimization co-occur, are interrelated, and are shaped by structural factors. The presentation is based on an analysis of empirical data concerning both crimes committed by individuals experiencing homelessness and crimes of which they are victims. Particular attention is paid to patterns of street crime, interpersonal violence, and public order offences, as well as to the relationship between long-term homelessness and intensified contact with the criminal justice system. The analysis also considers the role of factors such as lack of stable housing, limited access to legal and health protection, and institutional practices, including policing strategies. The findings indicate that homeless individuals experience significantly higher levels of victimization than the general population, while at the same time being overrepresented in statistics for specific categories of offences. These phenomena, however, are neither symmetrical nor purely individual in nature, but are embedded in broader contexts of social inequality and urban governance. The results suggest that victimization among homeless individuals often precedes or accompanies offending, reinforcing cycles of marginalization and criminal justice involvement. The presentation argues that understanding homelessness as a criminogenic context rather than an individual risk factor is crucial for developing effective and just crime prevention strategies. It highlights the importance of evidence-based public policies that address structural drivers of homelessness and reduce both crime and injustice, including approaches focused on prevention, diversion, and housing-based interventions.

317. Perspectives on factors in criminal choices

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Learning, Control and Strain Perspectives
Paper Session
5:00 to 6:15 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.170

Chair:

Carrol Tange, National Institute for Criminology and Criminalistics (Belgium)

Participants:

Bank impersonation scammers making house calls *Melvin Soudijn, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR); National Police of the Netherlands (LX)*

This presentation takes a closer look at bank impersonation scams. These scams can be divided in three methods, i.e. tricking the victim in a) directly transferring funds, b) installing Remote Access Tools, and c) physically handing over their bank cards. Physical contact with victims can be considered riskier than maintaining contact solely by telephone or digital means. For instance, the victim can describe the scammer's physical appearance, forensic traces may be left at the scene of the crime and suspicious victims may even have alerted the authorities beforehand. The willingness to assume greater or lesser risk may therefore be linked to differences in offender types. This gives rise to the following research question: are there differences in antecedents between suspects of bank impersonation scams who engage in physical contact with their victims and those who do not? The results are based on a dataset of the Dutch police of 344 scammers recorded during 2019-2023.

Perceived legitimacy and justification of parental violent behaviour *Alexander Betz, KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt; Patricia John Sanchez, Bielefeld University*

According to classical learning theories, both the acceptance of moral norms and deviant behavior is learned through socialisation processes or contact with peers (e.g., Sutherland, 1947; Akers & Burgess, 1966). However, in this context, there is a paradox that deviant actions are committed by persons that have internalized moral norms prohibiting those actions. To be able to do so, techniques of neutralization and rationalization must be developed or learnt, providing justification for the committed behavior (Sykes & Matza, 1957). These techniques comprise five main components, such as the denial of responsibility, the denial of injury, or the denial of the victim. In the DFG-funded project The Intergenerational Transmission of Violence. A combined prospective criminological and neurobiological investigation (HejFam), German parents were asked how they raise their children and what challenges they face in regard to child rearing. Additionally, they were asked to indicate which types of violent parenting behaviour they consider appropriate, which behaviours they consider violent at all, as well as how they feel about specific statements such as "violence often stems from helplessness" or

"better to slap a child than not talk to them". In the context of neutralization and justification strategies, parents were classified into groups using Latent Class Analysis (LCA) to identify patterns of perceived legitimacy of parental violence. The results will be discussed in the presentation.

Less Conspiratorial in Crisis? Evidence for a Pandemic Drop in Adolescent Conspiracy Mentality During the COVID-19 pandemic *Yvonne Krieg, Criminological Research Institute of Lower Saxony; Jan-Philip Steinmann, Criminological Research Institute of Lower Saxony*

Although it is widely perceived that conspiracy theories have increased during the pandemic, empirical evidence on changes in conspiracy mentality is limited, especially for adolescents. Our study investigates changes in conspiracy mentality among German adolescents before (2019), during (2022) and after (2024) the pandemic, as well as the relationship with a right-wing extremist ideology (RWEI), using repeated cross-sectional data. Latent class analysis (LCA) identified three subgroups: rejectors, ambivalents and believers. The results reveal systematic differences between subgroups across all three years. It is shown that there was a temporary shift towards less conspiracy mentality as well as a bigger proportion of rejectors during the pandemic in 2022, confirming the pandemic drop hypotheses. By 2024, average levels returned to pre-pandemic values. The proportion of believers remained largely stable and even tended to decrease slightly, the ambivalents increased, while the rejectors decreased compared to 2019. Furthermore, the study shows that higher levels of a RWEI are positively associated with a higher conspiracy mentality and are more common among believers and ambivalents than among rejectors in all three survey years. Implications are discussed.

Delinquent careers and social networks: a case study of young people in a Brussels neighbourhood *Carrol Tange, National Institute for Criminology and Criminalistics (Belgium)*

This paper draws on the analysis phase of an action research project carried out as part of a partnership between the National Institute for Criminalistics and Criminology (INCC) and a Brussels police district. The aim is to improve understanding of, and the response to, forms of organised youth crime in one of the neighbourhoods within the police district. To this end, it draws heavily on a research framework developed by Sean Redmond in his doctoral thesis, which was subsequently extended to other cases studied with his colleagues at the Research Evidence into Policy, Programmes and Practice (REPPP) unit at the University of Limerick (Ireland) (C. M. Naughton, S. Redmond & E. O'Meara-Daly, 2023). This approach relies on the collection of typically tacit local police knowledge within the framework of a case study, that of a gang in a Brussels neighbourhood: the Village. More often than not, this knowledge does not appear in the accounts of criminal acts found in police reports and court files. It is, however, likely to offer valuable insights for contextualising the situation under study. For the police officers interviewed, this knowledge stems from an intimate and, so to speak, historical experience of the facts currently constituting the recorded criminal incidents and their protagonists, who are members of the network of relationships under study. The results of the Village case study will be discussed both in terms of the assumptions underlying the explanations provided by the police officers and in comparison with the cases examined by the REPPP team, focusing on the hypothesis that a network of relationships involving adults may be significant for understanding the sustained and intense entry of certain young people into a career of delinquency.

318. New Book: Platform Criminality and Post-Crime

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Critical Criminology
Author meets critics
5:00 to 6:15 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.014

Online platforms now constitute so significant a mode of wealth production that many argue a new kind of economic order - 'platform capitalism' has emerged. But the platform vehicle has also provided a new organisational dynamic for criminal entrepreneurs, one that significantly adds to other advantages of digital technology exploited by earlier (cyber) criminals such as hyperconnection and capacity augmentation. In his new book Platform Criminality and Post-Crime, M.R. McGuire explores the advent of platform-oriented crime and sets out three modalities of 'platform criminality'; the emergence of criminal platforms; the targeting of commercial platforms and the misuse of platforms by legitimate institutional agents such as technology companies and the state. By exploring the reciprocal relations between legitimate and illegitimate platforms the book suggests how platforms have not only changed the practice and organisation of cybercrime but have been instrumental in unravelling key elements of civil society, not least the legal consensus upon which democracy depends. It argues that 'post-truth' and the crisis of objectivity in which platforms are implicated lead directly into a 'post-crime' world, one where the boundaries between the legal and the criminal are becoming increasingly blurred.

Critics:

Marc Schuilenburg, Professor Digital Surveillance Erasmus University Rotterdam
Simon Hallsworth, Universty of Suffolk
Fernando Miró-Llinares, CRÍMINA Center, University Miguel Hernández of Elche

Book Author:

Michael McGuire, University of Surrey

319. Online and image-based sexual abuse and exploitation: AI, materials, victimization and child safety in various jurisdictions

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Sex Crimes, Sex Work and Sex Trafficking
Paper Session
5:00 to 6:15 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.015

Chair:

Konstantinos Kosmas Gaitis, The University of Edinburgh

Participants:

AI, Anime, Dolls and Stories: A Systematic Review into the Role of Fantasy Sexual Materials in Child Sexual Exploitation Escalation Crossover *Naushaan Ahmad, University of Canberra; Phil Kavanagh, University of Canberra; Sarah Christofferson, University of Canterbury*

This systematic review synthesized evidence from 13 peer-reviewed, empirical studies examining the role of fantasy sexual materials (FSM) in escalation crossover – the transition from non-contact to subsequent contact child sexual offenses. A systematic search across EBSCOhost, PubMed and Scopus was conducted to identify literature relating to FSM, including child-like sex dolls (CLSDs) and virtual child sexual exploitation material (VCSEM); including AI-generated CSEM (VCSEM-AI), illustrated CSEM (VCSEM-I), and text-based CSEM (VCSEM-T). Findings reveal the bifurcated pattern of FSM engagement, where it can play both a protective/functional or a risk-enhancing role. CLSD owners were more likely to be male, aged between 37 and 43, single, and sexually attracted to children. VCSEM users were found to be predominantly male and 33 years old. CLSD ownership was suggested as having a protective or functional role; correlated with reductions in compulsive sexual behavior, pornography consumption, and noted as an outlet for individuals in fulfilling their pedophilic needs. VCSEM was frequently described as a potential gateway of escalation crossover due to the sexualization process being comparable with CSEM, but also as a legal, outlet for non-offending individuals. Multiple studies noted the use of CLSDs and VCSEM concurrently with CSEM engagement. In the absence of robust evidence differentiating individuals for whom FSM may be risk-enhancing from those for whom it may be protective, we argue that may be wise to observe a precautionary or "better safe than sorry" approach regarding the use of FSM. A standardized dictionary of FSM is proposed and implications are discussed.

Witnessing Harm - Exploring the extent to which children of Child Sexual Abuse Material Offenders should be recognised as direct victims. *Rachel Armitage, Professor of Criminology; Theresa Redmond, The Policing Institute for the Eastern Region at Anglia Ruskin University; Ben Raikes, New Hall Prison; Lucy Gwynn, University of the West of England; Vicky Styan, University of Huddersfield; Nadia Wager, University of Teesside; Mille Fjelldal, Anglia Ruskin University*

We are facing a significant global increase of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) accessible on both the surface and dark web. The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF, 2024) report that a CSAM image report is confirmed every 108 seconds, and these images are widely available on both the surface and dark web. CSAM often takes place in the home; it is estimated that between 35% (Armitage et al., 2024) and 47% (Brown and Bricknell, 2018) of those arrested for CSAM live with at least one child. Acknowledging the progress made in extending the definition of victim status to children who witness (see/hear) or experience the impacts of domestic abuse, this paper argues for children of CSAM suspect/offenders to be recognised as direct victims – allowing access to support services, protection from media reporting and communication regarding the offence, criminal justice processes and outcomes. Interviews were conducted with twenty-three family members of those being investigated for, or convicted of, CSAM offences in England and Wales. Transcripts were coded against the eight themes of: 1) Abuse, harm and loss caused directly by criminal conduct; 2) neglect; 3) trauma; 4) impairment of health; 5) impairment of development; 6) witnessing the ill-treatment (physical, sexual, emotional abuse) of another family member; 7) witnessing - seeing, hearing or otherwise directly experiencing the effects of criminal conduct at the time that it occurred; 8) seeing, hearing, or experiencing the effects of criminal conduct involving domestic abuse as a child under the age of 18, in circumstances where the person being abused or perpetrating the abuse is related to the child or has parental responsibility for that child. The paper concludes that substantial evidence exists to reconsider amending the definition of a victim to include where the person is the child of the person posing sexual risk to children.

Image-Based Sexual Abuse in Iceland: An Analysis of Police-Registered Cases *Gudbjorg Bergsdottir, Research analyst*

In 2021, Iceland enacted legislation addressing digital violations of sexual privacy, reinforcing that preparing, obtaining, distributing, or publishing images depicting nudity or sexual conduct of another person without their consent is illegal. This study examines how image-based sexual abuse are represented in police data following these legislative changes. The research is a quantitative analysis, more precisely a descriptive compilation and comprises an analysis of police records in 2021–2024. The analysis reviews the number of offences, the offenders' and victims' demographics, type of offenses and the outcomes of the cases. The cases were categorized, specifically whether they involved domestic violence, multiple sexual offenses, a single offense, or fraud. All reported offences, from all police districts were analyzed, or in total 265 cases. Findings show that the number of offenses vary between years with most offenses in 2022 and 2024. Majority of perpetrators were men over mid 20s and majority of victims were young women, under mid 20s. Minority of cases reported to the police go to court. As digital technologies continue to evolve, the potential scale of offending increases substantially. For instance, the spread of information via social media can occur with far greater ease and reach than previously. Police data are limited in capturing the heterogeneous magnitude of each offending, particularly with respect to the distribution of digital material. However, this approach is well suited to capturing the overall characteristics of such offenses reported to the police.

Encryption vs online child safety: Towards striking a balance? *Konstantinos Kosmas Gaitis, The University of Edinburgh; James Gregory Stevenson, The University of Edinburgh; Maria Lamond, The University of Edinburgh; Sarah Guthrie, Edinburgh Napier University*

Focusing on the UK and through a critical examination of literature, interviews with professionals and a routine activity theory perspective, this paper discusses encryption in the context of child sexual exploitation and abuse and dissemination of child sexual abuse material, to delineate the key principles towards striking a necessary balance between user privacy and online child safety. This paper advocates encryption's distinctive duality as a factor that can equally hinder effective online guardianship, increasing CSEA opportunities and children's vulnerability; and secure online user privacy and safety, including that of children. Maintaining that necessity and proportionality should be the paramount principles of any balancing efforts between user privacy and online child safety, this paper offers recommendations and ways forward towards achieving this much needed balance through solutions that combine the legal, technical and political.

320. WG Criminology of Mobility. Panel 1. Borders, Asylum and Public Opposition: Critical and Empirical Perspectives

Topic 3: Crime Correlates/Immigration / Migration (Immigration, Crime and Citizenship WG)

Paper Session

5:00 to 6:15 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.025

Chair:

Antonia Helena Hock, Max-Planck-Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law

Participants:

Between Protection and Uncertainty: Age Assessment in European Asylum Systems *Anzelika Baneviciene, Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania)*

This presentation examines the legal and practical challenges of age assessment in European asylum systems, with a focus on Lithuania and the Czech Republic. Determining whether an asylum seeker is a minor is a crucial step, as unaccompanied children are entitled to enhanced protection under international, European Union, and national law. However, in the absence of reliable identity documents, authorities frequently rely on age assessment procedures that raise both legal and methodological concerns. The analysis highlights the existing legal framework governing age assessment, including relevant EU directives and national legislation. While these rules establish key safeguards, such as the principle of the best interests of the child, informed consent, and the use of the least invasive methods, they do not provide clear or harmonised methodologies. As a result, practices vary between Member States. The comparison between Lithuania and the Czech Republic demonstrates differences in medical techniques, institutional roles, and evidentiary standards, particularly in the use of X-ray examinations. The presentation also explores national court practice, which reveals tensions between medical evidence and broader evidentiary assessment. While Lithuanian courts tend to rely heavily on expert conclusions, Czech courts adopt a more cautious approach, recognising the limits and margins of error inherent in medical methods. Both systems acknowledge that age assessment cannot be based solely on medical evidence and should include other elements, such as documents and psychosocial evaluation. The findings show that age assessment remains an area of legal uncertainty with significant implications for fundamental rights. Incorrect classification of a minor as an adult may lead to violations of rights related to detention, accommodation, and access to protection. The presentation argues for a more consistent and multidisciplinary approach to age assessment, ensuring both accuracy and respect for the rights of vulnerable individuals

"Ethnography at the Edge": Reflective Accounts on Border Control in the Lives of Syrian Refugees in Greece *Martha Lempesi, Center for the Study of Crime (Greece); Joanna Tsiganou, The Greek National Center for Social Research (EKKE); Anastasia Chalkia, Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR)*

The proposed contribution examines the researchers' own reflective narratives across three distinct phases: prior to entering the field, while in the field, and after leaving it. Within ethnographic criminology, such reflective accounts are crucial for interpreting the field and for tracing how control is experienced, negotiated, and reproduced in everyday life. In this vein, we draw on reflections emerging from our qualitative research with Syrian refugees whose asylum claims had been stalled, leaving them in prolonged reception in state-funded apartments offered only for as long as their legal limbo lasted. Officially sheltered yet unable to move on, they inhabited an invisible enclosure from which they longed to escape; in this sense, Greece itself became the border. Thus, in our conceptual framework, crossing borders is understood not only as crossing geographical spaces, but also as moving through imposed living conditions and states of mind. Research unfolded inside Syrian refugees' temporary homes, spaces blurring private life and institutional control. These shelters may also be seen as borders to cross: fragile refuges, yet also sites of surveillance, uncertainty, and everyday containment, marking participants as people still "on the threshold." Communication through interpretation in the participants' native language deepened this sense of enclosure. Conversations passed through interpreters, whose presence shaped not only the translation of words but also the tempo of trust, the silences, and the emotional charge of each exchange, creating another distinct milieu: the milieu of interpretation, itself a further border to cross. Gaining access was less a matter of permits than of entering this suspended world without reinforcing its constraints. By tracing these encounters, the contribution argues that ethnographic criminology can reveal how borders operate not only as territories of limbo—material, linguistic, and emotional—but also through researchers' own expectations, ethical choices, positionality, and responsibility towards the trust placed in them by participants.

Punishment Beyond the Prison: Fluidity, Externalisation, and the Transnational Carceral Continuum at Lampedusa

Feyza Macit, University of Warwick

Punishment studies has long theorised punishment as an event: administered in a place, authorised by a sovereign, and legible within an institutional architecture. From Foucault's disciplinary genealogy to Garland's culture of control, Wacquant's neoliberal penality, and Super's extralegal punishment, the field has produced powerful accounts of how punishment works while retaining this shared analytical anchor. This paper contests that model and proposes in its place a conception of punishment as fluid. Drawing on an original thesis examining Lampedusa as a node within a transnational carceral geography, this paper argues that punishment in the context of EU externalisation policy does not concentrate in institutions but moves through space: distributed across a route, accumulated in bodies rather than administered in sentences, and organised through the deliberate fragmentation of sovereign authority such that no single actor can be held accountable for the whole. The European Union's extraterritorial migration governance transforms the journey to Lampedusa — across Saharan crossings, North African militia warehouses, and the central Mediterranean — into a distinct form of carcerality that operates outside European legal standards, through actors whose authority is simultaneously formal and criminal, with outcomes documented and known to those who designed the arrangements. The argument is developed across three analytical registers: a spatial register, which traces the carceral continuum from pre-arrival terrain through the hotspot; a historical register, which situates contemporary externalisation within the long genealogy of colonial and racialised punishability; and an experiential register, which reads eighteen testimonies as systematic evidence of embodied punishment that no institutional record captures. The paper's methodological contribution lies in treating testimony not as illustration but as the primary epistemic medium through which spatial and historical analysis becomes visible simultaneously.

Ethnic Diversity, Group Threat, and Local Opposition to Housing Projects: Evidence from a Vignette Experiment
Antonia Helena Hock, Max-Planck-Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law

According to group threat theory, the anticipated arrival of ethnic minorities – who are perceived as competitors for scarce resources and danger to culture and safety – mobilises perceptions of cultural and economic threat, which in turn lead to anti-immigrant attitudes. However, empirical tests of specific housing-related exclusion mechanisms remain limited. To address this gap, the present study examines the extent to which opposition to local housing projects depends on the migrant status of the incoming group. Specifically, it tests the hypothesis that an anticipated increase in ethnic diversity leads to greater opposition. Quasi-experimental data from a mail/web community survey in two German cities (2021, N = 1176) were used to analyse causal relationships. Respondents were asked how much they would oppose a planned housing project, with the migrant status of the incoming group varied experimentally. Group-specific differences in opposition were estimated using regression analyses and counterfactual comparisons. As predicted, the results indicate significantly lower acceptance of housing projects for incoming groups with a migration background compared to those without. Moving beyond this baseline opposition, effect heterogeneities related to individual respondent characteristics were examined, particularly crime-related threat perceptions (e.g., fear of crime indicators, perceived neighbourhood safety) that are linked to wider concerns about immigration.

321. Thirty-Five Years After Yugoslavia: Penal Policy, Legacies, and Divergence

Topic 7: Comparative and Historical Perspectives/Cross-National Comparisons of Crime and Justice (Quantitative Methods WG)

Roundtable

5:00 to 6:15 pm

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.110

Thirty-five years after the dissolution of Yugoslavia, its successor states have undergone profound political, economic, and normative transformations. Yet an important question remains: to what extent do contemporary sentencing practices, imprisonment patterns, and penal rationalities reflect shared institutional legacies from the Yugoslav period, and to what extent they have developed along distinct national trajectories? This roundtable brings together scholars from Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Serbia to reflect on penal policy across the post-Yugoslav space. While Yugoslav penal policy was formally grounded in a rehabilitative framework and characterised by a moderate imprisonment rate and the extensive use of suspended sentences, it simultaneously coexisted with episodes of political repression and the instrumental use of criminal law. The roundtable will examine how these historical legacies interact with contemporary developments shaped by democratic transition, Europeanisation, and domestic political dynamics. The exchange will focus on four interrelated dimensions: (1) sentencing policy, including the evolution of suspended sentences, alternative sanctions, and judicial discretion; (2) imprisonment trends, specifically prison population rates, short custodial sentences, and overcrowding; (3) international influence, exploring the tension between formal convergence (EU, Council of Europe, CPT) and locally shaped practices; and (4) the conceptual question of what constitutes the "Yugoslav penal legacy", while questioning whether a shared "post-Yugoslav penal space" still exists in practice. No formal papers will be presented. Instead, the session will be structured around guiding questions addressed from participants' respective national perspectives, followed by an interactive discussion among the discussants and the audience. Overall, the roundtable aims to foster comparative dialogue on penal change in post-socialist societies, examine the influence of shared institutional roots, and address how and whether historical institutional legacies continue to shape punishment practices across post-Yugoslav penal systems.

Chair:

Milena Milićević, Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research

Discussants:

Rok Hacin, University of Maribor

Suncana Roksandic, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb, Croatia
Mirza Buljubašić, Faculty of Criminal Justice, Criminology, and Security Studies, University of Sarajevo
Elena Mujoska Trpevska, Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts
Milena Tripkovic, University of Edinburgh
Aleksandar Stevanović, Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research, Serbia

322. Experimental and Evaluative Designs in the Real World

Topic 8: Methodologies in Criminology/Advances in Evaluative Research (Qantitative Methods WG)
Paper Session
5:00 to 6:15 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.120
Chair:
Yuji Zocatelli Hashimoto, Université de Fribourg
Participants:

Making it Stick: How Information Formats Shape Police Students' Knowledge and Acceptance of Evidence-Based Crime Prevention *Tihomir Vrdoljak, German Police University; Lara Textores, German Police University; Julia Willmes, German Police University; Thomas Görgen, Deutsche Hochschule der Polizei/German Police University*

Police officers operate under considerable time pressure and are confronted with a growing body of criminological research on "what works" in crime prevention. At the same time, they often lack up-to-date knowledge about evidence-based crime prevention and hold entrenched misconceptions that can make them skeptical of research findings in practice. This contribution examines how different formats of communicating criminological evidence may influence officers' knowledge, beliefs and intentions to engage with evidence-based approaches. Building on Fuzzy-Trace Theory and the Refutation-Text paradigm from educational sciences, we outline a 2×2 between-subjects design that varies (a) whether information is framed as gist (core take-home messages with practice-oriented examples) or verbatim (a compact factsheet with study details such as effect sizes and confidence intervals), and (b) whether texts explicitly name and refute common misconceptions or merely present the empirical results. All conditions address the same core topic (e.g., the relative effectiveness of problem-oriented hot-spot policing versus routine patrol) and all include a short, guided activity prompting participants to explain the content in their own words, as well as a transfer vignette that asks participants to deal with a realistic policing scenario. According to a broad body of work in educational and cognitive psychology, gist-oriented and refutational formats can be expected to promote more durable understanding, higher acceptance of counterintuitive findings and better transfer to new problems than purely verbatim or non-refutational presentations of the same content. Against this background, the study aims less at testing a single intervention package and more at opening up the "format dimension" of evidence communication as a potential lever for making criminological knowledge "stick" in police education for both recruits and experienced officers and, ultimately, supporting the implementation of evidence-based policing in everyday practice. (All authors are considered co-first authors.)

Effects of Offender Characteristics on Public Perceptions of Parole Decision: A Conjoint Experiment *Minyeong Yoon, The University of Texas at Dallas; Wenyi Wang, The University of Texas at Dallas*

Despite increasing concerns about equity in the criminal justice system, the mechanisms linking offender characteristics to public evaluations of reentry remain unclear. Based on Pierre Bourdieu's theoretical framework of cultural and social capital, this study examines how individual characteristic profiles influence public perceptions of recidivism risk and parole suitability through a conjoint experiment. By systematically manipulating multiple offender attributes (e.g., gender, race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, education, crime type), the research allows for a rigorous testing of the relationships between criminal stereotypes and judgmental biases among general respondents. The findings showed that offender demographics significantly shape risk assessments with divergent effects. While offenders perceived as diligent and hard-working are judged as significantly more suitable for parole, those characterized as privileged face a more punitive stance viewed as less appropriate for early release from the public. These findings suggest that public judgement is not a monolithic reaction to crime and offender's demographic factors but is driven by a complex interaction of valuing personal effort while remaining deeply critical of offenders from advantaged backgrounds. By understanding these evaluation processes, the study illustrates how latent social values explain the boundaries of forgiveness and punishment. These insights are essential for developing evidence-based strategies that promote equitable risk assessment practices. Ultimately, understanding these psychological and sociological drivers is important for supporting successful community corrections and ensuring that prisoner reentry programs are both effective and socially perceived as just, thereby strengthening the overall legitimacy of the legal system.

Understanding high-risk traffic offence recidivism: A systems thinking approach *Lia Mills, Centre for Human Factors and Systems Science, University of the Sunshine Coast; Matthew Morrison, Centre for Human Factors and Systems Science, University of the Sunshine Coast; Paul Salmon, Centre for Human Factors and Systems Science, University of the Sunshine Coast; Adrian Wilson, Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads; Zac Hegyessy, Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads; Vanessa Cattermole-Terzic, Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads; Angela Watson, Queensland University of Technology; Gemma Read, Centre for Human Factors and Systems Science, University of the Sunshine Coast*

Background: Road traffic injuries are a major global public health concern, with approximately 1.19 million people dying each year from fatal accidents. Recidivist

traffic offenders contribute disproportionately to these fatalities, yet traditional punishment-based approaches have little effect on deterrence in this population. Work that has sought to identify the causes of recidivist offending tends to examine factors in isolation and has overlooked interactions across road transport and society. Therefore, a systems thinking approach can help understand the broader range of factors contributing to criminal behaviours such as high-risk traffic offence recidivism. Aims: The current study aimed to apply a systems thinking approach to better understand the causes of high-risk recidivist offending and inform interventions to reduce its incidence. Methods: We developed three systems thinking models to map high-risk traffic offence recidivism, each focusing on different aspects of recidivism, including contributory factors to recidivism, the feedback loops that interact to influence recidivism, and the control and feedback mechanisms used to manage recidivist offending. The models were informed by existing literature, court sentencing appeal decisions and interviews with offenders, and were reviewed and agreed upon by subject matter experts in a series of group modelling workshops. Results: The models include a range of factors that influence traffic offence recidivism and suggest there are reinforcing loops across a variety of system sectors. These include situational factors (e.g. work pressures, alcohol use), sociocultural influences (e.g. social media, financial pressures), individual factors (e.g. adverse life experiences, psychological disorder), and offending and enforcement (e.g. resistance to change, limited resourcing). Implications: This project is the first to investigate high-risk traffic offence recidivism using a multi-phase, systems thinking approach. Results demonstrate that there is a complex set of factors that interact to create recidivism. The findings demonstrate that a network of interventions across multiple stakeholders is required.

Unpacking the “Black Box” of Structured Interventions for Preventing Criminal Behaviour: Introducing the Session Network Sensitivity (SNS) Approach *Miguel Basto-Pereira, William James Center for Research, Ispa-Instituto Universitário, Lisbon*

A substantial number of interventions addressing criminal behaviour are delivered as structured programmes from one or more underlying theoretical frameworks, in which each session targets specific components, techniques and mechanisms. Although randomized controlled trials (RCTs) are the gold standard for evaluating interventions' ability to promote behavioural change, they typically only estimate the overall effectiveness. Indeed, the evaluation of each session impact is, in most cases, not logistically, financially, or ethically feasible. As a consequence, the contribution of sessions targeting specific contents remains largely underexplored. This is a major limitation because some sessions might be highly effective while others might be, on average, harmful to participants, undermining the programme's potential and overall effect. To address these challenges, the Session Network Sensitivity (SNS) analytical approach was developed. The main aim of SNS approach is to examine the relationship between exposure to each session’s contents and overall programme effectiveness, while adjusting for baseline levels and attendance patterns. An important strength of SNS is that the implementation of this analytic approach only requires pre- and post-intervention outcome data and session attendance records, making it suitable for already existing trials and future impact evaluations. During the presentation, the SNS logic, assumptions, strengths, limitations, and application examples in R software will be addressed. The SNS can contribute to programme optimization and theory refinement by helping to identify which sessions and components are particularly linked to emotional, cognitive and behavioural change. Furthermore, by exploring the relationship between each session attendence and overall effectiveness across different profiles, this work can contribute to supporting research that facilitates more tailored interventions.

Evaluating Real-World Interventions: Adapting the "Gold Standard" for Victimisation Prevention with Sex Workers *Yuji Zocatelli Hashimoto, Université de Fribourg; Lorena Molnar, University of Fribourg and University of Lausanne*

Experimental designs, particularly randomised controlled trials (RCTs), are widely considered the "gold standard" for establishing intervention efficacy. However, applying these rigid frameworks to highly mobile and marginalised populations introduces significant methodological and ethical friction. This presentation examines the trajectory of PREVICT-SW, a longitudinal, mixed-methods study on victimisation prevention for sex workers, co-developed with the community and NGOs in two Swiss cantons historically lacking targeted prevention initiatives. The project seeks to identify victimisation risk factors and evaluate the effectiveness of a tailored, needs-based intervention. Originally conceptualised as a cluster RCT, the study transitioned into a quasi-experimental framework to address practical obstacles—namely, the population’s high spatial mobility—and ethical concerns regarding the potential for delayed access to immediate assistance. This shift necessitated a fundamental reconsideration of recruitment, intervention delivery, and implementation fidelity. Rather than enforcing mechanical compliance to a static protocol, we adopted an iterative, flexible, and context-dependent conceptualisation of fidelity that prioritises delivery quality, cultural responsiveness, and adaptive intervention over strict adherence to pre-established guidelines. Furthermore, this presentation explores the challenges of administering baseline and follow-up instruments in the field. Given the nuances of their lived experiences, participants often respond to seemingly straightforward quantitative inquiries in unexpected ways. By also adopting a qualitative approach to the study, including ethnographic observations, we treat these response patterns not as measurement error, but as vital data for better understanding the experiences of our participants. We argue that analytical validity in real-world criminology is achieved through reflexive methodologies that actively use unanticipated field dynamics as a lens into

participants' realities. Ultimately, we advocate for a strategy of epistemic inclusion, ensuring that rigorous ethical standards, community trust, and practical utility are jointly maintained without sacrificing methodological soundness.

323. WG EXTREME PANEL 4. Pathways to Right-Wing Extremist Attitudes: Grievance, Conspiracy, Exclusion and Belonging

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Terrorism and Terrorism Financing, Radicalization, Extremism (Radicalization, Extremism, Terrorism WG)
Paper Session
5:00 to 6:15 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.132

324. Crime and Justice in Wartime Ukraine

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Criminal Justice Policy (Crime, Science and Politics WG)
Roundtable
5:00 to 6:15 pm
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.146

Russia's full-scale war in Ukraine has created a uniquely revealing context for examining the intersections of war, crime, and justice. This roundtable, draws on the forthcoming edited volume Crime and Justice in Wartime Ukraine (edited by Zabyelina, Markovska, and Serdiuk) and conceptualizes the experience of wartime Ukraine. War disrupts legal and administrative structures, alters incentives, and reconfigures social relations, revealing dynamics that often remain hidden in peacetime. Wartime illicit economies and corruption networks give rise to new forms of criminality, including weapons diversion, military procurement fraud, trafficking and exploitation linked to mass displacement. At the same time, Ukraine's justice institutions operate under unprecedented pressures, balancing the demands of public order, national defence, and large-scale war crimes documentation. These conditions expose the fragility of legal frameworks while also driving rapid institutional adaptation. The roundtable reflects on these developments in the Ukrainian context, with a particular focus on policing (Serdiuk and Markovska), arms trafficking (Shaban and Florquin), and the broader challenges of conducting criminological research under conditions of ongoing war.

Chair:
Anna Markovska, IPPPRI Anglia Ruskin University
Discussants:
Oleksii Serdiuk, Kharkiv National University of Internal Affairs, Ukraine/ Head of Research Laboratory for Psychological Support of Law Enforcement
Aline Shaban, Small Arms Survey

325. Farewell Dinner / Party (Registration Required)

ESC
Social Events
8:00 to 11:55 pm
Other Venues - see description: Farewell Dinner Venue (Palace of Culture and Science) + Cocktail Party Venue (SPATiF)

TO BE COMPLETED

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER, 12

326. Gender, Crime and Justice Working Group Panel 5: Interventions with perpetrators

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence (Gender, Crime and Justice WG)
Paper Session
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.110

Chair:
Viviana Vargas-Salinas, Universitat de València

Participants:

Professional competencies needed for effective practice in interventions with intimate partner violence perpetrators: A mixed-methods study *Viviana Vargas-Salinas, Universitat de València; Rocío Pérez-Sabater, University of Valencia; Cristina Expósito-Álvarez, University of Valencia; Manuel Roldán-Pardo, University of Valencia; Marisol Lila, Universitat de València*

Research highlights the importance of core competencies for effective practice in intimate partner violence (IPV) perpetrator programs, including an empathic, nonjudgmental stance, the ability to manage resistance, and skills to foster engagement and group safety. However, little is known about practitioners' own perceived competency needs. This study aimed to identify key competencies professionals consider necessary to improve intervention effectiveness. A mixed-methods design was employed with 49 facilitators delivering community-based group intervention programs for IPV perpetrators in Spain. Quantitative data were analyzed descriptively, and qualitative data from focus groups were examined using thematic analysis. Quantitative findings indicated that the main areas for improvement were resistance management (65.3%) and motivating perpetrators to change (55.1%), followed by stress management (38,8%), capacity to resolve group conflicts (34,7%), legal knowledge on gender-based violence (34,7%), and assessment and monitoring participants' progress (32,7%). Active listening (4.1%) and empathy and kindness (2%) were least frequently reported. Qualitative results identified three core competency domains. First, professionals' personal skills included therapeutic relationship and acceptance, emotional self-regulation and self-care, and facilitating attitudes. Second, group management and leadership abilities included group leadership, as well as conflict management and boundaries. Third, technical and collaborative competencies encompassed technical knowledge and training, adaptation and motivation, and teamwork and coordination. These findings suggest that facilitators' developmental needs extend beyond technical skills to include relational, motivational, and group-process dimensions. Emphasizing the therapeutic relationship and an empathic, respectful, nonjudgmental stance is key to promoting change. Similarly, strong group leadership, conflict management, and clear boundaries are essential for safety and prosocial behavior. The need for specialized training, motivational strategies, and coordinated teamwork aligns with evidence

highlighting the role of motivational interviewing and interprofessional collaboration in effective IPV perpetrator programs.

A Five-Profile Latent Class Analysis of Convicted Intimate Partner Violence Perpetrators: An Overview of Mixed Profiles *Sergio Castellanos-Luna, Universidad Loyola Andalucía; Esperanza Garcia-Vergara, Universidad Loyola Andalucia*

Intimate partner violence (IPV) disproportionately affects women. Nearly one in three women experience physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime, and many cases lead to serious injury or death. This high prevalence and lethality make improved prediction and prevention essential. The present study addressed the well-documented need for rigorous research on violent offending, particularly in the case lethal outcomes, and the persistent problem of violence against women within the context of IPV. In this regard, criminal court rulings contain rich but underused data on offense dynamics, offender characteristics, and case circumstances. Systematically exploiting these sources can improve empirical understanding and prevention of the most severe IPV outcomes, including intimate partner femicide. A comprehensive set of variables was extracted from Spanish criminal court rulings. A mixed latent class analysis (LCA) identified underlying offender profiles. Binary items were modelled using class-specific Bernoulli probabilities. Categorical items were modelled using class-specific multinomial probabilities. Integrated Completed Likelihood (ICL) served as the primary model selection criterion. Mean entropy, Akaike Information Criterion (AIC), and Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC) were used as secondary indicators. The analysis identified five distinct criminal profiles among IPV offenders. These clustered into two ex-partner profiles, differentiated by lethality, and three current-partner profiles, differentiated by frequency of violence: the post-separation stalker (coercive reconciliation-seeking), the imminent post-separation lethal offender (revenge-driven), the one-time situational offender (acute loss of control), the recurrent situational offender (conflict-triggered, learned response), and the chronic offender (relationship domination). Each profile showed distinct patterns of prior violence, relationship dynamics, and situational precipitants. Findings underscore the analytical value of court rulings and the potential utility of offender typologies for risk assessment, case prioritization, and targeted prevention of IPV and IPF.

Determining the impact of innovative interventions for people using stalking behaviours: The (UK) Hampshire and Isle of Wight Multi-Agency Stalking Partnership *Katerina Porter, University of Southampton (UK); Rebecca Jane Harris, University of Southampton (UK); Kirsty Butcher, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust; Lana Weir, University of Southampton (UK); Lisa Allam, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner; Kathryn Smithers, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary; Andrew Bates, South Central Probation Region, HM Prison and Probation Service; Julie Parkes, University of Southampton (UK); Sara Morgan, Southampton University*

Stalking presents a persistent challenge for criminal justice agencies across Europe, with high rates of repeat victimisation and limited effectiveness of sanctions when used in isolation. In the UK, the Multi Agency Stalking Partnership (MASP) was developed to improve system-wide responses to individuals using stalking behaviours by combining criminal justice measures, psychological interventions, and coordinated multi-agency risk management. This evaluation examined the implementation, processes, and early outcomes of MASP to assess whether the Partnership contributes to reducing the risk of continued stalking behaviour. The study analysed routinely collected, anonymised quantitative and qualitative data from participating agencies—including police, probation, health services, and victim/survivor organisations—to assess programme reach, intervention delivery, and early indicators of behavioural change. Across a 26 month period, nearly 1,500 individuals using stalking behaviours were identified, with approximately 30% offered one of three specialist psychological interventions. Ongoing analysis compares recidivism among those offered or completing interventions with those who were not engaged. Preliminary findings indicate that MASP strengthened interagency collaboration, enhanced whole-system management of stalking cases, and improved victim/survivor engagement with specialist support. Early evidence also highlights a notable underrepresentation of children within the dataset, prompting future examination of how multi-agency approaches can better account for the impacts of stalking-related behaviours on children. By the time of the European Society of Criminology conference, completion of data analysis will allow assessment of whether MASP processes are associated with sustained reductions in stalking behaviour and will offer insights relevant to European jurisdictions seeking to develop coordinated, evidence-informed responses to stalking.

What makes a participant more satisfied? Identifying key predictors of participant satisfaction with the intervention *Manuel Roldán-Pardo, Catholic University of Valencia; Cristina Expósito-Álvarez, University of Valencia; Rocío Pérez-Sabater, University of Valencia; Marisol Lila, Universitat de València*

Systematic reviews on the effectiveness of intervention programs for intimate partner violence against women (IPVAW) perpetrators have shown mixed results. While IPVAW recidivism is the most common indicator of success in perpetrator programs, recent research highlights the need to include other relevant indicators to assess programs' effectiveness, such as participants' satisfaction with the intervention. However, little research has been conducted that evaluates satisfaction with the intervention. The aim of this study was to identify the main predictors of high satisfaction with the intervention in a perpetrator program. A sample of 778 men attending an intervention program for IPVAW perpetrators was used. Participants were classified into two groups based on their median score on the Satisfaction with the

Intervention for Intimate Partner Violence Perpetrators Scale. Comparisons between groups were conducted using chi-square and t-tests to identify potential predictors of high satisfaction. A multivariate binary logistic regression analysis was performed to determine the best subset of predictors. Univariate analysis revealed that highly satisfied participants were more likely to be immigrants, have facilitators with greater experience in perpetrator programs, receive a higher intervention dose, demonstrate a more advanced stage of change, and report stronger motivation to change and working alliance. The key predictors of high satisfaction, as shown in the multivariate regression, were being an immigrant, being in a more advanced stage of change, and having a stronger working alliance. Our results have important treatment implications, as they highlight the importance of preparing participants for change and building strong working alliances to increase satisfaction with the intervention. Implementing strategies to improve these factors could contribute to increasing the overall effectiveness of programs.

327. What can we learn from research on system-involved youth? Insights from Denmark, Spain and the UK

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Juvenile Crime (ISRD WG)
Paper Session
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.138
Chair:
Katrine Barnekow Rasmussen, University of Copenhagen
Participants:

Preliminary Findings on Juvenile Offending Patterns and Their Relationship with Dynamic Risk Factors *Andrea Gimenez-Salinas, Universidad Pontificia Comillas; Meritxell Pérez Ramírez, Universidad Pontificia Comillas; Xenia Pérez López, Universidad Pontificia Comillas*

Juvenile offending represents a critical stage in the development of criminal trajectories, where early patterns of antisocial behaviour may evolve into more persistent forms of offending. Criminological research has emphasized the importance of understanding these developmental patterns and their association with dynamic risk factors, particularly within the framework of the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) model. In the Community of Madrid in Spain, the PREVI-A (Graña et al., 2022) risk assessment tool is routinely used in juvenile detention centres to evaluate static and dynamic risk factors and to guide individualized intervention planning. Building on this framework, the present study explores preliminary findings on juvenile offending patterns and their relationship with dynamic risk factors prior to entry into the juvenile justice system. The study adopts a longitudinal design, including a sample of over 400 juveniles involved in the Madrid juvenile justice system. Offending patterns are operationalized based on the number of offenses committed at different developmental stages (before age 14 and at ages 15, 16, and 17), allowing for the identification of distinct groups of offenders before system entry. These patterns are then analyzed in relation to dynamic risk factors assessed through the PREVI-A instrument at the beginning of the intervention. Preliminary findings suggest the existence of differentiated offending groups, including early-onset and escalating patterns, as well as more limited or late-onset profiles. These patterns appear to be associated with distinct configurations of dynamic risk factors. These results provide initial evidence on the relationship between developmental offending patterns and dynamic risk, contributing to a more detailed understanding of heterogeneity among juvenile offenders. This has important implications for risk assessment and the design of tailored intervention strategies within juvenile justice systems.

Understanding the circumstances of children involved in breach proceedings in England and Wales *Louisa Roberts, Swansea University; Nina Maxwell, Cardiff University*

When children do not comply with the conditions of community-based sentences or custody orders, breach proceedings can be initiated and the child can be returned to court. Breach proceedings in England and Wales can result in resentencing, amendments to the original order, or recall to custody. These outcomes carry significant consequences for the child and their family, including disruption to education, relationships, stability and wellbeing. There is limited research on children's experiences of criminal justice orders in England and Wales with most existing evidence focusing on adults. To our knowledge no studies have explored the factors that might be associated with children breaching community-based sentences and being returned to court. This project addressed this gap by analysing anonymised, routinely collected court data and examining how trends and patterns in breach proceeding involving children have changed over the past decade (2011-2022). We also explored whether rates of breach proceedings involving children, and their outcomes, varied across national and regional geographies, by demographic factors such as gender, ethnicity and deprivation, or by offence-related characteristics such as nature of the original offence, length of order, and attendance at youth or adult courts. By understanding which children become involved in breach proceedings and under what circumstances, we can make evidence-based recommendations to practitioners and policymakers in order to better target support for children who are given community-based orders as well as those who are returned to court for breach proceedings. This will reduce unnecessary punitive responses and improve children's experiences as they move through the youth justice system. The findings aim to inform more proportionate, child-centred practices that promote children's engagement and reduce reoffending and further justice involvement.

Young offenders are much more often registered victims themselves than their non-offending peers - a presentation of results from Denmark *Katrine Barnekow Rasmussen, University of Copenhagen*

In an upcoming article, I present a new branch of my research on the Danish Youth Offending Boards, which demonstrates that a relatively high share of young

offenders (10-17 years) referred to the Danish Youth Offending Boards have previously been registered as crime victims themselves. This part of my research draws on register data and access to all board files in a five year period. The share of registered victims is far higher (x7) among the children and youth referred to the boards than among their 10–17-year-old peers in the population at large. For girls the difference is even higher. Furthermore, not knowing their victimization status, on average the boards subject the young offenders who have previously been registered as victims to significantly more extensive 'courses of improvement' with significantly longer follow-up periods than those not registered as victims. With my research findings, I would like to problematize the absence of consideration to this victim/offender overlap in the practice of the boards as well as in other classical approaches to youth offending, and to discuss how this knowledge ought to inform future approaches.
Bio Katrine is assistant professor in criminology at the Faculty of Law, University of Copenhagen. In her research, Katrine has focused on access to and embeddedness of restorative justice initiatives as well as youth offending and system responses to crime.

328. Cultural Criminology: practices and communities

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Cultural Criminology
Paper Session
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.141
Chair:
Anita Lavorgna, University of Bologna
Participants:

Slurs break out of prison: a netnographic exploration of the use of a Chilean prison slur in memes *Diego H Padilla-Lobos, Universidad San Sebastián (Chile); Alonso Castedo, Universidad San Sebastián (Chile)*

This study presents a netnographic exploration of perkin, a stigmatizing slur from Chilean prison argot that has migrated into mainstream digital memes. Originating in the carceral world to denote an inmate subjected to domestic servitude, the term now thrives in Chilean social media, creating a paradox: a word born in the most restricted physical environment flourishes in the most open digital spaces. Bridging philosophy of language with cultural criminology, we position perkin as a slur whose derogatory force stems from enacting power imbalances and assigning subordinate roles. Through netnographic analysis of Chilean memes, we examine how perkin is deployed to mock submission, reinforce informal hierarchies, and perform transgressive identity. Our findings reveal that the slur's potency lies in tapping into subterranean values—rejection of subjugation, respect for anti-authority shrewdness—latent within conventional Chilean society. This creates profound ambiguity since mainstream culture publicly rejects the term's carceral origins yet privately resonates with its underlying social meanings. The memetic life of perkin demonstrates that slurs' offensive force is dynamically negotiated, challenging static philosophical models while revealing digital spaces as crucial arenas for performing cultural power.

A new GamerGate? Digital ethnography of misogyny in the 'Sweet Baby Inc Detected' community *Aiala Tejada García de Garayo, CRÍMINA Center, University Miguel Hernández of Elche; Jesús Aguerri, CRÍMINA Center, University Miguel Hernández of Elche*

A decade after the misogynistic GamerGate harassment campaign, the emergence of the 'Sweet Baby Inc Detected' (SBID) community, self-branded as #GamerGate2, raises questions about the evolution of digital hate in gaming. This study employs a digital ethnography to analyze the SBID movement, which coordinates via Discord, Steam, and X to campaign against Sweet Baby Inc., a diversity consultancy. Through non-participant observation, we compare SBID's strategies and narratives to its predecessor. Findings reveal SBID as an evolved, more centralized movement that weaponizes review-bombing, memes, and conspiracy theories to frame diversity initiatives as an ideological 'infiltration'. Crucially, the community functions as a conduit for manosphere narratives, constructing its identity around externalizing blame onto feminism, objectifying women, legitimizing symbolic violence, and internalizing male victimhood. While SBID's overt anti-feminist stance marks a strategic shift from GamerGate's dissimulation, it perpetuates the same core dynamics of harassment and exclusion. The study concludes that gaming spaces primarily serve as resonant refuges for pre-existing radicalized discourses, demonstrating the persistence and adaptability of misogyny. SBID exemplifies the evolution of anti-DEI movements into sophisticated, politically articulated forms of digital activism, reflecting the ongoing polarization within gaming culture.

Stigma, Transgression, and Resistance: Cultural Criminological Insights into Health-Based Information Pollution *Luca Sterchele, University of Bologna; Anita Lavorgna, University of Bologna; Lorenzo Picarella, University of Bologna*

This contribution examines the social identities emerging within online communities that oppose science-based medicine, a phenomenon that, while not new to the internet, has become increasingly prominent in digital culture. Such communities have gained criminological relevance particularly following the COVID-19 pandemic due to the significant social harms associated with the circulation of health-focused polluted information. Drawing on passive digital ethnographic fieldwork conducted within the multi-country, multi-method, and multi-platform eDeTox project, this contribution analyses how producers, supporters, and receivers of misleading or deceptive health content construct and perform individual and in-group identities online through their communicative and behavioural practices. The analysis focuses on three interconnected dimensions - stigma, transgression, and resistance - to show how group members negotiate belonging, assert moral autonomy, frame their understanding of crime, harm, and victimhood, and interpret broader social and

political events. The contribution further considers how these identity dynamics vary across national contexts, depending on the degree of institutionalisation and cultural legitimacy accorded to non-science-based medical approaches. By comparing countries where alternative medical epistemologies are more established with those where they remain marginal, the analysis highlights how local sociotechnical environments condition the forms of meaning-making, mobilisation, and resistance observed within these communities.

329. Sentencing in Practice: Alternatives, Trajectories and Judicial Memory

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Courts and Sentencing and Penal Decision Making (Sentencing and Penal Decisionmaking WG)

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.147

Chair:

Thomas Charles Hawker-Dawson, Girton College, University of Cambridge

Participants:

Before and After Sentencing: Criminal Trajectories in Theft Cases in Poland *Katarzyna Witkowska-Rozpara, University of Warsaw, Institute of Social Prevention and Resocialisation (Department of Criminology and Criminal Policy), Center for Criminological Analysis*

The presentation focuses on reconstructing the trajectories of individuals convicted of theft under Article 278 § 1 of the Polish Criminal Code before and after the reference conviction, in which a custodial sentence with a suspended execution was imposed, and on identifying patterns in which subsequent judicial decisions and reconviction co occur with specific offender characteristics and case related factors revealed in court files. The analysis is based on two linked nationwide empirical studies conducted by the author in 2024 and 2025, covering the same cohort of 349 individuals finally convicted of theft in 2018 and selected through stratified sampling of cases from district courts. The first part of the presentation reports findings from main trial files and enforcement files. The studied population consisted of 69 women (20%) and 280 men (80%), with nearly three quarters having no prior convictions. The court file material allows reconstruction of the sequence of decisions taken after the reference conviction, including cases in which subsequent judicial decisions resulted in enforcement of the custodial sentence (nearly one quarter of cases). It also examines information contained in the files - particularly prior convictions, personal and family circumstances, employment status, and financial situation - which form the context in which the sentencing decision in the reference judgment was shaped, including the choice of this type of penal response. The second part presents the results of the analysis of reconviction within the studied group, based on criminal record data obtained by the author from the National Criminal Register. On this basis, reconviction occurring after the reference conviction is assessed and the structure of subsequent criminal activity is outlined. In this context, anonymized trajectories of selected offenders with nine or more prior convictions will also be presented, in whose cases further reconviction occurred after the reference conviction.

Machine Learning Reveals Welfare Discourse Embedded in Japanese Sentencing: A Text Analysis of 2,000 Theft Judgments *Masahiro Sadamura, The University of Osaka*

Sentencing decisions represent a critical juncture in criminal justice, yet large-scale empirical analysis of judicial reasoning remains limited. In Japan, no pre-sentence investigation (PSI) system exists for adult criminal courts, meaning that information about defendants' welfare needs reaches judges through ad hoc advocacy rather than systematic assessment. How welfare-related information functions within sentencing reasoning has not been examined at scale. This study applied natural language processing and machine learning to 2,000 theft judgments from Westlaw Japan (district courts, 2010-2023). Judgment texts were tokenized using MeCab, vectorized via TF-IDF (5,000 features), and classified into custodial versus suspended sentences using L1-regularized logistic regression. SHAP values identified which textual features most strongly predicted outcomes. A pre-defined list of 59 welfare-related terms was evaluated against the SHAP importance ranking. The model achieved AUC = 0.913, indicating highly consistent textual patterns in sentencing. Prior-conviction count was the strongest predictor (|SHAP| = 0.420, toward custodial), consistent with the recidivism-enhancement principle. Of 59 welfare-support terms, 14 appeared in the top 10% of importance - 2.4 times the rate expected by chance. Welfare vocabulary operated in both directions: terms such as "social reintegration" predicted suspended sentences, while "supervision" predicted custodial sentences, reflecting negative contexts (e.g., "supervision has failed"). This demonstrates that welfare discourse is structurally embedded in sentencing language. As the first NLP/ML study of Japanese criminal sentencing, this research opens a new frontier in computational criminology. The results provide empirical evidence that judges already reference welfare concepts in sentencing reasoning even absent a formal PSI system, suggesting that institutionalizing welfare-needs assessment could formalize what is already an implicit component of judicial decision-making. The approach is transferable to other jurisdictions seeking data-driven sentencing analysis.

'Net-Widening' Through Deferred Sentencing: The Case of Suspension of the Pronouncement of Judgment (HAGB) in Turkey *Öznur Sevdiren, Istanbul Bilgi University, Faculty of Law*

Critical criminological literature has long demonstrated that alternatives to imprisonment may lead to net-widening effects. Rather than reducing penal intervention, the proliferation of such measures may, in practice, produce unintended and counterproductive outcomes, echoing Stanley Cohen’s insights on the expansion of social control. In this context, the Turkish

case of deferred sentencing, namely the suspension of the pronouncement of judgement (HAGB, Art. 231 of the Turkish Penal Procedure Code), is of particular significance, as it applies to sentences not exceeding two years' imprisonment. Despite certain limitations regarding the reliability of available data, existing statistics suggest that the use of HAGB has increased over time and that it has become a significant sentencing tool. The Constitutional Court of Turkey has likewise noted its widespread application and signalled problematic patterns in its use, particularly in cases involving freedom of expression, where it substitutes for acquittal, and in cases of torture and ill-treatment, where it replaces conviction despite the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, thereby contributing to de facto impunity. These concerns are compounded by structural limitations in judicial review, as HAGB decisions were long subject only to a limited review procedure. Although recent reforms have introduced appellate review, its effectiveness remains highly questionable. Overall, in official accounts and justificatory reasoning, such measures as HAGB are portrayed as reducing penal intervention, however, their practical operation suggests a more complex reality. HAGB constitutes a paradigmatic manifestation of net-widening, challenging the conception of alternatives to punishment at the sentencing stage. While it circumvents principles such as in dubio pro reo, it operates under limited judicial scrutiny. This paper first outlines these dynamics and then explores their broader international relevance, with a particular focus on net-widening, alternatives to imprisonment, and the transformation of criminal justice systems.

Victims' Prosecution History and Court Outcomes *Flavia Mandatori, University of Pennsylvania*

Criminological research has long documented the overlap between victimization and offending, yet little is known about whether victims' prior offending histories shape their experiences in the criminal court system. Using 15 years of administrative court data from Philadelphia, I examine whether victims previously prosecuted as defendants experience different case outcomes and levels of court participation. I find that victims with prior prosecution histories consistently experienced less favorable outcomes: their cases were more likely to be dismissed, defendants were less likely to be convicted or incarcerated, and victims were more likely to fail to appear. These patterns persisted across violent, property, and domestic violence cases and across felony and misdemeanor cases, suggesting that they are not confined to a narrow set of offenses or levels of case severity. I argue that these findings are consistent with two complementary mechanisms. Prior prosecution histories may reduce victims' perceived credibility among court actors, while prior experiences as defendants may also reduce trust in legal authorities and willingness to participate later as victims. The findings highlight how prior justice involvement may shape victims' treatment and participation in the criminal legal process.

Communicating Justice?: The performative nature of community-based sentencing as a retreat from the custodial frontier *Thomas Charles Hawker-Dawson, Girton College, University of Cambridge*

As governments such as the UK wrestle with the appropriate and affordable use of custody, much focus has been placed on the use of legislation and formal guidance to reform sentencing. Far less attention has been paid to the inherently communicative nature of courtroom sentencing, and its capacity to moderate penal outcomes. Drawing on judicial interviews and court observation data from the Crown Court in England and Wales, this paper explores how sentencers can pursue penal objectives through their performances when deciding and announcing sentences. This is particularly pronounced in the context of suspended sentences of imprisonment, which are due to expand in use following recent reforms. Judges adopted two communicative strategies when passing these sentences: a severe, deterrence-oriented approach, and a more empathetic, encouraging style. The use of these strategies depends in part on judges' perceptions of what is communicatively achievable in a given case. This, in turn, raises questions as to their 'reading' of defendants' communicative capabilities, and the impact of any technology used to facilitate court hearings. The paper argues that if communicative practice is to play a greater role in reducing reliance on custody, careful attention must be paid to improving judicial training, particularly to avoid the further marginalization of especially disadvantaged defendants (including non-native speakers). It also highlights the risk that harsh rhetoric in sentencing may amplify wider punitive sentiments, especially given judges' perceptions of a punitive public audience, alongside the online broadcasting of some sentencing remarks.

330. POLWG Panel 1: Making the Case: How Bias, Discretion, and Data Shape Criminal Investigations

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.152

Chair:

Emma Louise Blondes, London School of Economics and Political Science

Participants:

Catching Fraudsters in Online Trade: A Legislative Review of the Prohibition on Habitual Online Trade Fraud in the Netherlands *Ninian Nijhuis, The WODC (Research and Data Centre), the Netherlands*

The Evaluation of the Computer Crime Act III, conducted by the Research and Data Centre (WODC) in the Netherlands, evaluates, among other things, how the regulation on online trade fraud has been preforming since its entry into force on March 1, 2019. This regulation, encoded in the Dutch Law of Computer Crime III (CCIII), prohibits habitual fraud through online trade, allowing for the persecution of those who habitually offer and sell goods and services online without delivering those goods or services.

Online trade fraud was formerly persecuted in the Netherlands on the basis of another law, namely one which prohibits fraud in general. Jurisprudence, however, deemed this law insufficient for the persecution of some particular forms of online trade fraud, calling for the creation of a lex specialis, focusing specifically on trade fraud committed through the internet. For the present law evaluation, our research team conducted a series of interviews and analysed a selection of court cases to uncover the practical reality of this newly enforced regulation. In this presentation I will first discuss the reasons and necessity behind its conception. Secondly, I will elaborate on our methodological approach for this review. Thirdly, I will discuss some of our research findings: 1) highlighting some of the regulation's new possibilities and; 2) discussing the areas where there is room for improvement. Lastly, I will circle back to the regulation's initial reasons for coming into force and evaluate whether those aspirations have been met based on our research findings.

From Bias Events to Interpretive Crystallization in Police Investigations: The SFIC Middle-Range Model *José María Otín del Castillo, Universidad de Salamanca*

Research on investigative decision-making has largely focused on discrete bias events: identifiable moments in which heuristics, motivations, or selective attention distort the evaluation of evidence. While valuable, event-level accounts do not fully explain why some police investigations develop sustained resistance to revision, even when incongruent information accumulates. This paper introduces the Functional Syndrome of the Criminal Investigator (SFIC), a middle-range model that conceptualizes investigative failure as a transition from episodic bias to a stable system state: interpretive crystallization. SFIC distinguishes bias-as-event from crystallization-as-state, and specifies a trajectory-based mechanism of path dependence in which early investigative orientations and subsequent commitments progressively reduce reversibility. A key construct is the cost of rectification (K), defined as the functional burden (procedural, reputational, institutional, temporal) associated with changing course once commitments have accumulated. As K increases, the investigative system becomes more inertial: information sampling narrows, anomalies are discounted or defensively reinterpreted, and confirmatory actions increasingly dominate exploratory ones. The paper provides a minimal, testable core model (A1–A5) and an empirical extension (B) that identifies dispositional, decisional-style, situational, and contextual-ecological modulators relevant to policing environments (e.g., workload pressure, supervisory regimes, documentation routines, accountability demands). SFIC yields falsifiable predictions through process indicators, including a confirmatory–exploratory action index and observable tipping points in sampling and anomaly-handling. Finally, the model generates practical implications that differ from generic "debiasing": interventions should target investigative trajectories and reversibility, including milestone-triggered hypothesis reviews, structural reduction of rectification costs, role separation for formal commitments versus hypothesis exploration, and audit-oriented monitoring of confirmatory/exploratory patterns during case progression.

Strategic ambiguity in French organised crime investigations: between operational flexibility and prosecutorial credibility *Emma Louise Blondes, London School of Economics and Political Science*

Since the 1990s, France has expanded exceptional powers to tackle organised crime without defining it or outlining a strategy to address it. Drawing on 13 months of ethnographic fieldwork across specialised organised crime units, prosecutors' offices, and investigative judges' chambers, this paper analyses how criminal justice actors navigate the tension between maintaining definitional ambiguity for operational purposes and settling it to construct prosecutable cases. I argue that practitioners actively reshape what organised crime means as cases move through the criminal justice process, adapting the definition to serve different institutional purposes. The paper traces four investigative stages where this tension manifests. When initiating cases, departments exploit broad definitions to gather intelligence through administrative channels that fall outside judicial oversight, positioning their units within a competitive institutional landscape. When opening judicial investigations, actors invoke organised crime provisions to expand their powers, transforming intelligence into judicially acceptable evidence through 'information laundering'. When constructing cases, investigators and judges narrow the definition, imposing hierarchy on fluid associations and coherence on messy realities to meet prosecutorial demands. When closing investigations, they eliminate lingering doubts through strategic arrests and re-classify cases, sometimes removing the organised crime label. Throughout, judicial oversight of policing activities is limited, leaving police officers with considerable discretion over what reaches the case file. This analysis extends literature on strategic ambiguity (Cappellaro, Compagni, and Vaara 2023) to criminal justice environments where street-level bureaucrats wield extensive state powers. Existing research suggests bureaucrats resolve ambiguity to make work manageable (Lipsky 2010) or impose order (Scott 1998). My findings complicate this: French authorities maintain ambiguity as an operational resource in back-stage investigative work yet settle it in front-stage environments to produce coherent narratives. The research reveals how ill-defined mandates become resources for institutional power, raising questions about defence rights when ambiguity itself becomes a tool of governance.

331. Moving Beyond the Binary: A Systems Perspective on Police Culture

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)
Roundtable
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.158

Current literature on police culture is largely focused on masculinity and the informal norms that influence the actions of police officers. While insights from this literature are compelling, they tend to be limited to gendered experiences and overlook the influence of the broader system that governs (both informally and informally) police behaviour. Specifically, how this system compels police officers and other staff members to manage their personal and professional identities in order to conform. Drawing from signalling and social information processing theories, this roundtable explores the power of conformity norms, including positive and negative aspects of conforming. We will also discuss the organisational and individual factors that influence conforming behaviours and the potential outcomes for policing organisations and their staff. Finally, we will offer suggestions for reducing the need for "normative compliance" within policing and propose future avenues of research.

Chair:

Angela Workman-Stark, Athabasca University

Discussants:

Sarah Charman, University of Portsmouth
Denise Martin, Northumbria University
Mike Rowe, Northumbria University

332. Victimization: Prevention, assessment, responses

Topic 4: Victimology/Policy and Prevention of Victimization (Victimology WG)
Paper Session
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.162

Chair:

Mangai Natarajan, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Participants:

Preventing Older Adults' Victimisation in the Community: The NIREAS Participatory Intervention *Martha Lempesi, Center for the Study of Crime (Greece); Anastasia Chalkia, Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR); Elias Katsiouris, PhD Candidate in Criminology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens; Georgios Karamanos, Lecturer in Forensic Psychology at Metropolitan College, Member of the Organizing Committee of the 2025 ESC Conference*

This contribution presents NIREAS as a participatory, community-based criminological intervention for the prevention of older adults' victimisation in local settings. Developed by the Center for the Study of Crime and implemented in three Open Care Centres for Older People (KAPI) in the Municipality of Chalandri (Greece), the programme addresses a broader spectrum of victimisation than a narrow focus on elder abuse alone, encompassing abuse, neglect, and economic victimisation. Its conceptual and practical orientation links victimisation prevention with safety, rights awareness, autonomy, social participation, and healthier conditions of ageing in place for older women and men in the community. The intervention was structured around three integrated components: the "Prevention and Empowerment Circles" for older adults, a training seminar for social care professionals, carers, and relatives, and community awareness-raising activities supported by practical informational material. At the core of the programme was an experiential and interactive methodology, including role-play, scenario-based discussion, and participatory dialogue. These activities focused on recognising forms of victimisation, identifying risk, strengthening self-protection skills, reinforcing autonomy and self-confidence, and discussing fundamental rights and available protection mechanisms. A particularly important dimension of NIREAS is that its Guide for older adults did not emerge solely from an initial theoretical design, but was substantially enriched through participants' lived experience, questions, and feedback during the cycles. In this respect, the intervention can also be understood as an example of co-produced preventive knowledge. The contribution argues that criminologically informed community interventions can strengthen protection against victimisation by translating prevention into locally embedded practices that connect rights, safety, institutional preparedness, and community support.

Preventing Sexual Violence through Online Bystander Training: Quantitative and Qualitative Evidence from a Pilot Trial *Bárbara Moreira, Center for Psychology at University of Porto; Nélio Brazão, University of Coimbra; Patrício Costa, Center for Psychology at University of Porto, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, University of Porto, Rua Alfredo Allen, 4200-135 Porto, Portugal; Eunice Carmo, Center for Psychology at University of Porto, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, University of Porto, Portugal; William James Center for Research, Department of Education and Psychology, University of Aveiro, Portugal; Joana Carvalho, William James Center for Research, Department of Education and Psychology, University of Aveiro, Campus Universitário de Santiago, 3810-193 Aveiro, Portugal*

Sexual violence (SV) constitutes a persistent social and public health concern, particularly among young adults, who are at increased risk of both victimization and perpetration. Within criminological research, bystander-based approaches have gained recognition as promising strategies to prevent SV by promoting prosocial intervention and challenging norms that sustain harmful behaviors. The MOON (Moving On against Sexual Violence) Program is a primary prevention intervention grounded in the bystander framework and developed for university settings. Following an initial feasibility phase, the program was adapted into an online format to enhance accessibility and scalability. The intervention comprises five asynchronous modules addressing sexual violence, consent, rape myths, empathy, and bystander intervention strategies. This paper presents findings from a pilot randomized controlled trial evaluating the feasibility, acceptability, and preliminary efficacy of the online MOON Program. The study includes over 100 university students allocated to experimental and control groups. Quantitative pre-post analyses will be presented, focusing on changes in bystander attitudes and behaviors, empathy, sexism, and endorsement of sexual violence myths. Additionally, qualitative data from participants in the experimental group will be presented, based on planned focus groups with a subset of participants. These data will provide insights into

participants' experiences, engagement with the intervention, and perceived mechanisms of change. The findings contribute to ongoing debates on prevention strategies targeting sexual violence in higher education contexts, highlighting the potential of scalable, online bystander interventions. Results will inform the development of future large-scale randomized trials and evidence-based prevention policies.

A Multi-Site Assessment of the Lethality Assessment Program's Impact on Reducing Intimate Partner Violence *Christopher D Maxwell, Michigan State University; Tami P Sullivan, Yale School of Medicine; Joy S Kaufman, Yale School of Medicine*

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence created its Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) protocol to train police officers to use a brief screener. The goal is to identify victims at high risk of being killed by their partners and connect them with local domestic violence hotline staff to develop personalized safety plans. An initial assessment of the LAP showed promising results, leading the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to recognize it as a "promising practice" and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to classify it as a "supported intervention." The Department of Justice selected this program as one of two risk-based intervention protocols for community-wide implementation and evaluation under its National Homicide Prevention Demonstration Initiative. Researchers collected data from two communities chosen by the U.S. Department of Justice to run the LAP program. These sites received ongoing support, including technical assistance, training, and funding, to implement and evaluate the program over several years. This presentation highlights key findings from the NIJ-supported multi-site evaluation of the LAP. These findings are based on 6,494 longitudinal police records and 651 in-person victim interviews. Police identified 41% of female victims and 26% of male victims as high-risk. Multivariate longitudinal analyses showed that victims classified as high-risk continued to experience violence for at least six months at rates equal to or higher than those not deemed high-risk. Additionally, calling the hotline at the scene did not lead to reductions in victimization among high-risk individuals. Findings on other key outcomes related to the intervention program were inconsistent across risk categories, intervention groups, and data sources. Further analysis is needed before determining whether implementing the LAP at both sites failed to decrease the risk of subsequent violence.

Addressing the psycho-social well-being needs of domestic violence victims and survivors: Challenges and best practices learned from interviews and surveys of service providers *Mangai Natarajan, John Jay College of Criminal Justice; Yasemin Irvin Erickson, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA; Brittany Suh, Old Dominion University, VA; Lindsay Smith, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA*

Domestic Violence (IPDV) is a widespread public health issue that affects the mental and physical health of thousands of individuals worldwide daily. Various studies have signaled an increase in the frequency and severity of IDV and its consequences during the COVID-19 pandemic. While there are many commendable and promising programs designed to respond to DV victims' needs in the United States (US), these programs faced numerous challenges in meeting the needs of victims during the pandemic. Currently, there is insufficient evidence in the literature regarding how these programs have managed these challenges and adapted to serve the diverse population of DV victims in the COVID-19 public health emergency setting. Using a mixed-methods design, we gathered firsthand perspectives through interviews (n=102) and a survey (n=324), of a purposive sample of victim service providers on the psycho-social needs of DV victims, and explored the challenges faced by these service providers before and during the pandemic in addressing these needs in the US. Our study findings provide a comprehensive account of the structural challenges faced by victim service providers, how they have overcome them, and their perceived best practices. Main challenges included a lack of employment opportunities, children being physically out of school, a lack of internet connection, a lack of housing and connection with friends and family, living in remote communities, immigration-related concerns, a lack of therapeutic support, poverty, and living in an unstable or violent household. Means to address such challenges to improve victims' lives include providing more information on rights and skills, showing empathy and respect, offering supportive counseling, connecting with community resources, and promoting social change. We discuss the implications for coordinated multi-stakeholder responses at the community level that aim to address the survivor-centered psycho-social needs necessary to end DV.

333. POLWG Panel 3: Trust and Procedural Justice: Police Practices und Public Scrutiny

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)
Paper Session
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.168

Chair:
Kristin Wolf, Hesse State University of Applied Sciences for Public Management and Security

Participants:

Policing Without a Cause: Discretion and Spaces of Control in German Traffic Stops *Tamara Dangelmaier, HWR Berlin – Berlin School of Economics and Law*

This paper draws on ethnographic research in the German preventive patrol service to examine how traffic stops without a concrete incident become sites where suspicion, order, and "cases" are practically produced. Rather than treating traffic policing as routine administration, I analyse the situated procedures through which officers initiate, frame, and render controls plausible—mobilising local area knowledge, narrative entry markers, and interactional typifications. Discretion is approached not as abstract leeway but as a performative accomplishment that is

enacted, constrained, or withheld across the sequential unfolding of the stop, shaping the scope and intensity of intervention. A second focus is the paper's concept of spaces of control, understood in two analytically linked senses. First, it refers to territorial spaces of patrol work—street segments, neighbourhood reputations, and place-based expectations that structure what becomes actionable and whom officers treat as "worth checking." Second, it refers to data spaces: socio-technical environments such as police databases and query interfaces that organise what becomes visible, searchable, and institutionally consequential during a stop. These data spaces do not merely store information; they shape interpretive options through matching, flagging, and plausibilisation practices that can reframe the situation and stabilise suspicion.

Public Support for Conducted Energy Weapons (CEWs) in Iceland: The Role of Trust and Police Legitimacy *Rannveig Þórisdóttir, National Police Commissioner of Iceland*

In January 2023, the Icelandic police were formally authorized to use Conducted Energy Weapons (CEWs), making Iceland one of the most recent European countries to introduce this technology. Drawing on Tyler´s Procedural Justice Theory and Sunshine and Tyler´s Legitimacy Theory, this study examines the extent to which trust in and perceived legitimacy of the police, alongside fear of crime, predict public support for CEW use. Data were drawn from two cross-sectional surveys conducted in 2023 and 2024 (N=3,162), measuring both general support and situational support across nine scenarios. Hierarchical regression analyses revealed that trust and legitimacy were by far the strongest predictors of support, and remaining the dominant predictors after controlling for fear of crime and demographic variables. Fear of crime emerged as a significant positive predictor of support, indicating that individuals with heightened concern about victimization were more likely to endorse CEW use, even after accounting for trust. Among demographic variables, higher education and urban residence were negatively associated with support, while males expressed higher support than females. Notably, age showed divergent patterns across the two outcome measures. These findings highlight the central role of police legitimacy and trust in shaping public attitudes toward the expansion of police powers, with implications for how law enforcement agencies communicate and justify the introduction of new use-of -force technologies.

Tell us how we did: How traffic stop outcomes and survey delivery methods influence drivers' willingness to complete police satisfaction surveys *Jessica Huff, University of Cincinnati; Preston Trey Bussey, University of Cincinnati; Bradley J O'Guinn, Florida International University*

Objectives: Police agencies have a vested interest in understanding how constituents perceive their performance. However, little is known about how willing citizens are to provide feedback about their interactions with officers. Methods: We use a 2×2 between-subjects experimental vignette in which respondents read a hypothetical traffic stop that concludes with an officer asking the respondent to complete a survey about their performance. Stop outcome (citation vs. no citation) and method of survey completion (QR code vs. mail) were randomized. Respondents were asked how likely they were to complete the survey, their satisfaction with the officer, and willingness to cooperate with police in the future. Results: Respondents in the citation condition were significantly less willing to complete the survey, less satisfied with the officer, and less willing to cooperate with police in future encounters. There were no significant differences in willingness to complete the QR code versus a mail questionnaire, or interaction effects between stop outcome and survey administration method. Conclusions: These findings suggest officer administered post-stop surveys might systematically overrepresent individuals who receive non-enforcement outcomes. This has implications for understanding the representativeness of police-administered satisfaction surveys, and how agencies should interpret community satisfaction to guide policy decisions.

Video Surveillance or Video Protection? Framing Effects and Shifts in Perspective as Determinants of Public Acceptance of Police Video Surveillance in Public Spaces *Kristin Wolf, Hesse State University of Applied Sciences for Public Management and Security; Arne Appel, Hesse State University of Applied Sciences for Public Management and Security (HöMS)*

Security authorities in Germany are increasingly adopting the term video protection in place of video surveillance, on the assumption that linguistic framing influences public acceptance. France has already enacted this shift into law: through the LOPPSI 2 Act (2011), vidéosurveillance was officially replaced by vidéoprotection, with the explicit aim of making the term more reassuring to the public. The present study empirically challenges this assumption. Theoretically, the study is situated at the intersection of framing theory (Entman, 1993; Scheufele, 1999), the Elaboration Likelihood Model (Petty & Cacioppo, 1986), and research on perspective-taking and personal involvement. The study examines whether linguistic framing influences evaluations independently of factual content, or whether decades of criminal policy discourse on video surveillance have already produced habituation effects that render semantic revision ineffective. To empirically test these questions, a 2×2 factorial survey experiment was conducted (N = 174): Factor 1 varies terminology (video surveillance vs. video protection), Factor 2 varies perspective (third-person formulation vs. self-reference). Five dependent variables capture affective and evaluative dimensions of acceptance. Results show no significant framing effects of terminology or perspective on any of the five dependent variables. The four experimental groups did not differ significantly from one another on any variable. The remarkably high acceptance rates – 89 % reporting no disturbance, 77 % feeling safer, 92 % endorsing event detection software, and 87 % supporting facial recognition – suggest that the chilling effect traditionally associated with public surveillance

has substantially diminished in Germany. Decades of normalized discourse appear to have transformed video surveillance from a contested measure into an accepted element of public safety infrastructure. The findings simultaneously demonstrate that a terminological shift from video surveillance to video protection is not necessary: public acceptance of police video surveillance is equally high regardless of linguistic framing.

334. Victims in Domestic and International Justice Arenas: Voice, Recognition and Contested Roles

Topic 4: Victimology/Victims' rights (Victimology WG)

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.172

Chair:

Joanna Beata Banach-Gutierrez, UWM in Olsztyn

Participants:

An Avalanche of Advocacy: Victim-Survivors Advocating Against Gender-Based Violence in Australia *Ella Marshall, Deakin University*

Victim-survivor advocacy has emerged as a critical global force in shaping public discourse and driving institutional, legislative, and policy responses to gender-based violence. Advocates engage in public, professional, and grassroots activities to raise awareness, challenge systemic barriers, and influence social change. However, little criminological research has examined the actions and activities of victim-survivor advocates, why they engage in advocacy, and the challenges they encounter. This research presents findings from 28 semi-structured interviews with victim-survivor advocates from across Australia. Participants were sampled to capture a diverse range of advocacy pathways and levels of public visibility. The thematic analysis examined advocates' practices, motivations, and experiences within the sector, with a focus on the personal and structural dimensions of advocacy work. Findings demonstrate that gender-based violence advocates in Australia are motivated by justice, collective responsibility, and the prevention of future harm. Advocacy is emotionally demanding, with the sector described as competitive and fragmented, with instances of internal tension and gatekeeping. Despite these challenges, advocates maintain strong commitment and purpose, orienting their work towards protecting others, influencing institutions, and leaving lasting legacies of change. The research highlights the central role victim-survivor advocates have in shaping responses to gender-based violence in Australia. The findings demonstrate the need for greater recognition of, and structural support for, survivor-led advocacy. Understanding advocacy practices provides an opportunity to inform policy, education, and support strategies that strengthen the capacity of advocates to drive social and systemic change.

The Recognition of Indigenous Victimization in Canada *Andreea Zota, Université de Montréal; Ismehen Melouka, Université de Montréal; Jo-Anne Wemmers, Université de Montréal*

Public recognition of victimization is neither automatic nor neutral; it is socially constructed. This article examines how Canadians recognize—or refuse to recognize—Indigenous victimization through a thematic analysis of four focus groups (N = 22) reacting to survivor testimonies from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Drawing on a framework of recognition production and moral hierarchies of victimhood, we show how social narratives distinguish between "legitimate" victims and those seen as less credible, responsible for their own circumstances, or politically instrumentalized. Participants relied on recurring criteria, such as innocence, respectability, individual responsibility, and conformity to dominant norms, to evaluate victims. These criteria shaped emotional responses: while testimonies often elicited empathy and sadness, they also triggered forms of moral distancing. This distancing produces a gap between symbolic recognition and material support. Participants frequently expressed powerlessness, which enabled them to acknowledge harm symbolically while limiting support for concrete reparative measures. We situate these qualitative findings alongside survey data from the 2021 and 2025 Canadian Election Study (N ≈ 20,000 each), showing that although discrimination against Indigenous peoples is widely recognized, often more so than discrimination against other minority groups, this recognition remains conditional and does not consistently translate into support for reparative spending. By combining qualitative and quantitative evidence, we develop a comparative framework for understanding why some forms of victimization become socially recognizable and politically actionable, while others remain contested, marginalized, or confined to symbolic recognition.

Justice for Crime Victims in Supranational Context: Developments of International and European (EU) Criminal Procedures *Joanna Beata Banach-Gutierrez, UWM in Olsztyn*

In view of the recent developments towards global justice, we may notice that both procedural rights and assistance to crime victims are the essential aspects in criminal procedures. Hence, this contribution deals with some questions about the concept of justice for crime victims in supranational context. The main attention is focused on the developments of international and European (EU) criminal procedures. First of all, it is argued that we are witnessed of a progressing integration of judicial systems through promoting human rights culture. Secondly, that both international and European (EU) criminal procedures are natured by their supranational sui generis character. And, third what could the supranational norms bring for victims of crime in the judiciary practice. The key question is then whether the voices of crime victims are really heard and fully respected in view of arising supranational norms. Last but not least, the next issue is about the impact of these norms on the national legal orders and their effectiveness in 'doing justice' for crime victims. The reference is made especially to international criminal proceedings before the ICC and also the EU law, as set of norms seeking justice for crime victims.

335. Alternatives, Delay and the Changing Boundaries of Prosecution

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Prosecutorial Decision-making and the Prosecutorial Process, Alternatives to trial (Sentencing and Penal Decisionmaking WG)

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.510

Chair:

Francisca Werth, Universidad Católica de Chile

Participants:

An actor goes, the timeline grows: The effects of court personnel changes and continuances on felony case duration *Rebecca Dunlea, University of Massachusetts Lowell; Don Stemen, Loyola University Chicago*

Criminal courts across the United States increasingly struggle with daunting case backlogs and long processing times. This issue puts immense pressure on court actors, creates unnecessary resource expenditure, and causes additional hardship for both defendants and victims of crime. While research indicates that case characteristics such as offense severity and defendants' pretrial detention status shape time to disposition, less is understood about how administrative factors such as staffing consistency and non-substantive hearings contribute to cases languishing in the system. The current study begins to unpack case processing times by analyzing felony case lengths in 18 jurisdictions across the state of Colorado. It specifically examines the impact of changes in court personnel—either prosecutor, defense attorney, or judge—on time to case disposition. It also considers whether these effects are generated primarily through greater usage of formal continuances. The study concludes with a discussion of policy implications for reducing criminal case lengths and ensuring that justice is served in a timely manner.

Avoiding Imprionment for Fine Default by Community Service - lates Data from Germany *Nicole Bögelein, University of Cologne*

Germany's main penal sanction is the fine, about one four in five penal sanctions are monteary. To back up the sanction, non-payment may ultimately lead to imprisonment. Although heavily critizised an estimated 50,000 cases per year go to prison for not paying their penal fine. In the debate it is often considered a less harsh form of prison. This presentation draws on two projects and brings together findings about people who have been convicted to pay a penal fine but struggle to do so. Despite German law allowing to avoid default imprisonment by the alternative of community sanction, the number of cases where this works out has been decreasing in the last years. The project "Avoiding Imprisonment for Finde-Default for a Hard-to-Reach Population" looked into data from Berlin to understand what hinders people to avoid imprisonment. Data from the project "What Really Matters in Prison" talked to people in prison to understand how they experiened life in prison in comparison to "regular" prisoners.

Beyond Prosecution: The Role of Ancillary Orders in the UK's Response to 'Modern Slavery' and Human Trafficking *Alicia Heys, University of Hull*

Eleven years since the introduction of the UK's Modern Slavery Act 2015, prosecutions under this legislation remain low, raising concerns about the effectiveness of legal responses to this crime which sees increasing numbers of victims identified each year. This paper examines the role of the ancillary orders introduced within the Modern Slavery Act as mechanisms for disruption, prevention, and redress beyond conviction. With a focus on the Slavery and Trafficking Prevention Orders, Slavery and Trafficking Risk Orders, and Slavery and Trafficking Reparation Orders, the paper presents findings from empirically grounded research based on interviews with criminal justice practitioners including police and legal professionals. These orders enable courts to impose behavioural restrictions on individuals assessed as posing a risk of exploitation, and to provide financial redress to victims directly from the perpetrator's proceeds of the crime. The paper explores how these orders are understood and operationalised in practice, identifying inconsistencies in their application alongside their perceived strengths, limitations, and barriers to use. The findings highlight a gap between the intended function of ancillary orders and their practical implementation. This includes the resource and evidential burdens associated with applying for the orders, challenges in their monitoring and enforcement, and unintended negative consequences that can accompany a 'successful' order. These consequences have the potential to increase risks to victims and, in some cases, may impact subsequent criminal proceedings.

Shifting Criminal Prosecution of Abortion in Chile: Legal Change, Gender Perspective, and Extralegal Drivers in after Chile´s Law on decriminalization of abortion on three grounds *Francisca Werth, Universidad Católica de Chile*

The research analyzes how Chile's criminal justice system has prosecuted abortion before and after the 2017 enactment of Law No. 21.030, which decriminalizes voluntary termination of pregnancy on three specific grounds. Drawing on a mixed-methods design, it combines national administrative data from the Public Prosecutor's Office (SAF) for 2014–2024 with semi-structured interviews with prosecutors and public defenders, and a review of Chilean and comparative constitutional jurisprudence. Quantitatively, we show that abortion remains an active offense, with 1,554 cases entered over the period and a 20% increase in yearly entries between 2014 and 2024, but with a sharp decline in formalization and conviction rates since 2018. While 55.1% of entries involve consensual abortion and 41.5% non-consensual abortion, only a small fraction of cases ends in a conviction, and formalization rates fall from 25.7% (2014–2017) to 5.6% (2018–2024), suggesting a marked softening in punitive intensity. Qualitative evidence helps explain this decoupling between criminalization on the books and weak punishment in practice. Interviewees highlight cultural change, feminist mobilization, and the institutionalization of a gender perspective across the Public Prosecutor's Office, the judiciary, and the Public Defender's Office as key drivers of less aggressive prosecution of women

for consensual abortion, alongside shifting public opinion. At the same time, non-consensual abortion appears increasingly embedded within patterns of intimate partner violence. The article argues that the current configuration of Chilean abortion criminalization operates in a context of legal reform, evolving social norms, and extralegal prosecutorial criteria, and discusses the implications of these findings for ongoing debates on moving from a three-grounds model to a time-limit regime and on the proper role of criminal law in regulating abortion.

336. Victims of the Digital Age: Patterns, Perceptions, and Pathways to Help

Topic 4: Victimology/Patterns and trends in Victimization (Victimology WG)

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.511

Chair:

Esther Nanclares González, University Miguel Hernández of Elche

Participants:

A Longitudinal Study of Repeat Online Harms Victimisation in Six EU Countries *Sandy Schumann, University College London; Magdalena Celuch, Tampere University; Emmi Kauppila, Tampere University; Iina Savolainen, Tampere University; Atte Oksanen, Tampere University*

Previous research indicates that internet use is associated with an increased risk of experiencing online harms, including threats of violence and sexual harassment. However, systematic evidence on patterns of online harms victimisation remains limited. This study addresses this gap by examining the prevalence and longitudinal dynamics of online harms across six EU countries (Poland, n = 731; Italy, n = 947; Ireland, n = 468; Germany, n = 736; France, n = 826; Finland, n = 924). Using three-wave longitudinal data, we estimated the proportion of individuals directly targeted by multiple forms of online harm. We also assessed the persistence of victimisation over time and examined whether specific responses to victimisation (e.g., assertiveness, reporting to the police) predict continued exposure. Latent transition analyses indicated that a two-state model provides the best fit in most countries; in Germany, only a single state was identified. The majority of respondents (81–86%) reported very infrequent or no victimisation. A smaller subgroup (14–19%) experienced infrequent to moderately frequent victimisation across multiple harm types. Contrary to expectations, this latter poly-victimisation was not highly stable over time. Moreover, there was no consistent evidence that individuals' responses to initial victimisation predicted exposure one or two years later. However, in Ireland, Poland, and Finland, reporting victimisation to the police was associated with an increased likelihood of persistent victimisation. Overall, the findings suggest that online harms often co-occur but are not necessarily enduring. Further research is needed to better understand the mechanisms underlying repeat victimisation and to inform effective prevention strategies.

Framing Victimhood: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Online Romance Scam Victims in Dutch News Media *Pippa Huijgen, Erasmus School of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands; Janneke M. Schokkenbroek, Erasmus School of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands; Department of Criminology, Criminal Law and Social Law, Ghent University, Belgium*

This study examines how victims of online romance scams are constructed and represented in Dutch newspaper coverage, focusing on the potential reproduction of victim-blaming narratives. As romantic interactions increasingly occur through digital platforms, online dating fraud has become a significant form of cybercrime, causing financial and psychological harm. Additionally, victims are frequently subjected to victim-blaming attitudes, contributing to secondary victimization and discouraging reporting and help-seeking behaviour. Drawing on framing theory, this research investigates the role of media discourse in shaping public perceptions of romance fraud victims. A qualitative design is employed, using critical discourse analysis to explore how framing and narrative structures in news reporting construct meanings around victimhood of romance fraud. The dataset consists of online newspaper articles published between 2021 and 2026 from five major Dutch newspapers. Articles were selected based on their focus on online dating fraud and victim experiences. Through a critical discourse analytical approach, we examine how language and framing practices construct victimhood, allocate blame, and reflect broader social norms. Initial thematic mapping is used to identify recurring patterns in the data (e.g., descriptions related to responsibility attribution, victim positioning and characteristics, and the online romance scam process). Next, a critical discourse analysis is conducted to examine how these patterns are discursively constructed through lexical choices, framing devices, and narrative structures. This study contributes to a deeper understanding of media representations of online romance scam victims and their societal implications. By identifying dominant discursive patterns, it seeks to highlight whether and how media coverage reinforces or challenges victim-blaming attitudes. Ultimately, the findings may inform more responsible media reporting practices, thereby reducing secondary victimization and supporting greater awareness and even prevention of online romance scams. At present, the study is ongoing, and we look forward to sharing further insights at EUROCRIM.

Online help for online victims? Reaching victims of online fraud and ransomware through Google adds. *Susanne van 't Hoff-de Goede, The Hague University of Applied Sciences; Sifra Matthijsse, The Hague University of Applied Sciences; Asier Moneva, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR); The Hague University of Applied Sciences; Rutger Leukfeldt, NSCR; Merel van Leuken, The Hague University of*

Applied Sciences

This study aimed to reach victims of online fraud and ransomware who look for help online, using Google adds in a quasi-experimental design. Victims of online crime do not always report what happened to them. They might be ashamed of their victimization, worry about what others will say, or think that there is no point in making a report. Many victims do look for help online, for example because search engines can provide a safe alternative for victims to seek help. To date, however, little research has been done on the online help seeking of victims. The current study has 1) gained more insight into the online help-seeking behaviour of (potential) victims of online fraud and ransomware through a victim questionnaire, 2) developed online advertisements for victims of online fraud and ransomware, based on the beforementioned questionnaire findings and an analysis of Google searches by victims. The advertisements focused on problem-oriented or emotion-focused coping or displayed a neutral (non-coping) message. 3) run these ads on Google for 7 days with links to websites of victim-help-services. These adds were targeted to victims and activated by specific sets of keywords. The presentation will discuss the results of this quasi-experiment, such as the impressions, clicks and trends, the demographic characteristics and keywords of users and the differences between advertisements.

WHITE PAPER: Harm in digital communities around video games *Esther Nanclares González, University Miguel Hernández of Elche; Pablo Romero Seseña, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya; Fernando Miró-Llinares, CRÍMINA Center, University Miguel Hernández of Elche*

Far from being mere spaces of leisure, online video game digital communities constitute settings in which problematic behaviors and victimization dynamics emerge, affecting users' experiences. Through an ad hoc data collection instrument developed following an exhaustive review of the literature, the GamerVictim Project has sought to quantify their prevalence, phenomenology, and impacts. This study presents the final results of an empirical investigation aimed at analyzing experiences related to problematic behaviors across three distinct dimensions: the social domain (offensive and hate communication; toxicity and disruption), the economic domain (fraud and scams), and the sexual domain (unwanted situations of a sexual nature). The analysis incorporates sociodemographic variables, patterns of internet and video game use, as well as the context in which incidents occur, with particular attention to variables such as being a minor at the time of the event, the location, and the offender's profile. Additionally, the perceived effectiveness of moderation mechanisms is assessed based on third-party intervention, self-reporting, and platform enforcement. Complementarily, the impacts derived from these experiences are analyzed, as well as users' own involvement in perpetration behaviors and the presence of problematic gaming patterns. The findings provide a basis for a series of regulatory recommendations and intervention proposals aimed at the video game industry, regulatory bodies, and civil society, with the objective of promoting coordinated action to ensure safe, inclusive, and healthy virtual environments.

337. Reflexivity, Ethics and Researcher Wellbeing

Topic 8: Methodologies in Criminology/Advances in Qualitative Methods (Qualitative Methods WG)

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.516

Chair:

Anqi Shen, Northumbria University

Participants:

Negotiating Exits: 'exit boundary work' in longitudinal research with vulnerable populations *Leanne Stevens, University of Alberta; Bucerius Sandra, University of Alberta; Ashley Kohl, University of Alberta*

Prison and re-entry scholars frequently engage with societies' most marginalized people—many of whom deal with houselessness, substance abuse, mental illness, violence, and other precarious situations. As researchers, we have a responsibility to conduct ourselves ethically and professionally—from participant recruitment, throughout data collection, to exiting the field, and beyond. When engaging in longitudinal or ethnographic research with vulnerable populations, ethical concerns become especially salient. In longitudinal research, we have a noted interest in our participants' lives, an interest that is maintained through frequent and stable contact and steady rapport building. With that comes the potential that we, in our own right, become prominent figures in the lives of our participants. Between 2023–2026, we conducted almost 4000 interviews with incarcerated people and those recently released as part of the University of Alberta Prison Project's Re-entry Study. We interviewed approximately 1400 unique participants over 6 waves of data collection, which had us maintaining contact with participants for between one year to 18 months. While exiting the field upon completion of wave 6 interviews was always a carefully negotiated process, we encountered several situations in which we negotiated exits with much more complexity. In this article, we discuss several case studies outlining ethical dilemmas we encountered and share our best practices and lessons learned from engaging in responsible research with vulnerable people. We conceptualize exiting the field not as a procedural endpoint, but as a form of relational boundary work, shaped by emotional labor, structural inequality, and the ethics of care inherent in longitudinal qualitative research with marginalized populations.

Researching and Negotiating Extremist Milieus: The Dilemmas and Challenges of Being in Spaces of Hate *Laura Naegler, University of Liverpool; Gabe Mythen, University of Liverpool*

Researching (online) mixed and mutable extremism such as Incel, misogynistic, far right ideologies and conspiracy theories, and with this, environments in which hate speech and violence are endorsed and promoted, comes with several risks and challenges.

Researchers have to grapple with practical and moral dilemmas surrounding accessing hard-to-reach and potentially vulnerable populations, whilst also navigating complex University ethical approval processes. Researching mixed and mutable extremism also comes with psychological and safeguarding challenges. The exposure to hateful content is emotionally taxing and can impact on researchers' mental health. Researchers have to face the risks of doxing and online/offline harassment by those promoting hate. This risk is significantly heightened for female(-presenting), queer, trans, gender-nonconforming, and racialised researchers. Postgraduate and early career researchers here face the additional challenge of maintaining safety while also developing the online professional visibility required to succeed in the academic job market. Drawing on qualitative interviews with academic researchers working in the field of mixed and mutable extremism, this paper will discuss the strategies that researchers utilise to navigate emotional, psychological and personal safety risks. By doing so, it will also address the dangers of individualising risk management and self-care, and highlight the importance of institutional responsibility in supporting and protecting researchers.

Self-Care and Survival in Crime Ethnography: Exploring Researcher Experiences in the Field *Bucerius Sandra, University of Alberta; Lorielle Elizabeth Giffin, University of Alberta; Luca Berardi, McMaster University*

Criminologists often study topics that can be described as "heavy." They research areas like gun violence, gangs, victimization, prison experiences, terrorism, drug dealing, and substance use, to name just a few. Exposure to violent, risky, and intense experiences and stories, then, comes with the territory of much criminological research. Exposure to such "heaviness" is particularly salient to ethnographic crime research where ethnographers exist in close proximity to their topics of study. Crime ethnographers enter the fields and life-worlds of their participants, often developing close relationships and experiencing the lives of participants alongside them in real time. The good, the bad, the beautiful, the ugly, the calm and the volatile—crime ethnographers become privy to it all. But how do crime ethnographers cope with what they observe and experience during often tumultuous fieldwork? How does doing ethnographic crime research impact ethnographers themselves? What boundaries do crime ethnographers draw between their personal lives and their field sites and how might doing self-care impact crime-ethnographic methods in practice? Using semi-structured qualitative interviews with 20 crime ethnographers from North America and Europe, we attempt to answer these questions. Ultimately, we argue that self-care practices—broadly defined—are integral to the method of crime ethnography itself, making "self-care work" worth considering as a part of methodological reflexivity.

Reflexivity, Ethics and Embodiment in Researching Women in Criminal Justice: Negotiating power, self-care and boundaries *Anqi Shen, Northumbria University*

This paper examines reflexivity and ethics in researching women within the criminal justice system in China, with a focus on how researcher positionality shapes feminist qualitative research with women criminal judges, defence lawyers and police officers. Drawing on my experiences as a female academic conducting empirical research with women professionals in several criminal justice sectors, I explore how power, emotion and self-care are negotiated in the field. Across a series of studies conducted over nearly a decade, my positionality shifted markedly: from being perceived as a 'powerful' researcher affiliated with the Global North in an earlier study of women in the judiciary, to occupying an outsider-insider position in research on women in policing, and more recently being perceived as a less financially successful native female legal practitioner in a project focusing on women defence lawyers. I reflect on how these shifting hierarchies shaped research access, interactions in the field, and the interpretation of findings. The paper also considers how care for participants intersected with care for the self, and how personal-professional boundaries were navigated in elite and semi-elite research settings. Employing feminist intersectional theories, I demonstrate that researcher positionality is not fixed but relational and context-dependent, shifting across participants and encounters. Ultimately, the paper highlights the ethical dilemmas and methodological challenges of qualitative research and offers empirically grounded reflections that enrich research methodology literature and gender-and-criminal-justice scholarship, which has too often been shaped by Northern experiences.

338. Carcerality, Time and the Experience of Punishment

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Penology and Theories Punishment (Crime, Science and Politics WG)

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.517

Chair:

Anastasia Jablonska, King's College London

Participants:

Temporal Control and the Infantilized Defendant: Legal Purgatory in U.S. Criminal Courts *Andrea Giuffre, California State University, San Bernardino; Brittany Martin, The University of Rhode Island; Robert Stewart, University of Maryland; Beth Huebner, Arizona State University; Christopher Uggen, University of Minnesota*

Criminal courts operate not only as sites of adjudication, but also as institutions that enact punishment through routine processes. In particular, they do so by structuring and extending individuals' time in the system, often well before any formal sentence is imposed. The manipulation of time is cited as one mechanism by which the process of criminal legal adjudication functions as punishment. In particular, extant research focuses on how incarceration deprives individuals of time and liberty. Even so, little attention has been paid to the ways more "mundane" court operations and court interactions in the pre-

sentencing phase manipulate individuals' time. Drawing on 669 hours of ethnographic courtroom data from Georgia, Minnesota, and Missouri, we explore the mechanisms by which monetary sanctions, as the most common form of punishment in the US, stretch time. We contend that these sanctions serve as a mechanism through which criminal courts extend supervision and prolong legal uncertainty, transforming monetary debt into a debt of time. We explain how this legal purgatory can lead to status degradation, as individuals with monetary sanctions are subjected to cycles of reappearance and open up more avenues for denigration based upon assumptions of individual status, including the ability to manage their own affairs.

Expectation, normalization, and punishment across carceral facilities in the U.S. *Jennifer Macy, California State University, Dominguez Hills; Lori Sexton, University of Missouri, Kansas City*

Building on recent theoretical developments on the normalization of carceral environments (e.g., Rijt et al., 2023) and penal consciousness (Sexton, 2015), this paper advances a grounded theoretical framework for understanding subjective experience of normalization across settings. Through analytic abduction of in-depth observations and interviews with incarcerated people and staff at multiple Nordic-inspired carceral facilities in the U.S., we integrate and extend existing theoretical frameworks to better understand the role of expectation in incarcerated people's experiences of normalization. An analysis of expectation is key to understanding how normalization is translated across carceral contexts, and to what end—including the translation and application of the principle of normalization to different institutional environments, from reentry centers to maximum security prisons. Expectation is also key to understanding cross-national translation of the principle of normalization from the Nordic region (where it is foundational) to American contexts (where Nordic ideals of dignity and normalization exist in a tenuous balance with the central concern of institutional security). This understanding has further implications for comparative penology more broadly.

(Re)Examining the Pathology Museum through Carcerality *Anastasia Jablonska, King's College London; Kate West, King's College London*

Drawing on carceral theory—where systems of control, classification, and confinement shape the production of knowledge and the exercise of power—this paper re-examines the pathology museum as an active site in which questions of social (in)justice are embedded and must be critically engaged. Encounters with human "specimens," particularly within historical and forensic collections, raise significant ethical concerns when materials are acquired, displayed, and interpreted without sufficient attention to their social and historical contexts. Such collections remain entangled with enduring inequalities linked to colonialism, race, gender, class, and disability. While pathology museums continue to function as important educational resources, this project demonstrates the need for sustained ethical and social scrutiny. Analysis of the legal and regulatory frameworks governing pathology collections in the UK suggests that, although necessary, they are limited in their capacity to address the deeper ethical challenges these collections pose, particularly as they tend to overlook ongoing forms of structural inequality. This paper presents findings from a participatory research project aimed at developing more inclusive and reflexive approaches to engaging with pathology collections. The project centred on a series of workshops involving student co-researchers who have learned using these collections and who identify with communities historically marginalised in relation to them. In the first phase, participants generated key themes through their encounters with selected objects, drawing on postcolonial perspectives and practices of funerary remembrance and commemoration. In the second phase, these themes were explored collaboratively with educators and peers, fostering reflection on how collections might be more ethically and inclusively mobilised in teaching and learning. The final phase involved the creation of zines that re-curated selected objects to reflect these insights. The presentation showcases these zines as both methodological outputs and critical interventions.

339. Attitudes about Punishment and Criminal Justice System V

Topic 6: Perceptions of Crime and Justice/Attitudes about Punishment and Criminal Justice System
Paper Session
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.610
Chair:
Dragana Derlic, Georgia Southern University
Participants:

Punishing Politics: Race and the Imprisonment of Foreign Nationals in England and Wales *Alpa Parmar, University of Cambridge*

In 2000, there were 5,586 foreign national prisoners in England and Wales and in 2024 the number was 10,418, showing that the foreign national prisoner population has almost doubled over the last two decades. Alongside this growth, the number of foreign national offenders being deported before the end of their prison sentence has been steadily increasing over the last few years. Despite government policies that aim to remove as many foreign national offenders as possible, the rise in the foreign national prison population, nevertheless, is likely to be due to a multitude of factors including the ever-widening reach of crimmigration practices. In this paper I reflect on how the rise of Far-right politics and open support for the right wing among the general population both fuels and reflects the emboldened focus on framing racialized migrants as inherently criminal, punishable and excludable. To contextualize the analysis, I explore the ways in which current government approaches to remove foreign national offenders extends colonial histories of legal and spatial exclusion of racialized people based on criminality, that has shaped the British response to immigration.

The Black Box of Punishment: How Judges and Probation Officers Understand the Effectiveness of Traffic

Sanctions *Yana Jasmine Jaspers, VUB & VIAS*

Debates on the effectiveness of punishment in criminology have long been dominated by outcome-oriented approaches, particularly recidivism metrics and deterrence theory. Such perspectives, however, tend to obscure how effectiveness is constructed and negotiated in everyday judicial practice. This paper opens up the "black box" of punishment by examining how sanction effectiveness is perceived by police court judges and probation officers within the Belgian traffic justice system. Drawing on a qualitative study based on 18 semi-structured interviews (13 police judges and 5 probation officers), this paper shifts attention from formal evaluations of sanctions to the experiential and practice-based knowledge of judicial actors. The findings reveal a striking departure from classical deterrence assumptions: effectiveness is not primarily associated with the severity of punishment, but with three interrelated conditions—celerity, tangibility, and enforceability. Sanctions are considered effective when they follow the offence swiftly, produce a concrete impact on everyday life, and are credibly enforced. At the same time, the study exposes structural tensions within the penal system. Financial penalties are perceived as socially uneven, driving bans as potentially powerful yet undermined by delays, and rehabilitative measures as meaningful but institutionally constrained. A central concern among respondents is the lack of feedback on the execution of sanctions, producing a "black box" after sentencing that weakens both professional confidence and the perceived legitimacy of punishment. By foregrounding professional perceptions, this paper contributes to critical criminological debates on the gap between penal ideals and penal practice. It argues that sanction effectiveness is not an inherent property of punishment, but an emergent outcome shaped by implementation, institutional constraints, and everyday decision-making. In doing so, the paper calls for a shift from "punishing harder" to "punishing smarter" within contemporary justice systems.

The Challenges of Alternatives to Imprisonment *Merlinda A Bajo, Welfare Organisation Loerrach Germany*

Non-custodial alternatives to imprisonment have grown significantly over the past three decades, particularly in Scandinavian countries. However, relatively few studies have examined the broader ramifications of this development (Andersen & Andersen, 2014; Lähteenmäki, 2022). These alternatives aim to reduce both recidivism and prison populations, in line with numerous international recommendations promoting community sanctions and other non-custodial measures. At the same time, academics, legislators, and policymakers within the European Union increasingly recognize that incarceration is not the only means of balancing public security with social justice. Consequently, all member states have implemented various alternatives to imprisonment within their governmental and administrative frameworks. Despite the expansion of non-custodial measures over the past three decades, there remains a notable lack of research addressing how such alternatives can be effectively applied across different types of crime. This gap highlights important challenges in both policy design and practical implementation. Therefore, this paper focuses on the key challenges associated with the application of alternatives to imprisonment within contemporary penal systems.

Why prevention still comes second: The problem of recognition in crime prevention *Ruza Karlovic, University of Applied Science of Criminal Investigation and Public Security; Kruno Mahnet, police officer*

These findings suggest that recognition of preventive work is driven less by formal policies or normative endorsement, and more by experiential, outcome-based evaluations. Consequently, preventive activities tend to remain secondary to reactive policing unless their effectiveness is clearly demonstrated and internally acknowledged. The paper interprets these patterns within the framework of police organisational culture and evidence-based policing, highlighting a gap between strategic commitments to prevention and the practical legitimisation of those commitments. It argues that strengthening evaluation practices, increasing the visibility of preventive outcomes, and aligning internal recognition mechanisms with preventive goals are essential for improving the status of prevention in policing.

Punitive Attitudes Toward Community Sanctions: A Cross-National Comparison of Criminal Justice Students in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the United States *Mirza Buljubašić, Faculty of Criminal Justice, Criminology, and Security Studies, University of Sarajevo; Lejla Smajevic, Fakultet za kriminalistiku, kriminologiju i sigurnosne studije, Univerzitet u Sarajevu; Dragana Derlic, Georgia Southern University*

This paper presents the design of a cross-national study of punitive attitudes toward community sanctions among criminal justice and criminology students in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the United States. Although community-based sanctions play an important role in modern penal systems, attitudes toward these sanctions are shaped by broader beliefs about punishment, public protection, and offender accountability. Existing research has paid limited attention to how future justice professionals in different national settings understand the severity, legitimacy, and appropriate use of community sanctions. The study uses a survey instrument to examine multiple dimensions of penal attitudes, including punishment philosophies (e.g., rehabilitation, deterrence, and retribution), perceptions of sanction severity, and support for alternative sentencing options. The comparative design examines whether students differ in their evaluations of prison relative to community sanctions, and the extent to which these differences reflect punishment philosophies, perceptions of effectiveness and legitimacy, and individual-level characteristics. The sample consists of undergraduate and graduate criminal justice and criminology students from universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the United States. The study also examines whether factors including gender, academic standing, and ideological

orientation are associated with variation in punitive attitudes and support for community-based sanctions. By focusing on criminal justice students, this project addresses an important population whose views may shape future justice practice and policy. The paper contributes to comparative criminology by developing a framework for studying punitive attitudes toward community sanctions across legal and educational contexts and offering insight into cross-national variation in support for alternatives to incarceration.

340. Institutions, Sanctions and the Politics of Legitimacy

Topic 6: Perceptions of Crime and Justice/Political and Social Discourses about Crime and Justice (Crime, Science and Politics WG)

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.611

Chair:

Louis Kontos, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Participants:

Do Sanctions Deter Climate Protest? Experimental Evidence on Civil Disobedience in Times of Climate Crisis *Jan-Ulrich Dittmer, Humboldt-University Berlin; Katrin Höffler, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*

Over the past years, climate activists have used civil disobedience as a means of protest to advance more effective climate protection policies. In Germany, these protests have sparked an intense debate about how the state should respond. A dominant strand of this debate calls for harsher punishments, primarily invoking deterrence and the prevention of radicalization of protesters. Others, have warned that punitive responses may themselves contribute to radicalization. Due to a lack of empirical evidence, both claims have so far remained largely speculative. Against this background, our paper asks: Why do individuals engage in civil disobedience despite the risk of legal sanctions, and how do different types of sanctions shape their willingness to participate in protest? To answer this question, we conducted an online vignette experiment with climate activists (n = 350), systematically varying, among other factors, the type of protest and type of expected sanction. By providing empirical evidence on how activists perceive and respond to sanctions, the study contributes to a more nuanced, prevention-oriented approach to criminal law and challenges simplified assumptions about deterrence and radicalization in the context of climate protest.

Sanctions, Litigation, and Elite Deviance: A Criminological Analysis of EU Sanctions Jurisprudence *Katarzyna Joanna McNaughton, King's Russia Institute, King's College London*

Five years into Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the European Union (EU) has developed an extensive sanctions regime aimed at constraining not only the Russian war effort but also the broader political and economic networks sustaining Putin's regime. These restrictive measures operate as a form of transnational governance, targeting Russia through trade bans and central to this regime are financial sanctions against corporations and individuals who support or benefit from the Russian government, requiring the freezing of funds and economic resources owned, controlled, or indirectly linked to designated persons or entities. Sanctions were frequently challenged before the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU). Why should this jurisprudence interest criminologists? The answer is multifold. First, the Court's case law reveals how sanctions litigation brings the post-Soviet political and economic legacy into EU legal reasoning. Courts examine whether past corporate roles or shareholdings continue to generate influence or benefit linking individuals to the present-day Russian regime, highlighting the persistence of historical structures of economic power. Second, sanctions generated sophisticated strategies of sanctions evasion through complex ownership structures and intermediaries, blurring the boundary between lawful economic activity and illicit conduct and placing sanctions evasion at the frontier of transnational economic crime and elite deviance. Third, sanctions litigation reveals discursive strategies resembling the techniques of neutralization identified by G. Sykes and D. Matza. Finally, the jurisprudence highlights a structural tension between societal expectations of justice and the evidentiary standards governing EU sanctions law. EU sanction law functions as a transnational labelling mechanism: designated individuals become publicly identified "sanctioned persons," effectively rendered persona non grata within the EU's economic order. These dynamics demonstrate how this new system of global governance construct, contest, and enforce categories of deviance beyond traditional criminal law.

The Judge Sees Caste Before Evidence: Lawyers' Experiences of Caste Bias in Indian Courts *ARUNA MAHANANDA, Univerisity of Essex*

This study examines the role of caste in shaping legal practice and judicial interactions in rural Odisha, India. Through in-depth interviews with 16 Dalit lawyers, the research examines how caste identity influences interactions within various courts, shaping both procedural experiences and perceptions of judicial impartiality. While Indian law explicitly prohibits caste-based discrimination, the findings reveal that caste continues to play a subtle yet significant role in courtroom dynamics. Participants reported instances where judges appeared to assess litigants and advocates based on caste before engaging with the merits of a case. Lawyers from Dalit communities described experiences of differential treatment, limited access to influential networks, and subtle cues of bias, which collectively constrained their professional efficacy and the perceived fairness of judicial outcomes. Further, this study highlights a gap between the formal principles of judicial neutrality and the lived realities of practitioners, underscoring the persistence of social hierarchies within Indian legal institutions. It also draws attention to structural factors, including under-representation of Dalit communities in the higher judiciary and political influence within the power system. By centring the voices of Dalit lawyers in rural Odisha, this research contributes empirical insights to debates on caste, legal practice, and judicial equity in India and contributes to the existing studies on how

social identities influence justice systems in postcolonial and hierarchical societies.

Not Just the Facts-- The FBI and the Current Crisis *Louis Kontos, John Jay College of Criminal Justice*

The conceptual foundation for current policy linking immigration, crime, and gang membership was laid in the 1990s by the Clinton administration. The 1996 presidential State of the Union Address announced a new 'war on gangs.' That same year, the Immigration and Nationality Act redefined federal immigration and deportation laws, including provisions to address undocumented gang members. The Act provided the basis for the current national policy, which involves routine collaboration among ICE, local law enforcement, and gang task forces. The Trump administration has reconstructed the gang problem on this foundation, portraying it as a product of unchecked immigration and claiming that hostile governments send gang members to infiltrate American towns and cities. The following paper first examines the convergence of conspiracist, revanchist, and law enforcement discourses underpinning a renewed war on gangs, and second examines the renewed war as a pretext for the expansion and transformation of the repressive state apparatus.

341. Place, Community and Policing

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Crime prevention
Paper Session
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.616
Chair:
Kennedy Kaumba Mabuku, Namibia University of Science and Technology
Participants:

Can Community Street Clean-Ups Produce Sustained Crime Reductions in Chronic Violent Crime Hot Spots? Evidence from Newark, New Jersey. *Alejandro Gimenez-Santana, Rutgers University; Adriana Santos, Rutgers University; Gaspard Tissandier, School of Criminal Justice Rutgers University-Newark; Munazzah Shahbaaz, Newark Public Safety Collaborative; Warren Thompson, Lincoln Park Coast Cultural District*

While environmental interventions are often examined as top-down municipal initiatives, this research focuses on cleanups organized and implemented by local community-based organizations with active resident participation. Beyond reducing physical disorder, community-led cleanups may also foster collective efficacy and strengthen informal social control. We analyzed various community cleanups conducted at two high-crime intersections in two distinct neighborhoods in Newark, New Jersey. These efforts were led by community-based organizations as part of a coalition funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to test alternative public safety strategies that complement traditional law enforcement approaches, with support from the Newark Public Safety Collaborative (NPSC), a Rutgers University anchor initiative. The intervention also included the installation of garbage cans to mitigate excessive litter, an issue identified through community listening sessions where residents consistently cited it as a contributing factor. To evaluate these interventions, we compare crime counts in targeted street segments before and after the implementation of cleanups and the installation of garbage cans. Using a dataset of outdoor violent crime incidents measured at the street segment–day level, we assess changes following the interventions, providing policy-relevant evidence on the magnitude and durability of community-driven place-based strategies.

Beyond Policing: The Role of Alternative Responses in Reducing Auto Theft of Hyundais and Kias in Newark, New Jersey *Eeron Wilson II, Rutgers University - Newark; Alejandro Gimenez-Santana, Rutgers University; Adriana Santos, Rutgers University; Munazzah Shahbaaz, Newark Public Safety Collaborative; Gaspard Tissandier, School of Criminal Justice Rutgers University-Newark; Warren Thompson, Lincoln Park Coast Cultural District*

As the American public has increasingly scrutinized the legitimacy and effectiveness of law enforcement, researchers and practitioners have adopted policing models aimed at improving crime prevention and strengthening community relations through community-oriented policing. While these approaches have had mixed success in improving safety, the co-production of public safety can help address some of these limitations by fostering more balanced collaboration among community stakeholders and law enforcement. Under this approach, stakeholders work collaboratively to achieve agreed-upon public safety outcomes, using data to guide the deployment of community resources and expertise where needed most. This study evaluates the effectiveness of an initiative to reduce auto thefts in Newark, New Jersey, supported by the Newark Public Safety Collaborative (NPSC) at Rutgers–Newark. The NPSC strengthens Newark's public safety ecosystem by democratizing access to data and analytics, empowering community organizations to co-produce safety. This mixed-methods study examines a co-produced community safety initiative to reduce auto theft, led by a local nonprofit. It evaluates its impact by analyzing changes in crime counts before and after implementation, combined with in-depth interviews with community stakeholders regarding fear of victimization. The findings shed light on the utility of alternative responses to promote community participation in the co-production of public safety.

Eyes and Ears on the Street, Place Managers and the workings of Business Crime Reduction Partnerships. *Keith Spiller, University of Southampton; Xavier L'Hoiry, University of Sheffield; Amy Stevens, University of Sheffield*

This paper considers Business Crime Reduction Partnerships (BCRPs) in the UK, which are self-mobilised groups responding to security issues facing high-street businesses. These groups coalesce around issues that formal police actors are perhaps stretched in dealing with, such as low-level social disorder or shoplifting. We examine the workings of BCRPs: what they do; the void they fill; and their successes. Indeed,

key to this is the evolving nature of policing, retailing and the disruption of activities such as shoplifting. We position our approach to BCRPs by involving the notion of 'place managers' and issues of natural surveillance. The concept is premised on spaces to be guarded; how these spaces gain importance, distinction or become invested with meaning and understanding. The paper is based upon close analysis of 3 different groups and 23 interviews with BCRPs and 11 with stakeholders. Our findings focus on the development and responsibilization of how businesses are engaging 'doing it yourself' responses and in turn how they are changing high-street security tactics and outcomes.

The Implementation Challenges of Smart City crime prevention policing in the city of Windhoek *Kennedy Kaumba Mabuku, Namibia University of Science and Technology*

Smart city policing strategies have become fundamental due to the rapid intensification of urban environments. In developed countries, smart policing has gained traction; nonetheless, in emerging African cities, the implementation of smart policing as an innovative strategy to police practices remains underexplored. Therefore, the study examines the challenges that influence the implementation of smart city crime-prevention policing initiatives in Windhoek. The study employed a qualitative approach through 18 interviews with Windhoek municipal officials, Namibian Police law enforcement officers, and officials from the Office of the Prime Minister. The study's findings show that, despite policy commitments toward smart urban transformation, undeniable challenges exist, including limited technological infrastructure, poor inter-agency coordination, resource constraints, and data governance gaps. The study further revealed that the identified barriers affect the successful integration of intelligence-led policing systems, including surveillance technologies, data-driven crime mapping, and real-time response crime prevention mechanisms. Therefore, the study argues that successful smart policing initiatives are contingent on technological adoption, institutional readiness and stakeholders' willingness to contribute to smart city crime prevention in Windhoek. Given that the present study situates Windhoek within the global database on smart city governance and policing, the study contributes to the limited empirical literature on African urban policing governance.

342. EUROC Panel 7. Intersections of Corporate, White-Collar, Organised Crime and Espionage

Topic 2: Types of Offending/White collar Crime, Organizational Crime, Corporate Crime, Financial Crime (EUROC)

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.617

Chair:

Natalia Daśko, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Tor

Participants:

Paths into the grey area: how firms become entangled with organized crime *Sara Valle, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore – Transcrime; Francesco Calderoni, Transcrime / Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Milan)*

The infiltration of legitimate firms by organized crime reflects a dynamic process of criminal embeddedness within the legal economy. Existing research has largely focused on the hybrid nature of criminal firms, emphasizing their position in the grey area between legality and illegality, while paying limited attention to their structural heterogeneity and organizational dynamics. This study examines whether criminal firms cluster into distinct opportunity configurations and whether their ownership and internal structures exhibit recurrent patterns over time. Building on a unique dataset of Italian firms directly and indirectly connected to organized crime, along with ownership and financial information, the study employs unsupervised machine learning techniques to uncover latent organizational configurations. By moving beyond case-based approaches, the study contributes to a more systematic understanding of how organized crime operates through firms and adapts within the legal economy.

Personal connections, local power and the grey area of political corruption: an empirical investigation of firms linked to local political administrators in Italy *Michele Riccardi, Transcrime - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore; Sara Valle, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore – Transcrime; Lorena Andreea Axinte, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore; Alessandro Corti, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore; Michael Victor Lo Giudice, Transcrime - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore*

Interactions between political and economic actors often take place within a "grey area" between legality and illegality. Practices such as personal connections (PCs) and revolving doors (RDs) create relational channels through which private stakeholders may gain access to public decision-making processes without necessarily breaching formal legal provisions. Nevertheless, these practices increase the risk of corrupt behaviour and the exploitation of public resources for private interests. While PCs and RDs are widely discussed from a theoretical perspective in studies of political corruption, empirical research remains limited. As part of the Horizon Europe RESPOND project, this paper addresses this gap by developing a novel empirical framework to map the territorial embeddedness of the relationship between political actors and private economic interests. In particular, using spatial statistical models, the study examines the territorial distribution of more than 200,000 firms connected to local political administrators (LPAs) in Italy, as well as the contextual conditions associated with higher concentrations of these ties. It also investigates whether firms linked to LPAs differ structurally—in terms of size and performance—from firms without political connections.

Sabotage and diversion in Poland. New faces of espionage. *Piotr Chlebowicz, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn*

The paper addresses the issues of changes introduced

in the Polish Penal Code of 2023, concerning the interpretation of the elements of a crime in Article 130 §7 of the Penal Code, i.e. „sabotage" and „diversion". In the practice of applying the law, convictions based on the above-mentioned provisions have already been recorded. The author attempts to assess the effectiveness of new criminal law tools in combating sabotage and diversion.

Understanding Food Fraud: Criminological Perspectives and Legal Frameworks *Natalia Daśko, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Tor*

Food fraud is increasingly recognised as a serious form of economic offending, yet it remains underexplored within criminological research. This paper focuses on food fraud as a distinct phenomenon based on deception within legal food markets, rather than on broader notions of food crime or regulatory non-compliance. The presentation discusses the scale and main trends of food fraud, drawing on European sources and selected statistical data from Poland. It outlines common forms of fraudulent practices, including mislabelling, adulteration and substitution, and shows how these practices respond to market pressure, weak oversight and complex supply chains. The paper examines the profiles of offenders, who are typically legitimate market actors embedded in lawful business structures. Particular attention is paid to victimisation. In addition to consumers and traders, the paper highlights less obvious victims of food fraud, such as the environment and animals, which may be harmed through illegal production methods, unsustainable practices or violations of animal welfare standards. Finally, the paper briefly discusses criminal law responses to food fraud in Poland, situating them within a broader European context.

343. EUROC Panel 9. Legal and Regulatory Interventions for White-Collar and Corporate Crimes

Topic 2: Types of Offending/White collar Crime, Organizational Crime, Corporate Crime, Financial Crime (EUROC)

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.012

Chair:

Tomáš Strémy, Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Law

Participants:

Can inland shipping vessels and chemical corporations be deterred from offending? A longitudinal evaluation of corporate crime interventions *Aaron Bron, NSCR/Leiden University; Marieke Kluin, Leiden University; Arjan Blokland, NSCR; Jacco Wielhouwer, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*

Despite the central role of interventions by regulatory agencies in addressing corporate crime, there is limited scientific knowledge regarding the effectiveness of these interventions. Based on longitudinal inspection data, the current study assesses the extent to which different regulatory interventions deter offending in inland shipping vessels and chemical corporations. We use two datasets with inspection data from Dutch regulatory agencies. The first dataset contains all recorded offenses from 40,602 inspections of 7,874 ships in the period 2015-2020. The second dataset contains information on offenses from 5,975 inspections at 567 (Seveso) chemical corporations active at some point between 2007 and 2021. Both sectors are subject to a wide range of laws and regulations concerning occupational health, the environment, and (external) safety. We estimate the effects of regulatory interventions imposed in response to offenses observed in the previous inspection on the number of offenses detected in the current inspection using Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood regression with high-dimensional fixed effects (PPMLHDFE). The specific deterrent effects of regulatory interventions vary between the two sectors. We find that regulatory interventions deter offending among inland shipping vessels, but not among (Seveso) chemical corporations. We will briefly discuss possible explanations for the differing results.

Dual-Track Legal Framework in Relation to the Protection of the European Union's Financial Interests *Natália Kerepecká, Faculty of Law, Comenius University in Bratislava*

The aim of this paper is to analyze, the system of criminal law protection of the European Union's financial interests in the Slovak Republic, with a particular focus on the dual-track approach to the protection of national and EU financial resources. The paper examines the legislative mechanisms and their implementation into Slovak law, as well as a comparative analysis with the legal frameworks of selected EU Member States. The first part of this paper focuses on an analysis of the Criminal Code of the Slovak Republic, with particular attention to the dual-track protection of financial interests. Special emphasis is placed on the principles of sentencing, types of penalties, and the duration of limitation periods for offenses affecting both national and EU financial resources. The second part of this paper provides a comparative analysis of Slovak legislation with that of selected EU Member States – the Czech Republic, Austria, and Italy. This section addresses the issue of asymmetry between national legal provisions and the legal systems of the selected Member States, while also presenting the methods and variations in the transposition of the PIF Directive into national legal orders. The final part of this paper presents a statistical analysis of criminal offenses affecting the financial interests of the European Union in Slovak Republic, including graphical representations of the number of cases, cleared and additionally clarified offenses. This analysis enables the identification of trends, gaps, and the overall effectiveness of the criminal law protection system for financial interests.

Sentencing White-Collar Crime in the United States: A Systematic Literature Review *Marieke Kluin, Leiden University; Iris Huizinga, Leiden University*

Sentencing practices for white-collar crime remain understudied. This article examines formal sentencing practices of white-collar crime in the United States through a systematic literature review of thirteen

studies, guided by the focal concerns theory. Findings indicate that white-collar offenses are generally punished less severely than traditional crimes, although a punitive trend may be emerging. Sentencing outcomes vary across offense types, and factors such as politics, policy, public scandals, and the offender characteristics (e.g., status and gender) appear influential, though their effects remain inconclusive. Overall, generalizing sentencing patterns is difficult due to study heterogeneity and limitations of the theoretical framework. Future research should adopt clearer definitions and methodologies to enable replication and comparative analyses, advancing understanding of white-collar crime sentencing.

White-Collar Offenders in the Conditions of the Slovak Republic *Tomáš Strémy, Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Law*

Slovakia has become a central hub for VAT and customs fraud in the European Union, with up to a third of all cases investigated by the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) linked to the country, resulting in estimated damages of €900 million. From a long-term perspective, the period of economic criminality in the Slovak Republic under review may be divided into five stages. In 2000–2001, the level of recorded economic crime was low to moderate. The year 2002 brought a sharp increase, after which economic crime stabilised at a high level. The period from 2005 to 2013 remained within the range of approximately 16.7 to 19.5 thousand offences per year. In 2014–2020, a long-term decline followed. The years 2021–2023 marked a slight return to growth, while 2025 saw another steeper drop.

344. Building Resilience and Managing Burnout in Academics

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Feminist Criminology (Gender, Crime and Justice WG)
Roundtable
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.014

Workshop Description Burnout syndrome continues to be a significant global challenge, influencing professional performance, personal well being, and safety. Academic professionals often experience elevated stress levels, decreased resilience, and emotional exhaustion due to demanding work environment. This workshop explores evidence based approaches to understanding, preventing, and managing burnout while empowering participants to enhance resilience and sustain their psychological well being. Aim of the Workshop The workshop aims to: • Increase awareness and understanding of Burnout Syndrome. • Enhance resilience, coping strategies, and emotional regulation. • Introduce effective tools such as communication skills, conflict management, and stress management techniques. • Strengthen participants' overall well being using interactive, contemporary, and learner centred pedagogical methods. Methodology The session will be highly interactive and experiential, including: • Case study discussions based on real clinical scenarios • Role play activities to practice communication and resilience building skills • Group dialogue (round table format) for sharing experiences and best practices • Collaborative development of strategies to manage workplace stress and prevent burnout • Participants will have the opportunity to reflect, contribute, and engage in hands on learning activities designed to enhance resilience. Learning Outcomes By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to: • Identify the signs and stages of burnout in themselves and colleagues • Understand the relationship between stress, resilience, and well being • Apply practical skills for communication, conflict resolution, and stress management • Develop personalized strategies to prevent burnout and promote professional sustainability • Integrate resilience building practices into their daily clinical routines Target Audience Academics. Workshop Duration 2–3 hours (modifiable depending on conference scheduling)

Chair:
Ali Amhaz, European University Cyprus, Cyprus

Discussants:
Tina Nicola Skinner, University of Bath
Emily Tsang, University of Bath

345. Translating Research To Practice: Communicating Online and Offline Crime Evidence To Different Audiences

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Cybercrime (Cybercrime WG)
Roundtable
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.116

This roundtable will provide an overview of active research projects on various aspects of both cybercrimes and traditional offenses, including those targeting specific subpopulations such as individuals with disabilities. The panelists will discuss strategies to translate these findings to law enforcement and practitioner audiences through training programs, publications, and other specialized strategies. They will discuss strengths and weaknesses of various approaches, and provide attendees with strategies they can apply to their own research agendas.

Chair:
Brittany E Hayes, University of Cincinnati

Discussants:
Cooper A. Maher, Michigan State University
Thomas J. Holt, Michigan State University
Catherine Marcum, Appalachian State University

346. Which criminal networks in Europe are high-risk? – PREVENT Project Part I

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Organized Crime (Organized Crime WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.130

Law enforcement and policy agencies in Europe and elsewhere are increasingly seeking to identify so called "high risk" or "most threatening" criminal networks to establish strategic and tactical priorities. To support these efforts, within the ISF funded PREVENT project, we have adapted an approach commonly used in national security—the TVC model (Threat × Vulnerability × Consequences)—to identify high risk criminal networks, and we are currently testing this approach in 10 European cities. A criminal network poses a threat if it has both the intent and the capability (e.g., members, knowledge, financial means, criminal connections, and other tools and resources) to act—namely, to carry out criminal activities such

as drug trafficking or fraud, and to engage in violence, corruption or money laundering. Vulnerability refers to the circumstances or context (e.g., physical, infrastructural, technological, socio economic, and policy or institutional factors) under which the intended criminal activity takes place, which may make the activity more or less likely to succeed, thereby producing harm. Consequences refer to the damages (e.g., fatalities, non fatal injuries, trauma or other physical or psychological impairments, material loss, pollution, environmental degradation, public nuisance, social fragmentation, community disassociation, or distrust in government) that result from the criminal activity and inflict harm on stakeholders, including individuals, private and public institutions, and the physical and social environment. This panel includes five papers. Paper 1 briefly outlines our analytical approach and presents provisional results from analyses conducted in three Belgian cities—Antwerp, Brussels, and Ghent (Gabriëls, Paoli & Greenfield). Papers 2, 3, and 4 present preliminary findings from Madrid (Palomo & Vallés), Sofia (Nikolova & Rusev), Stockholm (Skinnari & Zakhour), and Frankfurt (von Lampe & John) respectively.

Chair:

Letizia Paoli, KU Leuven Faculty of Law and Criminology

Participants:

Identifying high-risk criminal networks in three Belgian cities: approach, findings and challenges *Leen Gabriels, Researcher, KU Leuven; Letizia Paoli, KU Leuven Faculty of Law and Criminology; Victoria A. Greenfield, George Mason University*

This paper has a threefold aim. First, it briefly summarizes the analytical approach adopted in the overall project to identify high risk criminal networks. Second, it presents provisional findings concerning the networks active in Antwerp, Brussels, and Ghent, the criminal activities they carry out, and the resulting harmful consequences for various stakeholders. By comparing networks, activities, and consequences across the three cities, the paper highlights both shared tendencies and distinctive local dynamics. Third and finally, the paper discusses the challenges encountered during data collection and analysis.

High-Risk Criminal Networks and the Infiltration of the Legal Economy in Spain: Hybrid Criminal Governance, Financial Facilitation and Market Embedding *Jesús Palomo, FIADYS; Luis Manuel VALLÉS CAUSADA, FIADYS*

The infiltration of the legal economy by high-risk criminal networks (HRCNs) has emerged as a central concern in contemporary criminology because it blurs the boundary between licit and illicit markets, distorts economic competition, weakens public institutions, and complicates law-enforcement responses. While recent European assessments increasingly recognize legal business structures as core enablers of organized crime, the criminological literature remains unevenly developed across jurisdictions. In particular, Spain remains comparatively under-theorized despite its strategic position as a logistical gateway, financial hub, and destination for criminal reinvestment within European illicit markets. This article addresses that gap by examining the dynamics through which HRCNs interact with and exploit segments of the Spanish legal economy, with particular attention to Madrid. Empirically, the study draws on qualitative research conducted within the European project PREVENT. The dataset combines semi-structured interviews, written responses, and documentary materials from actors with statutory or operational responsibilities in areas including organized crime, money laundering, tax fraud, and market regulation. The analysis focuses on Madrid while incorporating complementary insights from Barcelona and Andalusia in order to situate the capital within broader national dynamics. Methodologically, the research relies on triangulation across institutional perspectives. The findings indicate that the Spanish HRCN landscape is organizationally diverse and operationally hybrid. Established trafficking formations coexist with more flexible transnational configurations linked to Latin American, Chinese, and West African criminal networks. These groups operate through polycriminal portfolios in which drug trafficking is frequently combined with fiscal fraud, trade-based money laundering, cyber-enabled fraud, human exploitation, and professional facilitation. The sectors most frequently identified as vulnerable include real estate, hydrocarbons and excise-sensitive markets, import-export and wholesale distribution, logistics infrastructures, and professional services. In these contexts, criminal actors rely on networks of brokers, facilitators, and service providers that enable the strategic embedding of illicit activity within ordinary economic routines and corporate structures.

The Most Threatening Criminal Networks in Sofia – Emerging Trends, Capabilities and Harms *Madlen Nikolova, Senior Analyst, Center for the Study of Democracy, Bulgaria; Atanas Krasimirov Rusev, Center for the Study of Democracy*

The violent 1990s and the large hierarchical groups, for which Sofia and Bulgaria were notorious, have passed, yet organised crime has adapted and remains highly active. Today, it operates across diverse markets, notably drug trafficking, predatory lending, real estate fraud and illegal waste dumping, generating significant social, economic and environmental harm. Criminal networks are typically small to medium-sized, flexible and profit-driven, relying on professional facilitators, corruption and embeddedness in legal business structures. Particularly concerning is the persistent recruitment of young people into networks linked to violent football fan factions. Violence is used selectively, primarily by actors in predatory lending and drug markets, while economic crime networks depend on exploiting legal and administrative gaps. Drawing on expert interviews and case files, this paper examines criminal networks, their capabilities and associated harms in Sofia.

Criminal Networks, Capabilities and Consequences for Stockholm *Johanna Skinnari, The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention; Karim Zakhour, The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention*

According to the Swedish police and recent media reporting, the situation with criminal networks in Stockholm is characterized by a large number of

criminal networks, violence connected to drug markets and the recruitment of children and young persons to the networks. On the other hand, the authorities also emphasize criminal network's presence in welfare fraud and other economic crimes. All this illustrates how criminal networks can be harmful in many different ways. Drawing mainly on expert interviews this paper presents the situation with criminal networks, capabilities and markets, and the consequences and harms regarding Stockholm.

Criminal Networks in Frankfurt – Enabling Factors and Resulting Harms *Sonja John, Hessian University of Applied Science for Public Management and Security); Klaus von Lampe, Berlin School of Economics and Law*

In this paper we present preliminary findings from the PREVENT project on the case study of the Frankfurt Main region as they pertain to the prevalence of criminal networks, the infrastructural, socio-economic and policy environment within which they exist, and the impact they have. While the organized crime scene in Germany has traditionally been understood in ethnic categories, the follow-the-money approach and decoded crypto chats have shed light on much more diverse, interconnected and overlapping structures. They benefit from Frankfurt's geographical location, its role as a hub for transportation, communication and business, a fragmented institutional landscape and the parallel existence of rich and poor. Data were collected from official annual reports and expert interviews with criminal investigators, financial investigators and customs officials.

347. Culture, Violence and the Boundaries of Criminological Explanation

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Theoretical and Epistemological debates in Criminology (Crime, Science and Politics WG)

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.136

Chair:

Mélanie M. Tiago, University Lusófona, Lisbon, Portugal

Participants:

Theoretical approaches to honour-based violence and institutional responses: evidence from a systematic review *Maria Victoria Steffany Montoya Rodriguez, Universidad de Lleida; Carolina Villacampa, University of Lleida; Rubén Espuny, University of Lleida*

Honour-based violence (HBV) has gained increasing visibility within European criminal justice systems and policy agendas. However, institutional responses remain uneven and conceptually fragmented. This paper presents the results of a systematic literature review examining the main theoretical foundations used to explain honour-based violence and the corresponding institutional responses proposed in academic research. The review analyses 40 peer-reviewed articles indexed in Scopus and Web of Science, published between 2016 and 2023. The findings identify three dominant theoretical frameworks. First, culturalist approaches frame HBV as a practice rooted in religious mandates and cultural traditions. Second, gender-based violence frameworks conceptualise HBV as a serious violation of women's human rights embedded in patriarchal structures. Third, mixed perspectives integrate both approaches, incorporating individual, educational, and socio-economic factors to explain the persistence of HBV. Despite the predominance of gender-based frameworks in recent literature, there is broad consensus that effective institutional responses should go beyond criminal prosecution. The reviewed studies emphasise the importance of preventive public policies that promote women's autonomy through culturally sensitive interventions and that recognise survivors' agency and forms of local resistance. By mapping the theoretical foundations underpinning HBV research, this research contributes to European criminological debates on policy design and institutional practice. It highlights the need for coherent frameworks that combine legal responses with prevention and empowerment strategies adapted to diverse social contexts.

Victims of Order: International Criminal Law and Necropolitical Structural Violence – Criminological and Zemiological Reflections *Felix Butz, Humboldt-University Berlin*

Contemporary International Criminal Law (ICL) remains preoccupied with visible, spectacular acts of violence, leaving systemic and structural harms largely beyond the reach of legal accountability which is often reflected in criminological analyses in the field, which mostly deal with so-called atrocity crimes. Yet, as, inter alia, Kalpouzos & Mann have argued, echoing Arendt's seminal work on Eichmann, there seems to be such a thing as „banal" crimes against humanity: Widespread practices by networks of individual and organisational actors that give rise to systemic grave human rights violations which are often caused intentionally or, at least, knowingly. To capture this phenomenon, this contribution – by drawing on Galtung and Mbembe – introduces the concept of necropolitical structural violence (NSV), defined as the lived experience of the "living dead," characterized by a profound state of "stuckness" where populations are forced into suspended existence between existence and extinction. This violence is felt not as an acute event, but as an attritional "slow violence" (Nixon) of delayed yet destructive force, operationalized through the active inaction or deliberate abandonment of organizational actors. While Galtung's "structural violence" identifies the static harm of inequitable systems, Mbembe's "necropolitics" reintroduces agency by highlighting the sovereign decision to "let die"—a deliberate necro-policy that subjects disposable populations to "death-worlds". Through a zemiological lens that recentres analysis around social harm rather than legal crime, the contribution extends the analytical perspective of NSV to investigate regimes of migration control, starvation, and economic subjugation, revealing how bureaucratic behaviour and policy omission produce lethal outcomes while preserving plausible deniability. Ultimately, the contribution aims at unveiling the structural selectivity of ICL and criminology while bringing the "banal" engineering of vulnerability by

bureaucratic "desk murderers" (Schreibtischtäter, Arendt) more into criminology's focus, linking the phenomenon of NSV with existing criminological and zemiological concepts.

Theoretical importance vs. empirical operationalization: a systematic review of the use of culture in criminological research *Mélanie M. Tiago, University Lusófona, Lisbon, Portugal*

This study analyses the use of culture as an explanatory variable in criminological research, with particular attention to its role in explaining patterns of criminal behaviour. Specifically, it seeks to investigate whether culture is systematically invoked as a residual or implicit explanatory factor when other structural or individual-level variables fail to account for observed variations in crime. A systematic review of the criminological literature published between 2000 and 2025 will be conducted using major academic databases such as Scopus and Web of Science. The study will analyse a corpus of approximately 80 to 120 peer-reviewed articles in which the concept of culture is mobilized in relation to crime, delinquency, or violence. A structured content analysis will be conducted to assess how this concept is defined, operationalized, and integrated into explanatory frameworks. It is expected that there will be substantial variation across studies in the extent to which culture is explicitly defined and empirically operationalized in the criminological literature. Overall, the study is expected to reveal a significant gap between the theoretical importance of culture and its empirical operationalization in criminological research. Future research should aim to develop more rigorous and transparent approaches to the operationalization of culture, including the construction of empirical indicators that allow for its systematic inclusion in quantitative analyses of criminal behaviour.

348. Women's imprisonment in Europe

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Imprisonment, Prisons, Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment (Prisons WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.156

Over the past three decades at least, we have seen a growing international recognition that imprisonment is an inappropriate answer to women in conflict with the law (see e.g. Malloch & McIvor 2013; Kruttschnitt 2010; Gelsthorpe & Morris 2002 and more). Despite this, we have simultaneously seen a global increase in the female prison population by almost 60% in the last 25 years (Fair & Walmsley 2024) which has been twice the rate of the prison population overall. However, this increase has not been uniform: for example, in Europe we have seen a decrease of 5.4% over that period. Looking more closely at individual European countries reveals an even more complex picture. This seems to be a good moment in time to look into these varying European perspectives on women's imprisonment that might offer counterpoints to global trends. In this session we would like to look at connections between penality and women's pathways into crime, hear about prison conditions for women in various European countries, including the wide range of unintended consequences of women's imprisonment for communities and families and further explore some of the various paradoxes that are highlighted in the rich literature on women in prison.

Chairs:

Daria Przybylska, University of Cambridge
Anna Schliehe, Universität Trier

Participants:

Maternal Imprisonment as Ambiguous Loss: Family Separation and Caregiving in Czechia *Eliska Duskova, University of Cambridge*

Women's imprisonment raises particular concerns regarding family separation, caregiving, and the broader social consequences of punishment. While international scholarship increasingly highlights the gendered effects of imprisonment (Crewe et al., 2017; Gottlieb and Mahabir, 2022), research on maternal imprisonment in Central and Eastern Europe remains limited. In the Czech Republic, women represent a small proportion of the prison population, and most are imprisoned for non-violent offences (e.g. Marešová, 2025; VSČR, 2026). Drawing on a larger study exploring how imprisonment reshapes family relationships, caregiving roles, and children's experiences of separation through the conceptual lens of ambiguous loss, this paper examines the experiences of incarcerated mothers and their children in the Czech Republic. It focuses on two case studies of women who were allowed to keep their youngest children with them in the only mother–baby unit in Czechia offering this arrangement. The findings show that maternal imprisonment produces complex forms of family disruption and emotional uncertainty. Even when infants remain with their mothers in prison, the women still experienced separation and instability in family life. The paper contributes to debates on gender and punishment by highlighting the ambiguous and relational nature of maternal imprisonment in the Czech context.

The depth and weight of women's experiences of imprisonment in Germany *Anna Schliehe, Universität Trier*

While attention has been directed towards the Nordic countries in search for penal reform ideas (Pratt, Scharff-Smith & Ugelvik 2017), central European countries have featured less in penological analyses. With a prison population rate of 71 Germany has a lower rate than most other countries in the world (Dünkel et al 2024; WPB 2025). However, without looking more closely, these numbers can be misleading. For example, in a European comparison the amount of female prisoners in Germany is considered high, despite overall prisoner numbers being very low (Aebi & Cocco 2024). This disparity gives a hint as to why it is important to look more closely at the experiences of women in prison. Neuber (2020) underlines how addressing the issue of women's imprisonment requires complex thinking, which bridges structural disadvantages faced by women, while at the same time examining the attributions that exist in research and practice in relation to femininity, deviance and social control. This paper aims to add to these debates by exploring the voices of women from

seven German women's prisons. The paper is based on data from a larger mixed-method study (WISCA) on the experiences of women in prison and after prison, here focussing in particular on how respondents spoke about aspects of depth and weight (Crewe 2011) as these carried particularly salient descriptions of what everyday experiences of imprisonment entailed that matter for overarching debates on penology and punishment in Germany and beyond.

The Prison as a Factory: Memory through Materiality and Story Telling *Arta Jalili-Idrissi, University of Staffordshire; Kamil Miszewski, University of Warsaw*

The abandoned large-scale factory warehouses, discontinued railway lines and (dis)used intra-zone checkpoints are only some of the reminders of the Soviet approach towards imprisonment that remain embedded within the prison's physical environment several decades after the collapse of the Soviet Union. These visual reminders or Soviet ideological imprints serve as the evidence of such practices as 'in exile' imprisonment and prisoner 'rehabilitation' through hard and productive labour but also can be seen as useful reference points for comparing inter-jurisdictional approaches to (historic) penal practices. This paper considers these spatial ideological imprints in conjunction with women's memories of the Soviet imprisonment in Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic (Latvian SSR) and Polish People's Republic (Polish PR) while centering the sensory as a core element through which to communicate and compare women's experiences of harm, justice, and resistance. By combining these two emerging fields in criminology – sensory criminology and historical criminology, the paper aims to establish an innovative approach of studying women's penality through time and senses.

Relational work and gendered nature of women's open imprisonment in England & Wales *Sarah Waite, Leeds Beckett University; Daria Przybylska, University of Cambridge*

Most of what we know about women's imprisonment – what it does, and what it looks and feels like – is based on research in closed prison settings. The same applies to our understanding of the work and role of prison staff. Notably, from the limited and largely androcentric body of work on open prisons (Waite, 2024), we know that these penal environments generate very different conditions for those living and working there (Mjåland et al., 2023; Nyvoll, 2025). For example, we know that staff-prisoner dynamics in open prisons tend to be characterised by greater familiarity, closeness, and conviviality (Pakes, 2023). The institutional ethos of trust, responsibilisation and empowerment that open prisons espouse (and embody more or less successfully) means that staff tend to prioritise relational skills in their everyday work (Nyvoll, 2026), especially in women's open prisons (Waite, 2023). Drawing on qualitative research conducted in women's open prisons in England & Wales, this paper explores how prison staff define, understand, and practice 'relational work' in women's open prisons. Specifically, we trace the 'relational work' of staff over the course of women's journeys through the open estate, beginning with how they perceive the needs of incarcerated women. We then chronologically examine what 'relational work' looks like at the point of women's first arrival to open conditions and how and why it develops over time. Our analysis sits at the intersection of women's and open imprisonment, excavating how gendered perceptions and practices manifest in the work of staff in this unique penal setting. We conclude by reflecting on the gendered nature of relational work, highlighting how practices intended to support and empower women may also carry unintended harms and reproduce forms of control within open prison settings.

349. PWG Panel 14: Social Relations, Criminal Capital and the Pains of Imprisonment

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Imprisonment, Prisons, Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment (Prisons WG)
Paper Session
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.158

Chair:

Simon Vallat, Université de Lausanne Ecole des sciences criminelles

Participants:

An Inside Job: Imprisonment as an Incubator of Criminal Capital in Mid-Level Drug Markets *Rob Hornsby, Leeds Trinity University UK; Paul Andell, University of Suffolk*

This paper examines imprisonment in England and Wales as a social environment in which criminal capital associated with illegal drug markets may be maintained, developed and, in some cases, extended. Focusing on County Lines distribution, the analysis considers how custodial settings can facilitate forms of learning, association and reputational positioning that shape post-release trajectories of continued market involvement. Rather than assuming imprisonment disrupts criminal organisation, the paper explores how prison social relations can contribute to the persistence of illicit enterprise. The study draws on twenty semi-structured interviews with police, probation and prison practitioners, documentary analysis of HMPPS and inspectorate material (2015–2025), and ethnographic insight derived from the lived experience of a mid-level (kilo +) drug distributor ("Lou"). A theory-informed thematic analysis is used to examine how prison social organisation interacts with wider drug market dynamics. Accounts from both practitioners and participants indicate that imprisonment may intensify processes of differential association, reinforce reputational hierarchies and enable access to networks extending beyond local markets. Prison, in this sense, operates as a compressed social field in which forms of criminal capital are recalibrated rather than necessarily diminished. Drawing on Matthews' concept of the productive relations of punishment, alongside Bourdieusian understandings of capital, the paper argues that prison drug markets should not be treated as peripheral distortions of the penal system but as phenomena shaped by wider structural conditions, including social exclusion, institutional constraint and the organisation of neo-liberal contemporary illicit

economies. The findings raise questions about the capacity of custodial responses to disrupt exploitation and highlight the importance of decarceration and health-oriented interventions.

Incarcerated persons' visitors: Supportive relationships, criminal connections, and perspectives on reintegration *Iris Müller, Leiden University; Babette van Hazebroek, Leiden University; Hanneke Palmen, Leiden University; Paul Nieuwbeerta, Leiden University*

Visiting during incarceration plays an important role in fostering reintegration after release. Successful reintegration includes both the absence of recidivism and stability across multiple life domains, including employment, housing, financial self-sufficiency, and positive social relationships. Previous research has shown that visitor characteristics are associated with reintegration outcomes, particularly visitors' social capital (such as employment, housing, and financial stability), the absence of criminal capital, and the expected support after release. Yet, little is known about whether and to what extent the associations between these visitor characteristics and reintegration prospects differ by type of visitor, such as partners, parents, children, other family members, friends, or acquaintances. Based on theories of social bonds, it is plausible that such associations depend on the nature and strength of the relationship between incarcerated persons and their visitors. This study examines whether associations between visitor characteristics (social capital, criminal capital, and expected support after release) and reintegration prospects differ by type of visitor. To do so, we use large-scale data from the Dutch Prison Visitation Study (DPVS), conducted in 2019 as part of the Life in Custody (LIC) Study, among incarcerated persons (n = 2,353). Initial results show differences between visitor types in criminal capital and expected support after release. In addition, the findings suggest that partners characteristics are more strongly associated with reintegration prospects than characteristics of other visitor types. This study highlights the importance of a differentiated approach to prison visiting in research on reintegration.

The Occupational Pains of Imprisonment: Carceral Seepage and the Toxicities of Penal Labour *Helen Nichols, University of Hull; Edwin Schreeche-Powell, The University of Greenwich*

This paper introduces the concept of 'occupational pains of imprisonment': institutional exposures in prison work that predictably generate permeable psychosocial and health harms for staff. We present an original framework theorising recurring forms of suffering rooted in structural toxicity, manifesting as diminished autonomy, stigma, relational strain, corrosive cultures, and moral injury. Framed metaphorically as symptoms of infection, these harms position prisons as environments that contaminate the wellbeing of staff as well as prisoners. The framework is diagnostic and interventionist, offering a vocabulary for recognising, mitigating, and preventing institutional harms. We argue that staff harm should be understood as a public health and penal governance problem: not an individual resilience deficit, nor a managerial "wellbeing" add-on, but a predictable consequence of institutional design.

Rethinking Prisoner Reentry Through the Lens of Social Bulimia *Simon Vallat, Université de Lausanne Ecole des sciences criminelles*

Drawing on existing scholarship, this contribution examines trajectories of prison release and social reintegration through the concept of social bulimia. It shows that re-entry into free society constitutes a complex ecological process shaped by the social, economic, occupational, health-related, administrative, institutional, and relational configurations within which criminalized individuals evolve during and after imprisonment. By mobilizing the concept of social bulimia, this review highlights how these configurations are traversed by simultaneous dynamics of inclusion and exclusion that hinder the stabilization of post-prison social trajectories.

350. Hate crime Panel 2:Online Hate, Institutional Cooperation and Sentencing

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Hate Crime (Hate Crime WG)
Paper Session
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.164
Chair:
Krzysztof Worek, University of Warsaw
Participants:

Barriers to Cooperation in Preventing and Addressing Hate-Related Incidents: Insights from Professionals in Portugal *Marta Pereira Alves, University of Beira Interior, Covilhã, Portugal; Ana Isabel Cunha, University of Beira Interior, Covilhã, Portugal; Branco Di Fátima, University of Beira Interior, Covilhã, Portugal; Haphisa Mugnaini, University of Beira Interior, Covilhã, Portugal; Marta Santos, APAV - Portuguese Association for Victim Support, Portugal; Mariana Pinto, APAV - Portuguese Association for Victim Support, Portugal*

This study was developed within the COOPERHATE project – Multidisciplinary Cooperation Approach to Prevent and Counter Hate Crime and Hate Speech, funded by the European Commission's CERV Programme. The project aims to strengthen cooperation between civil society organisations (CSO), law enforcement agencies (LEAs), information technology (IT) companies, and judicial actors by promoting an integrated approach to preventing, reporting, investigating, and combating hate crimes and hate incidents in Portugal. To gain a broader understanding of real-life difficulties in interinstitutional collaboration, information sharing, and trust-based mechanisms, a qualitative study was conducted. Eighteen structured interviews were carried out with professionals from different sectors to assess the (in)efficacy of existing inter-agency collaboration strategies and legislative initiatives. Additionally, the study explores the extent to which information flows effectively among competent authorities and identifies potential gaps or malfunctioning aspects in previously mapped interinstitutional agreements, protocols, or initiatives (i.e., whether procedures and practices defined on paper are effectively implemented in

practice). The study included 11 CSO professionals, 2 judicial actors, 3 LEA agents, and 2 IT company representatives. Interviews were analyzed using thematic analysis to identify patterns of meaning within the data. After familiarization with the data, initial codes were generated and subsequently grouped into broader categories (themes) representing recurring perspectives and experiences among participants. These themes were then reviewed and refined to provide a coherent interpretation of the interview data. Preliminary results suggest relevant pressing issues that, according to end-users (i.e., CSOs, including victim support organisations, LEAs, judicial actors, and IT companies), may hinder the detection, reporting, investigation, and prosecution of hate-related incidents qualifying as hate speech or hate crime. The results are discussed in light of the current Portuguese context, and recommendations and guidelines are proposed.

Compliance expectations for companies under the revised Code of conduct on countering illegal hate speech online *Andreea Vlădăreanu, University of Bucharest*

This paper examines the European regulatory response to the rising phenomenon of online hate speech, embodied in the revised Code of conduct on countering illegal hate speech online+, and its implications for corporate compliance. Through comparative analysis of the initial and revised codes, the study illustrates the shortcomings of the original framework and explores how the revision is shown to address some of these deficits. The paper also assesses the impact of these changes on companies' legal obligations, particularly highlighting the adherence to and compliance with measures agreed under voluntary codes of conduct by very large online platforms or very large online search engines, in order to ensure the effective prevention of online hate crimes in general, and online hate speech in particular.

Dynamics of Hostility: Hate Speech and Mis/Disinformation across Europe *Beatrice Pattaro, University of Trento, Faculty of Law | Centre of Security and Crime Sciences, University of Trento and University of Verona; Andrea Di Nicola, Associate professor of criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Trento, and director of the Centre of Security and Crime Sciences (University of Trento and University of Verona); Gabriele Baratto, Faculty of Law, University of Trento | Centre of Security and Crime Sciences, University of Trento and University of Verona; Beatrice Rigon, School of International Studies, University of Trento | Centre of Security and Crime Sciences, University of Trento and University of Verona*

Mis/disinformation is a global issue closely linked to hate speech, as it plays a significant role in spreading extremist ideologies and hostile narratives. Therefore, addressing hate-motivated behaviours requires a preventive approach that considers both hate speech and mis/disinformation as mutually reinforcing phenomena. Despite this being a well-researched field, no comparative analysis has been carried out across European countries. Consequently, the contribution aims to discuss a cross-country analysis of characteristics, actors, and narratives of hate speech and mis/disinformation. The findings are based on the analyses conducted within the EU-funded project ECLIPSE, supported by the European Union's Executive Agency for Research under the Horizon Europe programme.

Perceptions of Online Hate Speech and Criminal Liability: Evidence from a Survey in Germany *Alexander Baur, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen; Meira Regina Elisabeth Klawunn, Georg-August-University Göttingen; Judith Kohn, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen*

In recent years, politically motivated crime in Germany has risen significantly, with a substantial proportion of recorded offenses relating to online communication (hate speech). In response, law enforcement authorities have intensified efforts to prosecute such offenses. While these measures aim to combat harmful speech, they have also sparked considerable public debate about the boundaries of criminal law and the protection of freedom of expression (protected by Art. 5 of the German Constitution). Critics argue that the expansion of criminal enforcement in the digital sphere risks placing the freedom of expression under increasing pressure. This concern is particularly salient where the legal boundaries between punishable and permissible speech appear unclear to the public. A research project at the University of Göttingen in 2025/2026 examined how laypersons perceive these boundaries. In a survey experiment, 200 university students were presented with a set of real social media statements. Each statement had previously been classified as criminally punishable by a court of first instance but ultimately resulted in an acquittal on appeal. Participants were asked to assess (1) whether they believed the statement to be punishable under criminal law and (2) whether, in their view, such a statement should be punishable. The survey also collected information on respondents' political orientations and other relevant characteristics. The presentation will report the empirical findings of the study and explore how perceptions of criminality and normative support for punishment vary across respondents. The results provide insights into the perceived legitimacy of hate speech regulation and the societal understanding of the limits of free expression in the context of online communication. The paper concludes with first reflections on the implications for criminal policy and the legitimacy of intensified hate speech enforcement.

Acting on Social Media as a Circumstance Considered in Sentencing for Hate Crimes *Krzysztof Worek, University of Warsaw*

Hate crimes constitute a category of offences that are often committed through the use of social media. Such platforms enable the public dissemination of extreme views and the mobilisation of supporters, which may contribute to even deeper radicalisation. This presentation will outline the findings of a case-file study conducted on a representative sample of more than 250 cases adjudicated at first instance between 2021 and 2023 in 43 courts across Poland. It will compare cases in which the conduct occurred on social media with those committed offline. For cases where the perpetrator acted online, the mode of operation, including the number and characteristics of posts, will

also be discussed. Particular emphasis will be placed on variables related to sentencing processes and the penalties imposed. The analysis will consider the manner in which proceedings concluded, the type and severity of the sentence, any additional criminal measures, and the content of the courts' written justifications. The presentation will address the question of whether committing an offence on social media is associated with the severity of the sentence imposed — whether the highly public nature and broad reach of online conduct leads to harsher penalties due to greater perceived social harm, or conversely, whether the absence of direct interaction with the victim results in more lenient punishment. The conclusion will formulate recommendations for the future, relating to potential approaches for assessing the dissemination of hate on social media, as well as the destructive impact of such posts, which extends beyond their mere content.

351. School Gangs, Violence and Bullying

Topic 2: Types of Offending/School Violence and Bullying (ISRD WG)

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.170

Chair:

Nadine M Connell, Griffith University

Participants:

Beyond firearm availability: School disciplinary culture and the cross-national contagion of school shootings *Gretchen Baas, Georgia Southern University*

School shootings have long been characterized as a uniquely American crisis, yet emerging incidents across Europe invite renewed comparative attention to this phenomenon. While existing research has made important contributions highlighting firearm availability as a central explanatory variable distinguishing the United States from European nations, this paper argues that this account remains incomplete. The structure of school disciplinary environments and community support infrastructure represents an underexplored dimension that may meaningfully contribute to our understanding of both perpetrator development and the conditions under which contagion effects operate across national contexts. Drawing on contagion theory, social bond theory, and collective efficacy frameworks, we explore how the United States reliance on criminalized school environments -- characterized by zero tolerance policies, exclusionary discipline, and active shooter drills -- weaken the prosocial bonds that buffer against grievance accumulation and script adoption. This security theater approach may inadvertently amplify alienation, institutional distrust, and aggrieved identity formation -- the very conditions contagion theory identifies as preconditions for imitative violence. By contrast, many European countries have invested in social architecture -- restorative justice practices, whole-school wellbeing models, and accessible mental health resources -- that may keep at-risk students embedded in prosocial institutions. We propose that these structural differences complement the firearm availability explanation by identifying an additional pathway through which national context shapes school shooting risk. Where firearm access explains opportunity, social architecture may help explain the upstream formation of motivation and identity that contagion processes depend upon. This paper contributes an exploratory, theoretically grounded framework intended to guide future empirical investigations into the cross-national dynamics of school violence, with implications for school safety police and comparative research.

Contemporary Threats to Youth in Light of the Results of School-Based Research in Selected Municipalities in Poland in 2025 *Katarzyna Tkaczyk-Rymanowska, WSPiA University of Rzeszow*

The aim of this paper is to identify contemporary developmental threats to youth based on the results of school-based research conducted in 2025 in selected municipalities in Poland – involving 1,687 students (grades 7-8 and upper secondary schools) and 280 teachers. The starting point is the assumption that dynamic socio-cultural and technological changes determine the emergence of new forms of risky behavior, requiring in-depth diagnosis and appropriate educational and preventive strategies. The research identified four main problem areas: cyberbullying in the school environment, peer violence, addiction (both substance and behavioral), and students' sense of safety. The obtained results indicate the increasing complexity of the analyzed phenomena and their strong connection to contemporary social conditions, particularly those related to the intensification of youth's digital presence. The research findings are diagnostic in nature and form the basis for formulating recommendations for educational practice and preventive policies. They emphasize the need for a systemic approach to counteracting threats and adapting institutional activities to the changing specifics of the young generation's living environment.

Gang Membership: Findings from the Fourth Waves of the International Self-Report Delinquency Study (ISRD) *Sandrine Haymoz, HES-SO, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland, School of Social Work Fribourg (HETS-FR)*

This presentation examines the prevalence of gang membership across countries. It analyzes patterns of delinquency and victimization among gang members, as well as the risk factors associated with gang affiliation. The findings are based on data from approximately a dozen countries that participated in the ISRD-4 and included the Eurogang questions, which are used to identify gang members. The sample consists of students aged around 14. The results reveal significant cross-national differences in the prevalence of gang membership. They also highlight a notable increase in female participation in gangs in certain countries.

East Meets West: An Examination of School Shootings in Turkiye *Nadine M Connell, Griffith University*

School shootings are no longer "just" an American problem. With increased globalization and the

subsequent diffusion of violent scripts through ubiquitous internet access, firearm violence in K–12 school settings is increasingly visible across international contexts, yet the research base remains overwhelmingly U.S.-centric. This imbalance affects how extreme violence is understood, especially when committed by young people. When scholarship treats school shootings as uniquely American, it limits locally grounded interpretation and, more importantly, local solutions. Türkiye sits at an important crossroads in this discussion. Despite experiencing more school shooting incidents than much of Europe, Türkiye has been relatively absent from comparative analyses, most likely as a result of language barriers and the enduring assumption that these events are not analytically meaningful outside the United States. This presentation provides a primarily descriptive analysis of 15 targeted school shooting incidents in Türkiye between 2000 and 2025. Cases are defined as intentional firearm attacks occurring in primary and secondary schools (K–12 equivalents). Incidents were identified using an open-source data collection protocol drawing on international news archives and NGO reports, then cross-referenced against other international databases. Advances in translation technology enabled the systematic inclusion of both Turkish- and English-language sources, reducing a key barrier that has limited visibility in prior work. Preliminary patterns suggest that perpetrators were exclusively male and that incidents were typically carried out by young males acting alone. Fatalities were usually low (0–2 deaths), but the presence of these events signals changing school experiences and threat trajectories that cannot be dismissed as inconsequential. Drawing on research around script adoption, grievance, and pathways to intended violence, the analysis summarizes incident- and perpetrator-level characteristics, including reported motivations and pre-attack planning when documented. This work contributes baseline descriptive evidence for a neglected national context and supports more genuinely comparative examinations of the globalization of school violence.

352. Sex offenders: specialization, recividism

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Sex Crimes, Sex Work and Sex Trafficking

Paper Session

9:00 to 10:15 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.015

Chair:

Omar Abdedaim Herrera, PhD Criminal Law and Criminology at University of Alicante

Participants:

Tracing sex offender specialisation in Belgium. Comparing the use of DNA profiles versus conviction data *Luc Robert, INCC - Institut National de Criminalistique et de Criminologie; Beatrijs Vanhooydonck, National Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology (NICC); Hannah Van Rompaey, National Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology (NICC) (intern); Michaël Person, Cognitic SRL*

International research based on policy data and conviction records shows a limited degree of specialisation in sex offending. Those involved in sex offending, generally, show an important degree of versatility in the types of offenses they commit. In this paper, we add to the available evidence by zooming in on a large set of persons in Belgium with at least one conviction for a sex offence (> 35.000 persons) and focus on the question of versatility versus specialisation of these persons. Furthermore, the Belgian national DNA database contains DNA traces of an as of yet still unknown offender, DNA of suspects and DNA of convicted offenders for a list of offenses. These data may be of interest for criminal career research too. We test the utility of these data by zooming in on all DNA profiles in the DNA database for a code 37 (which refers to sex offenses). For all DNA profiles in the database, a check is made whether the same DNA profile emerges in other cases (i.e. when a cluster is made), either for sex offenses or for other types of offenses. Drawing on these data, it is possible to assess the degree of specialisation of persons whose DNA is registered. Next to descriptive statistics and to comparisons of a measure for specialisation, trajectory models are developed that map the criminal careers of persons involved in sex offending, based on conviction data on the one hand and DNA data on the other hand. This comparison sheds light on the potential use of DNA data (and conviction data) in analysing specialisation in sex offending.

How Long Do Justice-Involved Individuals Remain at Risk of Sexual Recidivism? A 30-Year Longitudinal Study *Patrick Lussier, Université Laval; Guillaume Masson, Université Laval; Xavier Leclerc, Université Laval*

There is still much debate about the actual risk of long-term sexual recidivism among justice-involved individuals and whether we can identify high-risk individuals for risk management and prevention purposes. For some, sexual recidivism is seen as inevitable and it is simply a matter of time before the next offense, while others adopt a more nuanced probabilistic view. The fact remains that most studies examining the risk of sexual recidivism rely on very short follow-up periods (3 to 5 years) following prison release. In that context, much of the knowledge base is focused on short-term recidivism which is somewhat at odds with the long-term implications of current policies and measures used to prevent sexual recidivism (e.g., sex offender registration, preventive detention). This study presents the results of a prospective longitudinal study that spans over a 30-year period. A sample of 527 consecutive admissions to a Canadian penitentiary was followed for an average of 19 years after their prison release. Individual-level information were collected (semi-structured interviews, psychological assessment, file data) and analyzed, including criminal history, offending characteristics, mental health, incarceration, and community reentry experiences. Furthermore, 4 actuarial tools were retrospectively completed to determine the predictive accuracy of these tools. The results show that if after 5 years, the cumulative rate of sexual recidivism is .09 [95% CI: .07-.12], this rate peaks at 0.20 after 25 years [95% CI: .17-.24]. The results show that Static-99R, Static-2002R, VASOR-2

and MnSOST-R show very modest predictive value. These results raised questions about the criminal justice system reliance on risk assessment to determine long-term risk. The findings highlight the need to study risk and protective factors for short-, medium- and long-term recidivism.

Active Risk Management System: Sex Offender Management in the UK *Sarah Kingston, University of Central Lancashire; Leona Mydlowski, University of Central Lancashire*

Effective management of people registered as a sex offender in the community is one of the most widely discussed and debated criminal justice policy issues internationally. Police draw on a range of tools to assess risk and manage these individuals worldwide. It is critical to understand the views of police officers using risk assessment tools and management strategies, as their attitudes can influence police practice, determining if and how policies are implemented and, crucially, how these people are managed. This paper will present the empirical findings from a national survey and interviews with police officers and staff in the UK, to determine their experienced based opinions on the Active Risk Management System; a tool introduced in 2014 that incorporates both static and dynamic risk factors to help determine levels of risk and guides police risk management plans.

Doing Nothing: Omission, Passivity and Criminal Liability in Sexual Offences An Empirical Study of Spanish Case Law *Omar Abdedaim Herrera, PhD Criminal Law and Criminology at University of Alicante; Víctor Rodríguez Alonso, Universidad de Alicante*

Sexual offences have traditionally been conceived as active forms of conduct. However, criminal courts are increasingly confronted with cases in which individuals are prosecuted not for engaging in sexual acts, but for remaining passive in the face of their commission, despite having knowledge of the offence or the capacity to intervene. This paper examines the phenomenon of omissive participation in sexual offences in Spain, combining an empirical study of judicial decisions (including a descriptive statistical analysis of sentencing patterns) with a doctrinal discussion of the legal characterisation of such conduct under Spanish criminal law. Drawing on a dataset of judicial decisions delivered between 2020-2025, the study analyses these forms of conduct across three dimensions. First, the profile of the omitting subject and the principal offender, including variables such as sex, age, nationality, and, in particular, relational proximity to both the principal offender and the victim, a factor which often proves decisive in understanding why someone remains passive. Secondly, the situational characteristics of the offence are examined, including location, relational context and modus operandi. Thirdly, the legal response is analysed, with particular attention to the charges brought, the legal characterisation adopted and the sentence imposed. The legal responses examined range from liability grounded in commission by omission (whether as a necessary co-operator or as an accomplice) to alternative offences, such as the failure to prevent crime or to report it. By describing these cases systematically, the analysis identifies the structural features of the contexts in which omissive conduct arises, the types of relationships that shape it, and the variation in criminal responses it generates. The paper highlights issues of consistency in judicial responses and clarifies the conditions under which omission gives rise to criminal liability, contributing to ongoing debates on complicity doctrine and the limits of omission liability within the Spanish law.

353. Contemporary Perspectives on Human Trafficking and Exploitation

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Human Trafficking
Paper Session
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.025

Chair:

Anna Sonnsjö Andersson, The Faculty of Law, Lund University

Participants:

An Exploratory Study of Human Trafficking Victimisation Identified by Romanian Authorities *Denisa Elya Valentina Stincanu, University College London; Enrico Mariconti, University College London; Ella Cockbain, UCL; Alina Ristea, Assistant Professor Department of Security and Crime Science, University College London*

Romania has a reputation as a major source and transit country for human trafficking. The fall of the communist regime opened new opportunities for international travel and was accompanied by widespread outward migration amid a context of poverty and limited economic opportunities. While much existing research has focused on ‘destination’ countries, ‘source’ countries such as Romania remain under-researched, limiting understanding of recruitment dynamics and victimisation patterns. Over the last two decades, Romania implemented legislation, established trafficking-specific taskforces, and founded a national anti-trafficking agency (A.N.I.T.P.) in 2006. Among its responsibilities are preventative campaigns and the systematic collection of statistical data on identified victims of trafficking. This paper presents exploratory data analysis of 2,750 individuals identified through the MNIR as known or suspected victims of human trafficking between 2016 and 2023. The dataset managed by A.N.I.T.P., includes variables on demographics (age, gender, nationality, educational attainment, residence), recruitment methods, and exploitation type. A combination of bivariate, and regression analyses were conducted to identify trends and associations. Findings indicate that trafficking for sexual exploitation accounted for 80.7% of identified cases, followed by trafficking labour exploitation (19.2%). The most common recruitment method identified remained face-to-face (78.6%). Socio-demographic differences were pronounced: 80.5% of survivors identified were female, and women and younger victims were far more represented to experience sexual exploitation, while men and those with lower educational attainment were disproportionately represented in labour trafficking.

Rural residence was associated with labour exploitation, whereas urban residence was associated more strongly to sexual exploitation. This research highlights both the potential and limitations of using administrative data to examine trafficking, including underreporting and institutional bias. It contributes to the evidence base for more nuanced, survivor-centred prevention and intervention strategies in Romania.

Another side of modern slavery: a war criminal who was once a victim *Zbigniew Lasocik, University of Warsaw*

One of the least recognized forms of modern slavery is the enslavement of children and their forced participation in armed conflict. According to UNICEF data, between 2005 and 2022, more than 105,000 children were identified as victims of recruitment and exploitation by parties to armed conflicts around the world. Of course, the actual number of child victims of this form of slavery is much higher. The focus of this presentation is the case of Dominic Ongwen, one of the leaders of the rebel guerrilla organization known as the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), who was recently convicted by the International Criminal Court for a series of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Uganda. He will serve as a focus of this presentation because, as a child, he was abducted by the LRA and forced into armed combat. He subsequently pursued a military "career" within the guerrilla group and rose to one of its key command positions. The first question I will consider is one rarely posed in criminology: what mechanisms accompany the evolution whereby a victim of a crime becomes a perpetrator of acts that inflict on others the same pain that the person previously experienced? These processes must be complex, and the issue of vulnerability should be particularly emphasized. The second question concerns the legal consequences of the situation described. The issue is whether the fact of being a victim—in this case, a child soldier—has any bearing on the criminal liability of an adult who has gone through such an experience and is now facing charges of war crimes? Especially in a situation where the result of such a person's actions is obvious evil, exceptional brutality, the mass objectification of people, and thousands of victims of torture.

Defining Exploitation in Human Trafficking: Vulnerability, Control and the Limits of Apparent Consent *Cătălin Nicolae Magdalena, Lecturer, PhD, Faculty of Law, „Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest*

This paper examines the legal meaning of exploitation in human trafficking and argues that the decisive issue is not how trafficking is defined in statutory terms, but how exploitation is identified and proved in concrete cases. Using Article 182 of the Romanian Criminal Code as a normative reference point, the paper analyses exploitation through three interrelated dimensions: vulnerability, control, and the limits of apparent consent. It first clarifies the legal function of exploitation within trafficking offences and shows why the challenge lies in moving beyond the statutory enumeration of forms of exploitation towards a contextual account of domination, instrumentalisation, and the victim's freedom of choice. It then addresses difficulties of interpretation and legal classification in Romanian judicial practice, especially in cases at the boundary between trafficking and prostitution-related offences, where the question is whether the evidence discloses exploitation or merely facilitation and financial gain. The paper next examines vulnerability as a legal and factual category, focusing on its sources, forms, and the ways offenders transform it into a mechanism of control. Attention is paid to the abuse of a position of vulnerability and to the way structural dependency may deprive formal choice of significance. Finally, drawing on ECtHR case law on forced labour, coercion, and prior consent, the paper argues that apparent consent has limited legal relevance whenever fear, dependency, deception, emotional manipulation, prior victimisation, social isolation, or the absence of acceptable alternatives render refusal merely theoretical. In conclusion, the paper proposes a contextual framework for defining exploitation in trafficking cases, grounded in the analysis of exploited vulnerability, mechanisms of control, the purely formal character of consent, and the victim's lack of a possibility of refusal, thereby shifting the focus from the appearances of the victim's conduct to the structure of domination and the erosion of the victim's autonomy.

Examining Portugal's response to child trafficking: Gaps and good practices from desk research and consultation with national experts and stakeholders *Vânia Sampaio, IPS_Innovative Prison Systems; Friederike Savatier, IPS_Innovative Prison Systems; Sofia Almeida, IPS_Innovative Prison Systems; Pedro Liberado, IPS_Innovative Prison Systems; Mónica Gonçalves, IPS_Innovative Prison Systems*

Child trafficking remains a pervasive and elusive severe form of human rights violations. It is not a uniform phenomenon but rather dependent on national trafficking landscapes, socioeconomic contexts, and institutional capacities. Although Portugal has a strong legal framework and participates actively in international anti-trafficking cooperation, significant gaps remain in implementation, data collection, and institutional coordination. The presentation navigates the analysis of a comprehensive assessment of Portugal's response to child trafficking. This assessment aimed at offering an overview of the key actors involved in anti-trafficking efforts in the country, examining existing laws, policies, and socioeconomic factors that may contribute to vulnerability, mapping the current legal and institutional responses, and identifying strengths and weaknesses in the national approach. The main findings showcase a strong legislative framework aligned with EU and international standards and active participation in cross-border cooperation. Nonetheless, it highlighted gaps in the operationalisation and enforcement of this framework, as well as a lack of disaggregated data on victims of child trafficking and consequential need to better understand trends, routes and profiles, insufficient operational coordination and follow-up with entities in the origin countries (particularly outside the EU and in cases of returning victims), and a requirement for cross-sectoral training

and coordination among judges, prosecutors, law enforcement and frontline workers. On the other hand, Portugal has examples of good practices, namely the regional teams gathering judicial, law enforcement and frontline workers and the Specialised Multidisciplinary Teams for Assisting Victims of Human Trafficking. These results stem from the Portugal Country Report, which maps the conclusions of the desk research, focus groups and interviews that involved more than 30 national experts and stakeholders. This research was developed within the framework of the EU-funded SafeBorders "Strengthening Judicial expertise and Frontline support to combat Child Trafficking" project.

Labour Exploitation and Human Trafficking Law in Sweden: Criminal Justice for Whom or What? *Anna Sonnsjö Andersson, The Faculty of Law, Lund University*

Background and aim: The aim of this study is to understand what different meanings are given to labour exploitation as a violation of human dignity in the context of human trafficking law in Sweden. Sweden's criminalization of labour exploitation (Ch. 4, Sec 1a-b of the Swedish Criminal Code) frames these offences as crimes against personal freedom and human dignity. At the same time, criminalization as a legal response to labour exploitation appears closely tied to border controls and anti-immigration agendas, thereby overshadowing the need for worker/victim protection (Fudge, 2017). Moreover, the legislator claims that victims are often "people who as a result of their vulnerability, doesn't fully realize their human dignity" (Gov. Bill 2017/18:123 p. 46). This suggests that the offences reflect multiple legal interests, including the safeguarding of a minimum standard of "human dignity" on the Swedish labour market. In this study I pose the following question: How is labour exploitation constructed in legal practice through legal actors' understandings and categorizations of blameworthiness and protected interest(s) at stake? Method and material: As part of my theoretical framework, I distinguish between formal and substantial criminalization (Lacey, 2009; Wegerstad & Andersson, 2025). The paper present findings from a qualitative analysis of all Swedish court cases on labour exploitation from 2018 to 2026. Preliminary findings: Human trafficking is formally criminalised with the use of three core elements: Act, Means, Purpose (Palermo Protocol art. 3). However, my analysis show that labour exploitation is substantially criminalized through a different tripartite structure: Vulnerability - Unfree Labour - Exploitation. I unpack these elements and show how they relate to the interest of human dignity on the labour market. I conclude that even though criminal law recognizes the blameworthiness of labour exploitation, it does so in a way that puts the labour market, and not the worker/victim, in the forefront.

354. Illicit Trade: Causes, Consequences, and Responses from an Interdisciplinary Perspective – The GLITSS Network

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Transnational Crime (Organized Crime WG)
Roundtable
9:00 to 10:15 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.128

This roundtable brings together contributors to the forthcoming three-volume series on illicit trade developed within the COST Action Globalization, Illicit Trade, Sustainability and Security (GLITSS). The trilogy represents a four-year interdisciplinary collaboration involving scholars from nearly 50 countries, aiming to advance a comprehensive understanding of illicit trade across its causes, consequences, and responses. Positioned within the theme "Frontiers of Criminology", the roundtable explores how illicit trade constitutes a key frontier in contemporary criminological research. Illicit markets are rapidly evolving due to technological innovation, globalization, environmental pressures, and geopolitical transformations. These dynamics challenge traditional disciplinary boundaries and call for new conceptual and methodological approaches. The discussion will be structured around the three volumes: • Volume 1 - Consequences: Examines how illicit trade undermines core societal values such as safety, security, and sustainability, highlighting its impacts on public health, environmental degradation, and global security. • Volume 2 - Causes: Analyses the multi-level drivers of illicit trade, ranging from individual incentives and opportunity structures to macro-level factors such as inequality, governance gaps, and digitalization. • Volume 3 - Responses: Explores policy, enforcement, and technological strategies to counter illicit trade, including regulatory frameworks, international cooperation, and data-driven tools. Format: This roundtable will follow an interactive discussion format. Participants will present key insights from volumes, followed by a moderated discussion with the audience. Rather than presenting full papers, the session is designed to foster dialogue across diverse disciplinary perspectives and methodological approaches. By bridging criminology with political science, economics, sociology, and environmental studies, this roundtable highlights how illicit trade research expands the analytical frontiers of criminology and contributes to understanding complex global harms.

Chair:
Stefano Caneppele, University of Lausanne
Discussants:
Aleksandar Marsavelski, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb
Indrek Saar, Estonian Academy of Security Sciences

355. Gender, Crime and Justice Working Group Panel 6: Forms of Domestic Abuse

Topic 3: Crime Correlates/Gender and Crime (Gender, Crime and Justice WG)
Paper Session
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.110
Chair:
Niels Blom, University of Manchester
Participants:

Domestic Violen Against Children - Brief Analysis of Portuguese Case-Law *Sara Leitão Moreira, Coimbra Business School; Guilherme Leitão Loureiro, UMAIA: Universidade da Maia*

Domestic violence (DM) has been prioritized in the Portuguese State's agenda, in terms of prevention and repression, for the last two decades. According to statistics of the ten years, DM is a democratic and non-

discriminatory crime, because it affects victims of all ages, genders and status. However, one cannot be indifferent to the severity of this crime and its effects upon its most vulnerable victims – children. "Family" has Constitutional provision, however the family household can be a place of maltreatment and domestic abuse. Over forty years ago Gelles and Strauss concluded that "you are more likely to be physically assaulted, beaten, and killed in your own home at the hands of a loved one than anyplace else, or by anyone else in our society" and nowadays, for many children, the household is not a place of comfort and love, but of abuse. The Portuguese legal framework, and its stand on what is considered to be a shameful detail of today's society, has shifted over the years, yet society - and some courts - still accepts corporal punishment as an educational method, which clashes entirely with our academic standing. DM against children is alarming in today's society, however sentencing in Portugal has not yet convinced itself of that. Mandatory prison for the defendant may not be the solution, for several reasons, however the penalties have not been deterrent enough. To undergo this paper, we have reviewed national and international literature, statistics and sentencing from Portuguese Courts of appeal and have come to the preliminar conclusion that the risk of recidivism for this type of crime is high, which leads us to another conclusion, the judicial system is not yet convinced of the severity of this crime and of its effects within the Portugueses society - It is a vicious cycle.

Gambling Harms and Domestic Abuse – A Focus on Women and their Housing *Kelly Henderson, Addressing Domestic Abuse; Mercy Denedo, Durham University Business School, Durham University; Katy Brookfield, University of Nottingham; Liz Riley, Betknowmore UK; Amanze Ejiogu, Sheffield Hallam University; Chibuzo Ejiogu, Cranfield University*

This study explores the intersection of domestic abuse and gambling harms in the context of social housing in England. More particularly, we are interested in understanding how domestic abuse intersects with gambling harms and how these, in turn, impact or are impacted by housing situations. We seek to advance two streams of existing research on gambling and domestic abuse, which indicate a co-occurrence between problematic gambling and family violence on the one hand, and housing as an important factor in escaping domestic abuse on the other. The research is conducted by a coalition of UK universities and specialist organisations and informed by an expert advisory panel comprising women with lived experience, academics, domestic abuse practitioners, charities and housing professionals. Our research utilises a mixed methods approach including interviews with survivors, housing professionals and other stakeholders, and an anonymous survey of housing providers. As such, the findings are empirically grounded and centre the voices of women and professionals with lived and living experience. This project highlights the importance of an intersectional approach to gambling-related domestic abuse, showing how culture and religion shape women's experiences of gambling-related domestic abuse, and (lack of) support and decent housing further perpetuate the abuse and silence women with lived experience. Outputs include a toolkit co-created with participants for the social housing sector to improve their understanding and responses to this issue, alongside reports detailing findings, policy proposals, and multimedia outputs.

Negotiating Patriarchy in Migration: Turkish Men's Perceptions of Violence Against Women in the UK *Sinem Bozkurt, University of Westminster; Vardan Petrosian, University of Westminster*

Violence against women (VAW) is widely recognised as a significant global public health issue and a serious human rights concern (UN Women, 1995). While extensive research has examined women's experiences of victimisation, there is considerably less focus on men's perspectives, particularly within migrant communities. This study seeks to address this gap by exploring how Turkish-born men residing in the United Kingdom understand and interpret VAW, and how migration may reshape or reinforce culturally ingrained norms. Drawing on qualitative data from seven semi-structured interviews, the study employs Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) to delve into participants' lived experiences and the meanings they ascribe to them. The findings reveal a strong persistence of patriarchal values, even within a socio-legal framework that is more gender-equitable. Concepts such as honour, masculinity, and gender roles remain integral to the identities of participants and are often used to justify or normalise violence in certain contexts. Additionally, victim-blaming narratives and the perception of violence as a disciplinary tool were notably prevalent. As an exploratory endeavour with a limited sample size, this research establishes a foundation for further inquiry into the intersections of migration, masculinity, and violence against women.

Welfare Reform and Intimate Partner Violence: The case of Universal Credit in England and Wales *Niels Blom, University of Manchester; Sally McManus, City University (London)*

Women in economic precarity are more likely to experience intimate partner violence (IPV). The inequalities may be influenced by macro-economic policies, such as welfare regimes, where they influence economic circumstances. Furthermore, Universal Credit (UC) is a relatively new welfare reform in the United Kingdom, deemed the largest welfare reform for the working population since the 1950s. Its implementation started in 2013 and was rollout in the next 13 years. UC was found to increase mental health problems and police recorded crime, but potential links between UC and IPV remain untested. However, there are substantial concerns regarding UC and IPV, specifically that UC may make people particularly vulnerable to abuse due to now having a single payment per household, increased conditionality of welfare, and delayed payments. The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) 2010-2024 (N=195,995) was used to test socioeconomic inequalities in IPV and whether this varied by gender and over time. The staggered regional roll-out of Universal Credit (UC) allowed for a natural experiment on the influence of welfare reform on IPV

and whether this varied between subgroups. Preliminary analyses using logistic regression analyses found that economic precarity raised women's risk of IPV more than men's. These inequalities were largely stable over time. The introduction of UC in a local area did not influence general IPV rates for women or men. The research highlights the major role of socioeconomic precarity, especially for women, but these inequalities have remained stable despite large changes in the welfare regime.

356. Youth crime in Armenia, Italy, Hungary and the US: mental health, violence and prevention

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Juvenile Crime (ISRD WG)
Paper Session
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.138
Chair:
Anna Margaryan, Professor, Head of the Chair of Criminal Law and Criminology, Faculty of Law, Yerevan State University, Armenia
Participants:

Characteristics of Violent Crime among Juvenile Offenders in Hungary *Orsolya Bolyky, Hungarian National Institute of Criminology; Eszter Sárik, National Institute of Criminology*

Juvenile crime has decreased significantly in the last decade in Hungary and in Europe too (although an increase has started since 2022), and the structure of crimes committed by juveniles has also changed. The socio-economic changes of recent years and the spread of the online world have a significant impact on the thinking, behavior, and social relationships of young people. In view of all this, we assumed that this also influences the characteristics of their criminality, especially their violent crime. We conducted an empirical research in 2022 in order to examine the background and crimes of violent juvenile offenders in Hungary. Our research sample included 250 legally closed criminal files in which the perpetrators were juveniles and committed violent crimes. In my presentation, I would like to share our research results.

AdR- Offenders Residence – Recovery For Life Organization (RFL); The first community-health center for youth offenders in Italy. *Daniela Labattaglia, RFL; Barbara Moretti, University of Milan-Bicocca*

Daniela Labattaglia (psychologist, psychotherapist, clinical coordinator AdR) Barbara Moretti (criminologist AdR, University of Milan Bicocca) The so called AdR (Offenders) Residence in Casteggio (PV, Italy) founded by the Recovery For Life Organization is the first experimental project in Italy, financed by the Ministry of Justice and the Health Public System of Lombardy Region. AdR is a highly integrated health and social care community aimed at the rehabilitating of minors and young adults with mental health problems and/or substance abuse disorders. Youths are cared for by both health and social care services as well as juvenile justice. Founded in March 2025, AdR has a capacity of 9 places for youths between the ages of 14 and 21. The rehabilitation programs have multiple objectives, including: - helping youths develop a greater understanding of the crime crimes committed within a system of legal values that helps them to avoid repeating the same deviant behaviors; - fostering the development of psychological, social and relational resources that help them to become aware of their own fragilities and/or vulnerabilities; - reducing dysfunctional behaviors that have emerged in less intensive settings and promote the youth's resocialization and social reintegration, increasing their social, family, academic and relational skills. From March to December 2025, 13 children were admitted from Youth Correctional Center, psychiatric wards, other therapeutic communities or homes. The majority of youths presented an externalizing cluster, followed by other major disorders (such as personality disorder, psychotic, substance use, neurodevelopmental, etc.). Research conducted by RFL Academy ETS on these initial cases has revealed an improvement six months after the admission due to the integrated rehabilitation program. The youth are treated by a multidisciplinary team composed of a psychiatrist/neuropsychiatrist, criminologist, anthropologists, professional educators, nurses, and art teachers, who work across the psychological-neuropsychiatric and educational-rehabilitative areas to modify the children's clinical and life histories.

The Relationship between Mental Health and Offending among Girls and Boys Processed by the Juvenile Justice System in a Local Jurisdiction *Attapol - Kuanliang, Midwestern State University; Jonathan Sorensen, Loyola University of New Orleans; Patrick Coyle, Wichita County Juvenile Probation Department*

Youth involved in the juvenile justice system often face significant mental health challenges that can greatly impact their behavior and overall well-being. Research consistently shows that these young individuals experience higher rates of mental health disorders compared to their peers in the general population. Common conditions among this group include anxiety, depression, behavioral disorders, and substance use disorders. Externalized mental health issues, often characterized by aggressive behavior, rule-breaking, and defiance, are recognized as major risk factors that contribute to both violent and problematic behaviors, as well as recidivism. In this study, the researchers aim to examine how specific mental health conditions among juveniles influence their likelihood of violating probation and reoffending. The analysis will focus on data from mental health screening scores on The Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument-Second Version (MAYSI-2), and explore their correlation with probation violations and subsequent rates of reoffending.

Understanding Juvenile Crime Trends in Armenia: Patterns, Causes and Prevention *Anna Margaryan, Professor, Head of the Chair of Criminal Law and Criminology, Faculty of Law, Yerevan State University, Armenia*

Juvenile criminality has shown generally low rates over the past decades in Armenia. Though the juvenile delinquency has undergone structural changes over the last years with more youngsters engaged in property, drug-related crimes and violent behavior, however the

juvenile delinquency yet remains relatively low compared to many other countries. The study focuses on the fluctuations in juvenile delinquency, largely associated with socio-economic difficulties, family dysfunction and insufficient community based programs. Special attention is paid to underreporting and demographic changes in the country, including a reduction in the youth population, which can be possible explanations of youth low crime trends in Armenia. Overall, youth delinquency in Armenia remains comparatively low but is undergoing qualitative changes that require adaptive legal, educational and intervention policy responses.

357. Cultural Criminology: soldiers, resistance and ideal victims

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Cultural Criminology
Paper Session
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.141
Chair:
Jessica Hill, VU University
Participants:

A Criminological Investigation into Psychedelic Drug Use: Soldiers, Shamans, and Supermarket Brands *Richard Gregory Alexander, Utrecht University*

The early 21st century has brought forth a renewed scientific interest in the clinical application of psychedelic drugs. As this so called 'psychedelic renaissance' continues to generate a wealth of psychotherapeutic research and scholarship, scientific discussions around the drugs remain fixated upon medical specifics and neurobiological contexts. This one dimensional discourse contributes to an epistemological closure as psychedelics are continuously framed within the rigid medicalized jargon of clinically regulated research. In contrast, the small scale, clinical research population that has participated in 'renaissance' studies pales in comparison to the number of users ingesting psychedelic drugs outside of regulated clinical settings. Acknowledging the narrow scope of the dominate psychotherapeutic discourse this book expands the scientific discussion by identifying and examining three prominent contexts of unregulated, non-clinical psychedelic drug use: 1) the individual psychedelic drug use of military veterans; 2) the touristic consumption of ayahuasca 'shamanism' in Amazonian Peru; and 3) the operation of psychedelic retreat companies within the 'spiritual supermarket' realm. Using qualitative ethnographic methods across three distinct case studies corresponding to these contexts, this book argues how psychedelic drug use constitutes a narrative vehicle for identity performance, neo-colonialism, New Age salvation, and corporate commodification. Future research should therefore move beyond the existing confines of clinical, psychotherapeutic discourse to develop critical socio-cultural (and criminological) understandings of the future societal trajectory of psychedelic drugs and their use.

The future is now: Resistance to political oppression in Cyberpunk 2077 *İbrahim Mertcan Alçınkaya, University of Warsaw; Nickie D. Phillips, University of New South Wales; Staci Strobl, Shenandoah University*

Cyberpunk 2077 Omnibus Volume 1 (2024), a graphic novel based on a popular video game, is rife with themes of state violence, corporate crime, and ordinary people's power to form a resistance. Set in a dystopian world of artificial intelligence (AI) and body augmentation, the book parallels global public concerns around personal identity and human rights in the face of technocapitalism and authoritarianism. Through a textual analysis of plots and characters, this presentation will examine how characters fight systems of oppression through themes of loyalty and evaluating the personal risk in resisting. Paired with the analysis of subjects of policing, the presentation will further offer a textual and aesthetic analysis of the book's police futurity through a specific focus on police militarization, paramilitarism, dehumanization and technologization of police violence notable in the Western metropolis. We will connect these themes to examples of current and recent concerns around far-right regimes and the nature of public resistance in Poland and the United States. Cyberpunk 2077 is notable for its international team of creators, including Polish writers and American and European artists. The presentation will share our plans for reader focus groups in Poland and the United States where we will ascertain whether American rugged individualism impacts reader interpretation when compared to moderate individualism and collectivism in Polish society. We aim for these findings to contribute to an understanding of the relationship between popular culture and political consciousness.

Visualizing the ideal victim: Images of farmers and disinformation on the Dutch nitrate crisis *Jessica Hill, VU University*

In research into disinformation on the livestock industry and the Dutch nitrate crisis, we identified the narrative of the farmer as an 'ideal victim' of the crisis (Hill & Weulen Kranenbarg, 2024; 2025). Christie (1986), in his conceptualization of the ideal victim, highlights the subjective nature of victimhood, dependent on participants' self-definition and the sociology of the phenomenon. Cultural interpretations of harm and victimhood are negotiated through media representation as an instrument of power, which shapes public consciousness. Alongside a narrative construction of victimhood, images and affective responses to them contribute to societal meaning-making of victims and harms (Carrabine, 2012). In cases of disinformation, visual communication can be used to add legitimacy to counter-factual claims (Hameleers, 2025). In this research, I present an analysis of images used alongside narratives of farmers in the Dutch nitrate crisis. Themes emerging from a content description of the images are then used in an interpretative analysis of meaning-making, examining the (textual) narratives of farmers as idea victim, alongside the images. The (visual) presence (or absence) of an ideal offender, a counterbalance to

Christie's ideal victim, is considered, alongside the absence of other (non-human) victims of the nitrate crisis. I consider the farmers' ability to claim victim status in the collective imagination, reflecting on Greer's (2004: 114) statement that 'only those cases featuring a particular type of victim […] will attract sustained media attention'. At its heart the nitrate crisis is a crisis of environmental harm. Drawing on Brisman and South's (2014) work on green cultural criminology, I reflect on how the farmer ideal victims have become salient in the framing of the crisis, as well as tensions between social and environmental justice in the context of environmental harm by the livestock industry (Davies, 2018).

358. Suspended prison sentences. Elusive punishment in Central and Eastern Europe, Edited by Jakub Drápal, Krzysztof Krajewski and Milena Tripković, Routledge 2025.

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Courts and Sentencing and Penal Decision Making (Sentencing and Penal Decisionmaking WG)

Author meets critics

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.147

The book subject to this panel uncovers the controversies around the suspended prison sentence, its main aims and features, and the role that it occupies within the wider criminal justice context. Suspended prison sentences were introduced in Central and Eastern European (CEE) states as alternatives to short prison sentences: although they were initially generally conceived of as exceptional penal tools, over time, they became the most imposed and dominant penal sanctions and, in that sense, a defining feature of criminal justice systems in the region. The book provides a rich source of information about the development and features of suspended sentences in eight CEE countries, a topic that, although of great importance due to their frequency, has received only scant academic attention. Employing a legal, socio-legal, and criminological approach, it achieves this goal through individual chapters on eight countries (Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, and Slovenia), and also through three general chapters, which outline the main specificity of the region as a whole but also present nuances between different countries. Due to unique role of suspended prison sentences in criminal justice systems of CEE countries this panel seeks to get opinions regarding the book and its subject matter from critics from both, Western and Central Europe.

Critics:

Frieder Duenkel, University of Greifswald
Klara Kerezsi, Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary
Michael Tonry, University of Minnesota
Witold Klaus, Institute of Law Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences

Book Authors:

Krzysztof Krajewski, Jagellonian University Krakow
Milena Tripkovic, University of Edinburgh

359. POLWG Panel 2: Investigative Methods and the Practice of Interviewing: From Case-Building to Disclosure

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.152

Chair:

Claire Van Den Eeden, WODC

Participants:

An examination of factors affecting eyewitness interviewing in Greece *Stelios Nikopoulos, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens; Elli I. Anitsi, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens; Philip J. Candilis, The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Washington, DC, USA,*

Methods examining eyewitness testimony have not received sufficient analysis internationally. In the face of growing empirical evidence of methodologic and judicial errors, Greece's judicial process nonetheless prioritizes eyewitness testimony in gathering evidence and preparing cases for trial. Due to its pluralistic geographical and cultural position uniting European, Balkan, and Mediterranean influences, and its alignment with non-Napoleonic code nations, Greece is a useful example for studying witness interviewing in evolving judicial systems. Drawing on 87 semi-structured interviews with Greek legal professionals, this study identifies systemic variables affecting eyewitness interviews. Prominent barriers to robust witness interviewing included inappropriate questioning techniques and wording, frequent interruptions, scripted questions, and failure to develop a sense of trust. Lengthy delays before the eyewitness interview and a lack of infrastructure were core influences alongside a lack of familiarity with best practices. The findings signal the need for authorities to adopt reliable methods and specific guidance for utilizing eyewitness interviewing.

Legal Accountability for the Méndez Principles: From Standards to Responsibility in Investigative Interviews *Kire Babanoski, Faculty of Security - Skopje, University St. Kliment Ohridski - Bitola, North Macedonia; Ice Ilijevski, Law Faculty - Kichevo, University St. Kliment Ohridski - Bitola, North Macedonia*

This paper explores the issue of legal accountability in implementing the Mendez Principles for Effective Interviewing, with a particular focus on the application of legal norms and standards for accountability of interviewers. While the Mendez Principles establish a comprehensive framework for non-coercive and rights-based interviewing, their effectiveness ultimately depends on the existence of robust accountability mechanisms capable of preventing, detecting and sanctioning violations in practice. The paper situates the Mendez Principles within a broader accountability framework and analyses its legal and institutional dimensions, including procedural safeguards, oversight bodies, complaint mechanisms, and disciplinary and criminal consequences. In doing so, it explores how accountability functions as a particularly important link between the prevention of ill-treatment and the practical application of rapport-based interviewing methods for suspects, witnesses, victims and other vulnerable persons. The paper concludes by outlining

key elements needed to strengthen legal accountability and ensure the effectiveness of investigative interviewing practices.

Tackling cocaine smuggling and contract killings in the Netherlands *Claire Van Den Eeden, WODC*

A large body of literature describes the ways in which cocaine is produced and smuggled. Much less is known about the strategies police and prosecution authorities use to combat these types of crimes. In this sub study of the Dutch Organised Crime Monitor, we examined the methods used by the police and the prosecution office to tackle cocaine smuggling and related violence—in the form of contract killings—in the Netherlands. Based on 46 case files on cocaine smuggling from 1996 to 2021 and 5 case files concerning groups that, more recently, engaged in the organised execution of contract killings, we analysed how law enforcement agencies gained insight into the involved crime groups and their methods, which investigative measures they employed, and where the main investigative challenges lay. The unique data of this study shows that gaining access to criminals' communications yielded a great deal of information about methods and actors involved. Investigative efforts therefore focused heavily on accessing intra group communications in order to map suspects and their activities. In particular, access to PGP encrypted communications—where suspects believed themselves to be secure—proved highly valuable for investigations. PGP data also enabled investigations that had previously stalled to be restarted. Nevertheless, the study shows that classical investigative methods remain important for securing convictions and linking suspects to specific criminal offences. Challenges mainly lie in the field of international cooperation, which is crucial in tackling international crimes such as cocaine smuggling.

360. Global Supply and Value Chains in the perspective of criminology, policing studies and regulatory governance

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.158

Recent crises have drawn attention to the vulnerability of global supply chains and the impact of supply chain disruptions. The contributions to this panel look at global supply and value chains (GSVC) from various angles. The implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights that were passed in 2011 has led to controversial debates on the extent to which states and companies in the global north are responsible for monitoring human rights violations along their global supply chains. While some European states and the European Union have passed binding supply chain legislation – in the EU with the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (Directive (EU) 2024/1760, CSDDD) – the extent to which European companies should be obliged to respect due diligence obligations remains contested. Recently, the CSDDD has been watered down by the EU law-maker, even before it fully entered into force. The contributions to the panel look at the impact of the debates on human rights in supply chains, including protest and protest policing in this area, limitations to human rights protection due to illegal or illicit elements of supply chains and the so-called Brussels Effect that EU legislation may have in other countries of the world.

Chair:

Tamara Dangelmaier, HWR Berlin – Berlin School of Economics and Law

Participants:

Protecting human rights in the Global South from Europe? *Hartmut Aden, Berlin School of Economics and Law, Berlin Intitute for Safety and Security Research (FÖPS Berlin)*

The "Brussels Effect" (Bradford, 2020) has been widely discussed in recent years in regard to the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR, Regulation (EU) 2016/679), the AI Act (Regulation (EU) 2024/1689) and also for the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD, Directive (EU) 2024/1760). The idea is that the EU can to some extent influence the behaviour of state and non-state actors in countries beyond the EU with legal standards that have binding effects for actors outside of the EU. The paper looks at both the opportunities and the limitations of the Brussels Effect for the protection of human rights, with a specific focus on supply chain due diligence. The paper is based on empirical work on the impact of European supply chain regulation in political and legal debates in countries of the Global South (Brazil, India, and others). This research is part of the Competence Centre on Challenges and Resilience of Global Supply and Value Chains that has been established by the Berlin School of Economics and Law (HWR Berlin) in 2024. https://www.gsvc-research.org/en/

Do "Escape Points of Legality" Endanger Human Rights? A Study of Albanian Waste Supply Chains *Mario Petoshati, Hochscule für Wirtschaft und Recht Berlin*

In accordance with its bid to become an EU Member State in the upcoming years, Albania's environmental laws concerning the import and treatment (disposal, incineration, export) of waste have been largely shaped by Chapter 27 of the European Union's acquis. In recent years, adherence to such laws has proven difficult to muster, both for private companies and the Albanian government itself. The latter has been mired in controversies of corruption and collusion with the former. An example of this is the (rushed and without a legal basis) creation of incinerators, which the Special Structure against Corruption and Organized Crime (SPAK) has linked to various charges of corruption of those involved. Furthermore, creating and using incinerators is a provision of last resort in both the Albanian law and the European Parliament's Directive 2008/98/EC – therefore, any use of incinerators which may be deemed unnecessary is in contravention of both the Albanian law and EU directives. Additionally, Albania both imports and exports illegal and hazardous waste on the international stage. Within these murky governance practices, transparency becomes difficult; the "escape points of legality" (i.e. how and when waste goes from "legal" to "illegal") become increasingly difficult to denote. In attempting to denote these very

escape points of this legality, this paper seeks to subsequently analyze the danger that they present to human rights in Albania. This research is part of the Competence Centre on Challenges and Resilience of Global Supply and Value Chains that has been established by the Berlin School of Economics and Law (HWR Berlin) in 2024. https://www.gsvc-research.org/en/

Policing Contested Supply Chains: Protest Forms, Security Responses and the Governance of Conflict in Brazil and Germany *Daniela Hunold, HWR Berlin – Berlin School of Economics and Law; Tamara Dangelmaier, HWR Berlin – Berlin School of Economics and Law*

Global supply and value chains (GSVCs) are commonly discussed as economic and regulatory structures. Our paper instead approaches them as conflict contexts in which struggles over land, infrastructure, human rights, especially Indigenous rights, environmental destruction, and political participation become visible through protest. Drawing on a sociological and policing studies perspective, we ask how GSVC-related conflicts are articulated through different protest forms and how police and private security actors respond to them in Brazil and Germany. Empirically, the paper draws on ongoing qualitative research in Brazil and Germany, including ethnographic observations, field notes, discourse-analytical material, and interviews with activists, researchers, affected communities, and police actors. This material captures conflicts around land use, infrastructure, and territorial claims, as well as the policing and criminalization of related protest. We argue that protest in GSVC-related conflicts extends well beyond conventional street demonstrations. It also includes blockades, occupations, and forms of territorial self-assertion by affected communities. Responses to such protest vary not only by country, but also by protest form, political visibility, and the actors involved. This becomes particularly visible where Indigenous mobilization challenges dominant narratives of development, logistics, and sustainability. Rather than treating police as neutral guardians of public order, the paper approaches policing and security practices as integral to the ways conflicts around contested supply chains unfold, are managed, and become politically visible in the first place. This research is part of the Competence Centre on Challenges and Resilience of Global Supply and Value Chains that has been established by the Berlin School of Economics and Law (HWR Berlin) in 2024. https://www.gsvc-research.org/en/

The Transformation of Supply Chain Risks Political Discourse of the Threat to Supply Chains in the Wake of the Russian Attack on Ukraine *Christian Hilpert, Berlin School of Economics and Law; Vincenz Leuschner, Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Recht Berlin*

The threat to global supply chains in the context of conflicts and crises has become a central topic of discussion in recent years and poses a particular challenge in terms of public and private governance. Our study investigates the impact of Russia's attack on Ukraine on Germany's political discourse regarding supply chain security. Using the Sociology of Knowledge Approach to Discourse, we analyze the discursive construction of supply chain risks against the backdrop of what speakers portray as crisis or normality of global trade relations. Risk events in general are said to disrupt established norms by portraying disasters as man-made, leading to transformations in knowledge and power dynamics. The attack is clearly seen as such a risk event for German supply chains, reopening discursive space for transforming collective understandings about responsibility and appropriate action patterns. Our empirical focus is on parliamentary debates in the Bundestag from the annexation of Crimea in 2014 to the present. These debates play a crucial role in shaping the national discourse due to their representative function, symbolic importance, and influence on legislative outcomes. The study posits that what made this event unique, in comparison to others such as COVID-19, is the emphasis on geopolitics and antagonism. By examining these dynamics, this study aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of how geopolitical crises can reshape national discourses on supply chain security. Furthermore, it seeks to illuminate the shifting power dynamics and policy adjustments necessary for resilient supply chains in the face of global uncertainties This research is part of the Competence Centre on Challenges and Resilience of Global Supply and Value Chains that has been established by the Berlin School of Economics and Law (HWR Berlin) in 2024. https://www.gsvc-research.org/en/

361. Victims and Justice Systems in Comparative Perspective: Barriers, Support and Reform Across Borders

Topic 4: Victimology/Policy and Prevention of Victimization (Victimology WG)

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.162

Chair:

Vasiliki Vlachou, PANTEION UNIVERSITY OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCES

Participants:

Help-Seeking and Support for Victim-Survivors of Honour-Based Violence in Australia *Caitlin Mary Hewish-Cramer, Deakin University*

Honour-based violence is increasingly recognised across policing, advocacy and legislative domains as a distinct form of gendered harm directed at women and children perceived to have brought shame upon their family and/or community. Previous research focuses on the help-seeking experiences of women from multicultural communities, including the support provision of domestic, family and sexual violence practitioners. However, little is known about whether and how honour-based violence is identified and understood among domestic, family and sexual violence practitioners in Australia, and what some of the key challenges are to providing support for victim-survivors who seek help. This study draws from the views of domestic, family and sexual violence

practitioners to understand their experiences of supporting women and children who have a lived experience of honour-based violence, particularly in migrant and refugee communities. This includes understanding how domestic, family and sexual violence practitioners identify honour-based violence, what informs their understandings of honour-based violence, and how they provide support to victim-survivors experiencing or at risk of honour-based violence. Informed by extensive interviews and focus groups with practitioners who facilitate support for victim-survivors in Australia, this study addresses this critical gap by exploring practitioner perspectives and engaging their insights to better understand the complexities of frontline responses to honour-based violence. This will assist in identifying how current responses to honour-based violence can be elevated in victim-support settings to foster enhanced help-seeking and support provision processes.

Where Can We Go From Here? Examining Mexico's Human Trafficking Legislation from 2007-2024 *Alessa Juárez, University of North Texas*

Since the beginning of the twenty-first century, significant legislation has been passed globally to address human trafficking. From the United Nations Trafficking Protocol to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act in the United States, countries around the world took the initiative in contributing to the global fight to end trafficking in persons. What has remained underexplored is how some countries define human trafficking. For instance, in 2007, Mexico passed its first anti-trafficking law to federally criminalize trafficking in persons. Five years later, the Mexican government revamped these efforts by passing Ley General para Prevenir, Sancionar y Erradicar los Delitos en Materia de Trata de Personas y para la Protección y Asistencia a las Víctimas de estos Delitos, which has undergone several reforms to date. However, nearly two decades later, Ley General's definition of human trafficking remains inconsistent with the widely endorsed international definition of human trafficking. This presentation examines the legal progression of Mexico's human trafficking law, Ley General, and offers recommendations for future anti-trafficking legal reform.

Achievements and Challenges in the field of Victimization from Greek Experience's Perspective *Vasiliki Vlachou, PANTEION UNIVERSITY OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCES*

The prevention and treatment of victimization is among others a primary concern and a duty of modern societies, especially if we consider its increasing trends, victims' experiences and citizens' fear. The presentation focuses on women's and children's victimization cases in the 21st century in Greece, highlighting some of the achievements and conquests that have been emerged in the field of response, starting from the last quarter of the 20th century to the present day. These issues have strong scientific and research interest in the context of international cooperation both at the level of institutionalization and practice. Indicative examples from both legislative and social fields will be presented that focus on recognizing victimization problem, establishing victims' rights, strengthening victims' protection and resolving compensation claims and social protection. For example, the new legislation in Greece attempts substantial innovations at the level of rights, establishes legislative regulations for special categories of victims (e.g. vulnerable, children, victims of human trafficking) and introduces new procedures (such as plea bargaining and criminal negotiation) with clear implications for victims. However, some difficulties will also be presented at the implementation level, which, alongside modern developments in the rapidly evolving environment, should function as challenges in the field of social solidarity and international scientific cooperation, guided by victims' and society's interests, with the necessary assistance of specialist professionals.

362. POLWG Panel 4: Discretion, Decision-Making and Governing AI in Policing

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.168

Chair:

Vlad Niculescu-Dinca, Leiden University

Participants:

The myth of centralised control: How decision-making is distributed in command post protest management *Donatella Van Biervliet, KU Leuven*

Police command post structures are often presented as highly hierarchical, drawing on military-inspired models such as the Gold-Silver-Bronze system. This suggests a centralised form of control in which strategic leaders direct operations from above. Based on observations of protest management in command posts across multiple Belgian police forces, this presentation challenges that assumption by examining how decision-making unfolds in practice. Focusing on the role of Gold commanders, the analysis shows that command posts do not operate as continuous centres of control. Instead, they engage selectively: much of the situation is handled at the street level, with only certain developments being filtered upwards. Even when issues reach the command post, decisions are frequently delegated back to officers on the ground or partner organisations. Protest management thus emerges as a distributed process rather than a strictly top-down chain of command. This complicates conventional understandings of hierarchy in (protest) policing. While formal event structures suggest centralisation, effective control in practice depends on decentralised judgement and rapid decision-making by terrain officers. This has important implications for both effectiveness and accountability. Rather than focusing on individual (mis)conduct or "bad apples", attention should be paid to how organisations select, train, and guide officers for this role, particularly in the context of protest management, where such decisions directly shape the exercise of fundamental rights such

as freedom of assembly and expression.

Use of Force Decision Making Among Frontline Officers: Insights from a Mixed Methods Study *Miguel Inzunza, Police Education Unit/ Umeå University; Jonas Hansson, Police Education Unit, Umeå University*

Introduction: Recent research has increasingly focused on police officers' decision-making in use-of-force situations, including how officers assess proportionality, effectiveness, and tactical options in rapidly evolving scenarios. Guided by theories of police discretion and the force continuum, this study explores how officers interpret situational threats and justify their choice of tactics. In the context of ongoing debates about less-lethal tools, understanding officers' reasoning and professional norms is of particular relevance. Method: The study is based on a mixed-methods design combining survey data and qualitative interview material. The survey was administered to operational field police officers in Norway, resulting in approximately 400 completed responses. Additional interviews provided in-depth insights into officers' perceptions of force, proportionality, and tactical decision-making. Results: The findings indicate consistent patterns suggesting a predominantly professional and proportionate approach among officers. Survey responses demonstrate a structured reasoning process regarding situational assessment and force options, while the interviews reveal considerations of both effectiveness and harm minimization. Discussion: The results are discussed in relation to the introduction of electroshock weapons as part of the police force continuum. The analysis highlights how this tool may shape officers' tactical choices, their perception of safe and effective intervention, and broader organizational norms surrounding use of force.

From Data Collection to Algorithmic Inference: Rethinking Oversight of AI-driven Electronic Surveillance *Marcin Rojszczak, University of Gdańsk*

Electronic surveillance has long been understood primarily in terms of covert data collection by public authorities. In the classical model, the legal and constitutional assessment of surveillance was tied to the scope and sensitivity of the information collected: the more intimate, comprehensive, or secret the data obtained by the state, the more serious the interference with individual rights and freedoms. However, in the digital environment, surveillance no longer depends primarily on the collection of new data. Instead, it increasingly relies on the capacity to aggregate, correlate, and algorithmically analyse large quantities of existing information, including metadata, data generated outside the law-enforcement context, and even publicly accessible information. As a result, the intrusiveness of surveillance can no longer be measured solely by reference to the type or volume of data acquired. It also depends on the inferential power of the tools used to process that data. AI systems, particularly machine learning models, may reveal behavioural patterns, predict future conduct, identify social networks, or generate risk profiles from datasets that would otherwise appear relatively harmless. This development creates new challenges for the legal oversight of surveillance. Existing frameworks remain structurally attached to an earlier paradigm centred on the authorisation and review of data collection. They are less capable of addressing rights-related risks arising at the stage of algorithmic analysis, model deployment, and inferential use. Oversight bodies may therefore lack not only adequate legal standards but also the technical capacity to scrutinise AI-assisted surveillance effectively. By examining regulatory approaches and practical uses of AI-driven surveillance, this paper identifies the weaknesses of current oversight mechanisms and their limited ability to address opacity, function creep, and automated inference. It argues that surveillance law must move beyond a collection-centred model and explicitly address inferential processing as a distinct source of interference with fundamental rights.

The AI-native police officer is almost here. A comparative study on the perceptions of Police Academy students on the role of AI in police functions *Vlad Niculescu-Dinca, Leiden University; Jurjen Jansen, NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences*

Digitalization and in particular Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly becoming embedded in policing functions; from risk assessment and surveillance to decision support and report writing. In this context, the outcomes of police work, especially in high velocity decision environments, increasingly depend on how police officers understand and use these technologies. And more broadly, their attitudes and beliefs about technology and digitalization play a crucial role in shaping the quality of police work. A growing body of research began to document the attitudes of serving officers towards new AI technologies (Dempsey et al., 2023, Boehme et al., 2025). At the same time, we are by now seeing a new generation of AI-native students who have grown accustomed to AI models and algorithmically mediated recommendations. How do these future police officers conceptualize technology and AI at the formative stage of professional training? Do they have a fundamentally different approach before operational routines and institutional habits solidify? What are the implications for police education and training? This study addresses this puzzle through various focus groups (N=5) with police cadets at the Dutch Police Academy, across multiple training stages and programs (two with second year bachelor criminal investigation, two with second year bachelor police officer/community officer and one with students at the Master of Policing). The study will pay particular attention to three theoretical conceptualizations of technology: instrumentalist, determinist, and sociotechnical perspectives and their implications for a set of key aspects of police work. In this contribution, we present preliminary findings on how they understand technology and AI, how they assign authority between human judgment and algorithmic outputs with a focus on time-critical decision making, and how they reason about various issues such as fairness, responsibility and accountability, and the future of policing. We conclude with implications for education and future research.

363. Youth Victimization Across Contexts: Consent, Risk, and Polyvictimization

Topic 4: Victimology/Patterns and trends in Victimization (Victimology WG)

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.172

Chair:

Francois Steyn, University of the Free State, South Africa

Participants:

Exploring College Students' Perceptions of Sexual Consent Communication *Amanda Goodson, The University of Texas at El Paso; Leana A. Bouffard, Iowa State University*

Research and prevention programming on sexual coercion and aggression has focused on the importance of affirmative consent. Less is known about how well individuals can identity when their partner is withdrawing consent during sexual situations. To address this gap, the current study used a sample of surveys from university students to better understand the relation between individual attitudes and experiences in explaining perceptions of consent and withdrawal of consent during sexual encounters. Implications and future research are discussed.

Beyond Counts of Polyvictimization: Patterns of Victimization Accumulation in Finnish Youth *Laura Mielityinen, Faculty of Social Sciences, Tampere University; Heli Hagfors, Tampere University; Noora Ellonen, Research director*

Accumulation of multiple forms of victimization is well documented across several research fields. Research on polyvictimization has predominantly relied on additive approaches that summarize the number of distinct victimization experiences a child has encountered. Less is known about how different victimization experiences cluster together and whether certain forms of victimization are more likely to co-occur than others. This study examines patterns of victimization accumulation among Finnish adolescents by applying both person-centered and variable-centered analytical approaches. The aim is to move beyond simple counts and to identify systematic patterns through which different forms of victimization co-occur at both the individual and phenomenon levels. The data originate from the 2026 wave of the nationally representative Finnish Child Victim Survey and include approximately 7,000 respondents from the 6th and 9th grades. Victimization experiences are measured across multiple contexts, including home, school, public spaces, and digital environments. Latent class analysis is used to examine how different forms of victimization accumulate within individuals, identifying subgroups of adolescents who share similar victimization profiles. This person-centered approach allows for the detection of qualitative differences between victimized groups rather than relying solely on overall exposure levels. In addition, factor analysis is employed to explore accumulation from a variable-centered perspective, examining whether victimization experiences cluster into broader underlying dimensions that reflect shared contexts or forms of violence. The results are expected to reveal distinct victimization profiles ranging from low exposure to complex, multi-context victimization, as well as coherent dimensions corresponding to specific domains such as home-based violence, peer-related victimization, and digital harassment. Together, these findings are anticipated to demonstrate that victimization accumulation is structured rather than random. Understanding the patterned accumulation of victimization is crucial for advancing theory and informing targeted prevention and intervention efforts among children and adolescents.

Associations with experiences of victimisation in adolescence: An analysis of bullying, cyberbullying and physical violence *Bettina Grüne, German Youth Institute; Andreas Herz, German Youth Institute (DJI); Diana Willems, German Youth Institute (DJI)*

A growing number of young people in Germany report experiences of victimisation, which can significantly impact their psychosocial development (see Krieg et al., 2025; Finkelhor, 2007). Against this backdrop, the present study systematically examines the influence of individual, social and structural factors on the likelihood of victimisation during adolescence, and whether these factors differ across three forms of violence: bullying, cyberbullying and physical violence. The study is based on data from the Growing up in Germany survey (AID:A 2023). A total of 2,844 respondents aged 12-21 were analysed. The survey used a mixed-mode design involving e.g. face-to-face interviews at home (CAPI), telephone interviews (CATI) or online interviews (CAWI) (Kuger et al., 2024). The sample was drawn from the population register. Indicators of victimisation experiences across the three forms of violence were dichotomised and served as the dependent variables. The key independent variables considered were socio-economic status (including household deprivation and education), activity status (school pupils versus non-pupils), social relationships (family cohesion and peer relationships), subjective well-being (depression and loneliness) and victimisation. To test the research questions, separate multivariate logistic regression models were estimated for each form of victimisation. The relationships between individual, social and structural factors varied according to the form of victimisation. While non-school pupils (i.e. those who had finished school and started work or further study) showed a lower risk of bullying and physical violence victimisation, their risk of cyberbullying victimisation was similar to that of pupils. Young males were more likely to report experiencing physical violence. Family climate was negatively associated with (cyber)bullying victimisation, while loneliness was positively associated with victimisation through cyberbullying and physical violence. Overall, there was a strong positive correlation between the different types of victimisation. The results provide empirical evidence to inform the further development of prevention strategies tailored to specific target groups.

Student risk behavior and victimization: Insights from South

African universities *Francois Steyn, University of the Free State, South Africa*

South Africa has disproportionate levels of violence and crime, and student risk behavior and victimization remain concerns for institutions of higher education. For students, routine activities and structural vulnerabilities intersect to shape exposure to harm. Drawing on a cross-sectional survey of 1 014 students across four universities, this study examines patterns of risky behavior and their relationship to experiences of victimization, with attention to gendered dynamics. Descriptive results indicate that engagement in risky activities were moderate, although male students were likely to report higher-frequency risk behaviors, including getting home after dark and socializing with strangers. Substance-related behaviors also followed this pattern, with double the proportion of male students reporting frequent intoxication. Victimization was widely reported, notably theft of personal property, stalking, and online harassment, and female student consistently reported higher exposure across multiple victimization categories. Correlation analysis revealed that, among female students, risky behavior showed a modest but significant association with victimization, suggesting that increased risk awareness or behavioral adaptation may reduce exposure. Risky behavior was also weakly associated with night-time safety. Experiences of victimization were significantly associated with decreased perceptions of safety, reinforcing the interconnected nature of behavior, exposure, and perceived risk. The findings suggest that, while male students engage more frequently in risky behaviors, the relationship between such activities and victimization appears more pronounced and systematically patterned among female students.

364. Evidence, Expertise and Rights in the Prosecutorial Process

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Prosecutorial Decision-making and the Prosecutorial Process, Alternatives to trial (Sentencing and Penal Decisionmaking WG)

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.510

Chair:

Mihail Udroiu, Faculty of Law, Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Faculty of Law, University Oradea

Participants:

Expert Evidence as Assistance, Not Substitution: The Role of Scientific Expertise in Prosecutorial Decision-Making *Danilo Rudakov, PhD Student, Faculty of Law, University of Novi Sad, Serbia*

Reliance on expert evidence represents one of the characteristic features of contemporary criminal justice systems. Scientific expertise is invoked to resolve complex factual questions and is perceived as a source of objective and reliable knowledge. Drawing on criminological debates concerning knowledge production, authority, and uncertainty in criminal justice institutions, the paper examines how expert knowledge is interpreted and integrated into prosecutorial assessments of evidence. Particular attention is paid to the ways in which claims of scientific objectivity and precision may obscure interpretative choices, methodological limitations, and underlying uncertainties. The paper provides a theoretical and socio-legal analysis of expert evidence as a form of epistemic assistance rather than a substitute for prosecutorial judgment. The analysis further explores how the relevance of expert evidence varies across different categories of criminal offences. While expert assessments may be indispensable in technically complex or medically oriented cases, in other contexts they serve a corroborative function. Treating expert evidence as determinative, rather than auxiliary, risks displacing prosecutorial responsibility and narrowing the space for independent legal evaluation. By examining the relationship between scientific expertise and prosecutorial discretion, the paper contributes to broader criminological debates on the role of expert knowledge in shaping decision-making within criminal justice institutions.

Identifying False Confessions in Real-World Police Interrogations: The Impact of Expertise, and Presentation Mode *Zeev Mogilevsky, University of Haifa, Faculty of Law; Oren Gazal Ayal, University of Haifa, Faculty of Law*

Confessions are often regarded as the "Queen of Evidence" in criminal proceedings. However, the rise of exonerations in recent decades has revealed that legal systems frequently fail to distinguish between true and false confessions. While previous research has examined the ability to detect confession veracity, most studies have relied on lab-based simulations, which often lack ecological validity. This study addresses this gap by utilizing a unique real-world case (the Oleg Shaigat murder case), where two different suspects provided contradictory filmed confessions – one true and one false – under similar interrogation conditions within the same investigation. The study employed a large-scale experimental design (N = 528) to evaluate five groups representing a spectrum of legal expertise and perspectives: laypeople, civil attorneys, police prosecutors, state attorneys, and criminal defense attorneys. The study examines: (1) the accuracy of veracity judgments in video-recorded confessions; (2) the impact of the medium (video vs. transcript); and (3) the effect of a comparative (within-subject) presentation mode, where participants viewed both confessions sequentially. The findings indicate that none of the groups – including legal experts – displayed a significant ability to distinguish between false and true confessions when viewing a single confession. The paper analyzes how the subjects' roles, expertise, age, and seniority correlate with their confidence in their decisions, truth bias (the tendency to believe both true and false confessions), and the tendency to convict the suspect. The effect of the presentation medium (video vs. transcript) is also examined. Policy implications of the findings are then discussed.

Securing Social Media Evidence in the Prosecutorial Process: Practice, Standards, and Constraints *Stanislaw Rabczuk, University of Warsaw*

This paper examines how prosecutors secure and

document social media evidence in criminal proceedings, focusing on the gap between everyday practice and declared evidentiary standards. While doctrinal scholarship has extensively highlighted the fragility, manipulability, and evidentiary complexity of digital traces, much less is known about how these concerns are handled in routine prosecutorial work at the pre-trial stage. The analysis is based on 116 structured interviews with prosecutors from 22 prosecutors' offices in Poland, conducted in 2021–2022, and reanalyzed through framework analysis. The study investigates reported methods of obtaining and preserving social media material, forms of incorporating such material into the case file, preferred securing standards, perceived evidentiary risks, and institutional constraints shaping practice. The findings reveal two dominant securing pathways. The first is a formal acquisition pathway based on platform requests and order-based documentation. The second is a capture pathway based on screenshots or printouts incorporated through official notes or inspection records. Although many prosecutors describe platform-originated data and stronger procedural forms as the preferred standard, everyday practice often relies on lower-threshold capture methods. To interpret this relationship, the paper applies a typology of congruence, compromise, dissonance, and minimalism. The paper argues that the main tension lies not in a lack of awareness of proper standards, but in the difficulty of operationalizing them under real-world conditions, including platform non-response, lack of clear guidelines, limited technical capacity, and routinized casework. It contributes to criminological debates on prosecutorial decision-making, digital evidence, and the institutional handling of social media material in criminal justice.

The Process as Punishment: Lived Experiences of the Pretrial Process *Emily Stewart, University of Alberta*

Scholars have increasingly recognized that the pretrial process itself can function as a form of punishment, imposing constraints and burdens prior to conviction. However, existing research often examines specific stages in isolation (such as courtroom interactions, bail conditions, or remand) or from administrative and courtroom-based perspectives. As a result, we have limited understanding of how punishment is experienced firsthand and how it unfolds across the pretrial process. Drawing on longitudinal qualitative interviews and ongoing contact over a one-year period as part of a broader mixed-methods reentry study in Western Canada, this presentation examines four case studies of individuals navigating the pretrial process. The findings illustrate how punishment emerges across key stages, including arrest, interactions with legal counsel and the courts, detention, and release on bail. Punishment takes shape through a process marked by disruption, legal uncertainty, delay, and constraint, unfolding cumulatively as individuals move through these stages and manage the everyday demands they impose. The presentation concludes by considering the implications for what it means to punish individuals presumed innocent and for how due process is understood, as well as the pressures this creates to resolve cases prior to trial.

The Right to Silence at the Frontier of Transnational Criminal Enforcement: Institutional Design and Prosecutorial Practice in Eastern Europe *Mihail Udroiu, Faculty of Law, Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Faculty of Law, University Oradea*

The expansion of transnational criminal enforcement mechanisms—particularly European Investigation Orders (EIOs) and cross-border prosecutorial cooperation—has placed the right to silence under increasing structural pressure. Rather than focusing solely on formal compliance with Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights, this paper asks a broader criminological question: why does the institutional architecture of transnational enforcement systematically generate conditions conducive to the circumvention of the right to silence—a pattern analyzed as a byproduct of the asymmetric Europeanisation of criminal justice in Eastern European jurisdictions? Methodologically, the paper employs a qualitative case-study design, combining doctrinal analysis of European Court of Human Rights jurisprudence with process-tracing of Romanian criminal proceedings in complex transnational cases where EIO procedures were activated across multiple jurisdictions. Romania serves as a paradigmatic case study, reflecting broader regional tensions between post-communist procedural legacies and the EU's mutual recognition mandates. The empirical corpus (covering complex transnational cases, 2018–2025) includes judicial decisions, prosecutorial files, and procedural records related to EIO execution. The findings identify a recurring institutional pattern in which evidence is obtained prior to formal suspect notification, enabling indirect coercion and the functional neutralisation of the right to silence. This pattern is structurally facilitated by the mutual recognition framework underpinning EIO procedures, which prioritises enforcement efficiency over the harmonisation of pre-trial safeguards. Building on key ECtHR jurisprudence, including Al-Khawaja and Tahery v. United Kingdom and Schatschaschwili v. Germany, the paper proposes a four-criterion framework designed to operationalise pre-trial fairness in a transnational context. It concludes that transnational criminal enforcement creates a procedural no-man's-land at the frontier of socio-legal criminological inquiry—one that the proposed framework begins to address, but that ultimately demands legislative recalibration of the EIO Directive's pre-trial safeguards architecture.

365. Crime and Social Networks

Topic 3: Crime Correlates/Crime and Social Networks
Paper Session
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.511
Chair:
Cristian Dumitru Mihes, University of Oradea, Faculty of Law
Participants:
Combating Fake Medicines: The Real Questions *Line*

Beauchesne, University of Ottawa, Department of Criminology

Context. The market for "fake medicines," which the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated at 200 billion USD in 2025, has literally exploded since the early 2000s. In 2010, the pharmaceutical company Sanofi created the International Institute of Research Against Counterfeit Medicines (IRACM), an independent, non-profit international association whose mission included convincing countries to ratify the Medicrime Convention, ultimately adopted on December 8, 2010, by the Council of Europe. By 2025, only 23 states had ratified the Convention, and 22 others had signed it without following through with ratification—primarily countries with strong pharmaceutical industries. Research Purpose: This study examines historical and contemporary international efforts to control pharmaceutical surpluses and prevent their diversion to illegal markets, tracing these initiatives back to debates surrounding the 1912 International Opium Convention. It also analyzes WHO-led attempts to regulate pharmaceutical industries in the Global North with the aim of reducing North–South flows of falsified medicines. Finally, it aims to capture the reasons behind the current reluctance of countries with major pharmaceutical industries to adopt binding legal frameworks, at a time when the fake medicine market is no longer dominated solely by the Northern industry but also targets the North, mainly from China and India. Methodology: Documentary analysis of debates on this issue within international forums, primarily the United Nations, the WHO, and the Council of Europe. Results: Countries in the Global South have long struggled to make their voices heard in international forums regarding the dumping of surplus medicines, expired products, and even counterfeit pharmaceuticals originating from the North. However, now that technological developments facilitate a growing market flowing toward the North, finding regulatory solutions has become increasingly difficult, as any stringent measures risk affecting Northern pharmaceutical industries.

From Urban Neighborhoods to Digital Fields: Adapting Collective Efficacy and Social Disorganization Theories to Explain Crime Opportunities in Social Networks *Braulio FIGUEIREDO Da Silva, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais; Gustavo Mattos, Centro de Estudos De Criminalidade e Segurança Pública - CRISP*

For decades, the ecology of crime has relied on the spatial boundaries of urban neighborhoods to explain the variance in social control. Foundational concepts such as Social Disorganization and Collective Efficacy (Sampson et al., 1997) were developed to understand how residential stability and mutual trust inhibit crime in physical settings. However, as social interactions migrate to the digital realm, the geographical link is severed. This paper explores how these foundational sociological theories can be adapted to the "Digital Ecology" of social networks. We propose that social media platforms should be analyzed not merely as technical tools, but as "Digital Neighborhoods" or "Fields" (Bourdieu, 1989). In this context, Social Disorganization is redefined as a structural property of platforms where algorithmic designs prioritize engagement over social cohesion. We argue that "Digital Collective Efficacy"—the capacity of users to intervene against deviance—is hindered by the architectural constraints of the "digital bottle" (Miró-Llinares & Moneva, 2020). By integrating Environmental Criminology with Bourdieu's Field Theory, this study demonstrates that criminal opportunities online arise when the struggle for symbolic power (visibility) occurs in environments with low informal social control. We conclude that digital crime is not just a matter of technical vulnerability, but a result of "disorganized digital fields" that fail to foster the necessary trust and agency for collective regulation. This theoretical adaptation provides a robust framework for understanding the concentration of cyber-deviance and hate speech in modern social network architectures.

Missing Children *Agnes Solt Dr, National Institute of Criminology*

In Hungary, the child protection system primarily admits children who cannot remain safely with their families due to endangerment. In severe cases—like prolonged family crises—temporary placement followed by taking into care occurs with foster parents or in institutions. By contrast, escapes from specialist care are extremely high in number and rate. The vulnerability of children in professional care stems primarily from a severe labor shortage. For children, this means a total lack of emotional safety; there is no stable, reliable adult to form an attachment with. The most visible sign of the system's failure is the extremely high rate of "unauthorized absences" or absconding. According to 2025 data, nearly half of the approximately 7,000 children living in residential care ran away at least once within a one-year period. Ninety-one percent of all child disappearances occur from institutional placements. During escapes, they often use drugs, party, engage in prostitution, steal, or rob for survival, or join criminal gangs, heightening their vulnerability. Children who have run away are highly exposed to criminal groups. The question arises: what to make of a state that removes children from parents and families deemed endangering, aiming to place them in a safe environment, yet puts them in conditions where they repeatedly flee back to the endangering family—or worse, choose the streets and homelessness, exposing them to countless dangers? In conclusion, a fundamental shift in perspective is indispensable. Genuine relationships of trust, which can only be achieved by eliminating staff shortages and increasing professional recognition. Modern prevention, including addressing the dangers of the online space and trauma-informed care. The child protection system can only fulfill its function if a child is not fleeing from danger into an institution but finding actual protection there.

Cybercrime against the Elderly: Fraud Dynamics and the Role of Social Networks *Cristian Dumitru Mihes, University of Oradea, Faculty of Law*

Cybercrime against the elderly has escalated significantly, generating substantial damage, which has

been increasing in recent times. The vulnerability of this category is augmented mostly by the altruistic desire to ensure a financial inheritance for their descendants, a psychological motivation that criminals exploit through sophisticated investment schemes. These frauds combine long-term emotional manipulation with fake trading platforms and cryptocurrencies, often using tools to bypass traditional banking monitoring. Social networks play a catalytic role, using micro-targeting algorithms to identify and segment victims according to their financial interests or vulnerabilities. The frequent use of digital platforms increases the visibility of elders, allowing attackers to simulate a "digital proximity" in WhatsApp or Telegram groups. In these spaces, intense activity is often generated by bots to create false social validation of profits. On the other hand, the sophistication of attacks is increased by Artificial Intelligence through voice cloning and deepfake technology, which allow perfect imitation of family members in emergency situations or authority figures. In Romania, data indicates that 61% of the urban population has been the target of fraud attempts, with seniors being massively affected by malware. In the end, we will address certain aspects related to the prevention that requires an integrated approach: implementing behavioural monitoring through AI to block suspicious transactions and adopting community education programs. It is also essential to destigmatize victims to encourage reporting and, also, international collaboration to neutralize global organized crime networks.

366. Qualitative Criminology, Publishing and Epistemic Hierarchies

Topic 8: Methodologies in Criminology/Advances in Qualitative Methods (Qualitative Methods WG)
Paper Session
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.516
Chair:
Rita Faria, CIJ - Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice, University of Porto
Participants:

How do we know what we know in criminology and criminal justice? The relevance of qualitative methodologies
Tomer Einat, School of Criminology, Haifa University, Israel; Dalit Yassour Borochowitz, Dept. of Criminology,Emek Yezreel College, Israel

Qualitative methods in criminology seek deep understanding of the 'why' and 'how' of criminal behavior and societal responses to crime. These methods are uniquely relevant and powerful in criminology thanks to their ability to discern nuances and complex interrelations often obscured by purely numerical data. Regardless of the rich potential insights they provide, however, the predominant methodological approach in criminology and criminal justice (CCJ) remains quantitative. This preference is far from based on extensive comparative studies; in fact, only few have examined the methodologies in the field from a comparative standpoint, let alone conducted a systematic analysis of the methods used in studies published in leading journals. The current study addresses this gap by analyzing the methodologies most commonly used in CCJ studies published in its top-rated journals, as well as their geographical and cultural contexts. The main findings are that all top-rated journals are issued, produced, and published in the United States, that most studies published in leading CCJ journals have been conducted there, and that that in all, there is a clear preference for quantitative methods. This suggests a tendency to devalue qualitative methodology within CCJ, which, in turn, significantly affects our ability to understand individual behaviors, their motives and subjective meanings, and ways of addressing them. This state of affairs also has a potential impact on the methodological training of current and future criminologists in universities and colleges worldwide.

Unpacking Qualitative Criminologists' Experiences with Publishing in Criminology and Criminal Justice Journals
Amarat Zaatut, Temple University; Shannon K. Jacobsen, Drexel University; Talia LaSane, Temple University

While studies have documented the low representation of qualitative research in Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCJ) journals, we still know very little about qualitative scholars' perceptions of and experiences with publishing in our field's leading journals. Drawing on interviews with 44 qualitative criminologists at different stages in their careers, we find that many participants reported having negative experiences with publishing their qualitative research in CCJ journals. Participants also described the type of feedback they have received from peer reviewers, who often use quantitative metrics to judge their qualitative work (e.g., by asking about the generalizability of their findings, critiquing the sample size). Our findings contribute to the ongoing methodological debate in CCJ by highlighting the importance of considering criminologists' perceptions of and attitudes about the editorial and publishing practices of our field's journals. We also discuss the policy implications of our findings, particularly for institutionalized practices within the academy that impact scholars' meaningful engagement in qualitative research.

Using Narrative Criminology to research predatory journals
Rita Faria, CIJ - Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice, University of Porto; Luísa Barcelos, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice, University of Porto

"Predatory journals" (PJ) are an umbrella term, including a range of questionable publishing practices which have been a source of moral panic and blacklists. These practices have been considered a result of increasing pressure to publish in contexts that value quantity and metrics over quality. Moreover, evolving contexts include open access, AI and other tools that have the potential to dilute authorship and peer review. However, no evidence exists that publishing in PJ by paying high Article Processing Charges affects the quality or reliability of science. It may even be the case that labelling journals as predatory is a way of stigmatising researchers from the Global South who do not comply with the hegemonic publishing system

controlled by big publishing houses. Generated from a broader Project comprising different countries (Portugal, Germany, Poland, India, Brazil), this presentation will discuss the use of Narrative Criminology to conduct and analyse data from a sample of authors, editors and peer reviewers of journals flagged as predatory. This allows direct access to accounts of publishing experiences, meaning-making and navigating the scientific publication landscape. Methodological considerations will be discussed, including concerns about the sample likely comprising professionals, the sensitivity of the topic, and its potentially stigmatising and harmful nature. This may be more emphasised due to data collection by different national teams in different countries, where culture, language and patterns of storytelling may be quite different. Issues related to building trust and rapport, preparing the interview guide, temporality and causality in storytelling, the influence of professional subcultures, context and structural changes, and the positionality of the interviewer and others will be presented and debated. It is expected that the presentation will contribute to the development of Narrative Criminology and to a thorough discussion on the topic of predatory publishing practices.

367. Reentry, Work and Social Relations in Penal Theory

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Penology and Theories Punishment (Crime, Science and Politics WG)

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.517

Chair:

Mari Katriina Suonio, University of Eastern Finland

Participants:

Beyond the factory model: the management of "disposable" populations and the ontology of non-work in the Brazilian penal system *Guilherme Gabardo Bornancin, Universidade Federal do Paraná - Brasil*

Grounded in the ontology of Marx and Mészáros, which defines the structural subordination of labour to capital, this paper investigates how the Brazilian penal system reveals a distinct trajectory of a "refuse management". While traditional models link capitalism to the discipline of the industrial proletariat through forced labour, the Brazilian reality focuses on the containment of a population rendered "disposable". Drawing on a multi-methodological approach and a critical literature review (Giamberardino, Jessé Souza, Clóvis Moura), the research explores why the prison does not primarily operate as a training ground for labour, but as a site of physical and identity deterioration for a marginalised population. Current official data (SISDEPEN, 2025) indicates that only 25.58% of the prison population is engaged in labour. Crucially, field research at the Paraná State Central Penitentiary II reveals that 65% of inmates spontaneously expressed a desire to work, yet were met with institutional barriers that prioritise forced inactivity and social invisibility. The paper concludes that the Brazilian prison system is rooted in a hygienist and aporophobic national project with deep slavocratic origins (Abdias do Nascimento). By focusing on the "non-work" reality, this paper contributes to the "Frontiers of Criminology" by situating classic critical theories within the peripheries of the Global South, where the prison functions as a site for triturating "sub-citizens" rather than disciplining potential workers.

Jail Reentry Programming on the United States/Mexico Border: Group Matching with Two-Year Post Release Outcomes *Leanne F. Alarid, University of Texas at El Paso*

Most reentry programs in correctional facilities are based in prison with transition services in the community. Significantly fewer reentry programs exist in jails due to shorter and more unanticipated lengths of detention. Oftentimes, jail detainees lack access to stable housing and other critical resources upon release. This study examined whether participation in a jail reentry program near the United States/Mexico border decreased rearrest and stabilized housing for medium and high-risk men and women. The Phase 1 curriculum for detainees focused on improving decision-making using cognitive-behavioral techniques for substance abuse recovery, anger management, and life skills. Phase 2 consisted of continuum of care services provided by a community case manager. Recidivism and housing stability were tracked for up to 24 months after jail release. Results will be presented for the treatment group (participated in both Phase 1 and 2) and control group (Phase 2 only) matched by propensity score matching.

Manifestations of prisoners' relations to society in the Finnish prison system as reflected in the penal theories of the 19th to the 21st century *Mari Katriina Suonio, University of Eastern Finland*

In this study based on my published doctoral dissertation, prisoners' relations to society are analysed in terms of penal theory, with reference to the historiographical turns of events in the Finnish prison system starting from the prison reform of the 19th century. Penal theories have been defined both as general examination of punishments and as theoretical penological analyses. The analytical structures of prisoners' relations to society have been constructed mainly from documents of Finnish prison administration. The research question was: how do prisoners' relations to society manifest themselves in the penal theories applied in Finland to the preparation of prison reforms from the 1860s up to the 21st century? The theoretical-methodological approach in this study was critical discourse analysis. The study is guided by the idea that the manifestations of prisoners' relations to society in terms of penal theories take place within a framework of social control. The manifestations of prisoners' relations to society in penal theory are layered over time. The pivotal interpretations of prisoners' relations to society intertwine with questions of the way their care-oriented or rehabilitative effects have been seen as parts of the punishment. Attention to prisoners' relations to society is defined as an effort to advance prisoners' integration into society, and its doctrinal background is in the values of humane treatment and justice. These values

are supplemented by the rehabilitative element of the punishment and the relationship between the prisoners' position and rights and the punishment. According to my results, prisoners' relations to society are given the following determinants, which serve to position the prisoners: to be isolated, to be reformed, to be reconstructed, to be retained, to be controlled, and permanent. The emphases given to these determinants shift over time and be never free from the forms of power and social control.

368. Attitudes about Punishment and Criminal Justice System IV

Topic 6: Perceptions of Crime and Justice/Attitudes about Punishment and Criminal Justice System
Paper Session
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.610
Chair:
Carolina Villacampa, University of Lleida
Participants:

Youth Recruiters into Child Sex Trafficking: Victims or Perpetrators? *Kiaras Gharabaghi, Toronto Metropolitan University; Jennifer Martin, Toronto Metropolitan University*

This paper explores the interface of professional perceptions of criminal responsibility and accountability frameworks on the one hand and media narratives on the other hand about young people's (legally children's) participation in the recruitment of other young people into sex trafficking and online child sexual exploitation. The phenomenon of sex trafficking is multi-dimensional and does not lend itself readily to a victim-perpetrator binary. Particularly in contexts such as foster care, group homes, shelters and other settings for especially vulnerable youth, the recruitment of young people into trafficking includes both a focus on victims and a focus on recruiting peer recruiters, such that young people involved in child protection services, youth criminal justice services and homelessness services often live in dual and intersectional roles of victim and perpetrator. The paper is based on research conducted in Ontario, Canada, where child welfare, criminal justice, and NGO professionals shared their perspectives on the criminal responsibility and needs for accountability for youth recruiters of children and youth into sex trafficking. The research interfaces these perspectives with media narratives about youth recruiters and their positioning within public condemnations of criminality spectra. The research found that professionals (social workers, youth workers, nurses, police officers, and legal professionals) have some recognition of the complexities associated with the criminality of youth recruiters (legally children) but are underequipped to respond meaningfully to that complexity. As a result, their perspectives ultimately legitimize and reinforce quite strong media bias toward the criminality, moral condemnation, and offender categorization of youth recruiters.

Public Perceptions of Police Surveillance in Bangladesh: An Exploratory Study *Mohammad Azizur Rahman, Texas A&M International University; Taznee Jannatun Jahin, Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University, Bangladesh*

The use of surveillance technologies in policing has expanded significantly in recent decades, reflecting a broader shift toward technology-driven crime control. In Bangladesh, law enforcement has increasingly adopted tools such as CCTV systems, cyber-monitoring units, and digital forensic capabilities, particularly in urban contexts. Despite this expansion, existing research has paid limited attention to public awareness of these technologies and how they are perceived in terms of effectiveness, fairness, and legitimacy. This study examines public perceptions of police surveillance in Bangladesh and explores how these perceptions shape confidence in policing and feelings of safety. Using a quantitative, cross-sectional survey of adults (18+) from both rural and urban areas, selected through convenience sampling, the study focuses on four key dimensions: public awareness of surveillance practices, perceptions of their use in everyday policing, beliefs about their effectiveness in preventing crime, and their impact on individual safety. The study is situated within a context in which policing institutions face ongoing challenges related to trust, politicization, and resource constraints, which may shape how the public interprets surveillance practices. Preliminary findings suggest uneven levels of awareness about surveillance technologies, as well as concerns regarding potential rights implications, unequal deployment across socioeconomic groups, and the perceived targeting of dissenting individuals. While some respondents associate surveillance with improved crime control and enhanced safety, others express concerns about overuse, lack of transparency, and limited visible outcomes. By bringing evidence from Bangladesh into broader comparative debates, this study contributes to Global South criminology and the literature on policing, surveillance, and legitimacy. It highlights how public perceptions can shape the effectiveness of surveillance-based policing and offers policy-relevant insights for improving transparency, fairness, and community engagement.

When Fear Undermines Legitimacy: Retaliation and Trust in Kenyan Police and Courts *Retius Chifurira, School of Agriculture and Science, Department of Statistics, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa; Joselyne L. Chenane, University of Massachusetts, Lowell*

Public trust in legal institutions remains a central concern in both established and emerging democracies. While prior research has extensively examined the relationship between corruption and institutional trust, limited attention has been given to the role of fear of retaliation as a mechanism shaping these perceptions. This gap is particularly relevant in African contexts, where weak accountability systems and historical legacies of state authority may influence citizens' willingness to report wrongdoing. This study investigates the extent to which perceived corruption and fear of retaliation influence trust in the police and courts in Kenya, using the Afrobarometer survey data. The Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) model

demonstrates an acceptable-to-good fit (CFI = 0.961; RMSEA = 0.041; SRMR = 0.014. The findings reveal that perceived corruption significantly increases fear of retaliation (β = 0.183, p < .001), suggesting that corruption fosters an environment in which citizens feel unsafe reporting misconduct. In turn, perceived corruption has a direct negative effect on trust in the police (β = -0.117, p = 0.002), but no significant direct effect on trust in courts. Fear of retaliation has a modest positive association with trust in courts (β = 0.137, p = 0.001) and a marginal effect on trust in the police (β = 0.083, p = 0.054). Additionally, fear of retaliation mediates the relationship between perceived corruption and trust in courts (indirect effect = 0.029, p = 0.023) but not trust in the police. These findings suggest that while corruption directly erodes trust in law enforcement, its influence on judicial trust operates indirectly through citizens' perceived personal risk. Overall, the results highlight fear of retaliation as a critical but underexplored factor in shaping institutional legitimacy. Thus, accountability concerns extend beyond perceptions of corruption alone, emphasizing the importance of protective reporting environments in strengthening public trust in justice institutions.

Understanding Young Adults' Legal Attitudes towards Honour-Based Violence in South-Western Europe *Carolina Villacampa, University of Lleida; Clàudia Torres-Ferrer, University of Lleida; Marc Salat, University of Lleida*

Honour-based violence (HBV) comprises a range of practices aimed at preserving or restoring perceived family honour and represents a specific form of gender-based violence. In Europe, increased attention to HBV has accompanied processes of globalisation and migration, alongside the development of supranational legal frameworks such as the Istanbul Convention, which emphasise victim-centred and culturally sensitive responses. However, limited empirical research has examined how young Europeans perceive the seriousness of HBV and the appropriateness of different legal responses. This research presents findings from a cross-sectional online survey of 3,005 university students enrolled in undergraduate, master's and doctoral programmes at eight universities in Catalonia (Spain). Respondents evaluated three hypothetical scenarios depicting different manifestations of HBV, ranging from forced marriage to non-physical controlling behaviours. The analysis explores how socio-demographic, experiential and cognitive variables—including gender, religiosity, prior victimisation and knowledge of HBV—shape perceptions of severity, criminalisation and preferred institutional responses. Descriptive results show broad consensus in perceiving HBV as serious and criminal, particularly in cases involving forced marriage or physical violence. Multivariate regression models indicate that gender and knowledge of HBV are the strongest predictors of legal attitudes, while religiosity and victimisation play a more limited and context-dependent role. Across scenarios, respondents tend to favour victim-centred and supportive interventions over purely punitive approaches. The findings contribute to European socio-legal debates on HBV by highlighting young adults' preferences for responses that balance legal coherence with victim protection. Implications for public policy and prevention strategies aligned with European and international standards are discussed.

369. Minorities, Discrimination and Penal Politics

Topic 6: Perceptions of Crime and Justice/Political and Social Discourses about Crime and Justice (Crime, Science and Politics WG)

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.611

Chair:

Caroline Lanskey, University of Cambridge

Participants:

Capital Punishment and Discrimination in Japan: Explicit and Hidden Lurking in the Criminal Justice System *Shinichi Ishizuka, Professor*

In this report, we will first (1) introduce the history and current state of the death penalty in Japan since World War II, and (2) critically examine the existence of "discrimination" hidden behind it, as well as the discriminatory mindset within investigative agencies and the criminal justice system that persists to this day. (3) Behind capital punishment cases lies invisible discrimination in Japanese society. This discrimination can serve as the cause of the crime itself, or it can lead to illegal investigations riddled with prejudice and judicial errors. Whether latent or overt, visible or invisible, "discrimination" undoubtedly exists within Japan's criminal justice system. Yet, this remains a taboo subject. (4) The same holds true in academia; there has been no research in Japanese criminology that has seriously addressed "discrimination." This stems from deeply rooted discriminatory attitudes in Japanese society and also constitutes a problem of "academic discrimination."(5) In recent years, not only traditional forms of discrimination but also discriminatory investigations targeting Asian and Latin American foreigners—so-called "racial profiling"—have become a serious problem. The myth of the "single-ethnic Japanese nation" espoused by nationalist politicians and advocates of "Japan-first" ideology is an "illusion" that must be overcome in politics, society, and academia alike. (6) Finally, we can conclude as follows: namely, in Japan's criminal justice system, alongside overt ethnic discrimination (against Korean residents in Japan, Asians, Latinos, etc.), hidden discrimination (against the Buraku, racial/ethnic groups, occupational discrimination, etc.) exists, and underlying this is a deep-seated sense of inferiority toward Westerners among Japanese judicial officials.

From Scandinavian Exceptionalism to Swedish Populism: The Swedish Criminal Policy Paradigm Shift *Jerzy Sarnecki, Jury, Stockholm Prize in Criminology*

According to Routine Activity Theory, crime rates in a society do not change substantially unless there are changes in people's routine activities—or, more broadly, in the fundamental conditions of social life. But what about the reverse question: how large must

changes in crime be for a society to begin changing its institutions and policies? The Swedish case suggests that they do not necessarily have to be very large; it may be sufficient that they are spectacular and that powerful political actors need a criminal policy lever through which to advance their broader political objectives. Since the mid-2010s, a hitherto relatively uncommon type of crime has increased in Sweden—violent confrontations within and between criminal networks. The problem reached its peak in 2022, when 62 people were shot and killed. It should be noted, however, that in most other respects Swedish crime trends follow the broader international pattern: overall crime levels, including most forms of serious violence, have been declining. Since then, two developments have occurred. First, the number of people killed in such criminal network conflicts has decreased noticeably. Second, an intense wave of criminal policy reforms has accelerated. These reforms are in the process of fundamentally transforming the Swedish criminal justice system. Sweden appears to be moving away from the principles often associated with Scandinavian penal policy—relatively low imprisonment rates, shorter prison sentences, a strong emphasis on rehabilitation and reintegration, humane prison conditions, and high levels of trust between citizens and the state—toward a system characterized by a significantly higher level of repression. It is this process, and what we may learn from it, that my presentation will address.

Violence, Vulnerability, and the Street Code Norms Among Israeli Arab Youth *Ameen Azmy, Institute of Criminology University of Cambridge; Justice Tankebe, University of Cambridge*

Israeli ethnic Arab youth face acute structural disadvantage, high exposure to violence, and fraught relations with the state. Drawing on data from 1,055 Israeli Arab adolescents surveyed during the Iron Swords War, a period marked by heightened insecurity and intensified police-minority tensions, this study examines how environmental risks, developmental dispositions and policing evaluations shape adherence to street-code norms. We analyzed the independent and conditional effects of exposure to violence, fear of crime, low self-control, delinquency, and perceptions of procedural justice and effectiveness. Results show that exposure to violence, low self-control, and delinquent involvement predict endorsement of street-code norms, while perceived police effectiveness is associated with weaker adherence. Procedural justice does not exert a direct effect. However, it substantially moderates the relationship between fear of crime and street-code adherence. When fear of crime is high and procedural justice is perceived as low, endorsement of the code intensifies; when procedural justice is high, the effect of fear is weakened. No other moderation effects were observed. The findings suggest that under conditions of pervasive insecurity and minority-state strain, assessments of police capability outweigh procedural justice considerations except among youth experiencing acute vulnerability. Three main policy implications emerge from the findings. (1) targeted procedural justice interventions in police–youth interactions, particularly for adolescents facing elevated insecurity; (2) a shift toward visible, consistent, and responsive policing that meets expectations of effective protection; and (3) early life-course interventions addressing individual risk factors associated with street-code adherence.

Minority Matters in Criminal Justice *Caroline Lanskey, University of Cambridge*

Minority status as a result of ethnicity, nationality, sex and gender identity, age or disability is often associated with disadvantageous treatment in criminal justice systems. While there has been much written about the experiences of particular minoritised groups, there has been very little broader theorising on processes of minoritisation in criminal justice contexts and their consequences. This paper presents an analytical framework for understanding these processes comprised of three sensitising concepts: presence, positioning and portrayal. It explores similarities and differences in the presence (visibility, audibility), positioning (legal and social) and portrayal (media constructions, social stereotypes) of different minoritised groups and considers how these variations may shape their criminal justice treatment and recognition. It discusses the use of the term 'minority' in criminological discourse and whether it serves to protect or to disempower. It concludes with reflection on what a lens on minoritisation might contribute to theoretical understanding of the structures. conditions and processes of criminal justice.

370. Regulating Risk: Digital Environments and Legal Prevention Tools

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Crime prevention
Paper Session
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 1 - Room 1.616

Chair:
Angeliki Kakou, IPS_Innovative Prison Systems

Participants:

Emerging Digital Rights and Human Protection in the Digital Realm: A Criminological Perspective *Fotios Spyropoulos, PHILIPS UNIVERSITY (Cy) | CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF CRIME (Gr); Evangelia Androulaki, Department of Business Administration, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens (GR)*

As digital technologies increasingly shape communication, work, education and participation in social life, they also generate new forms of vulnerability, exposure and harm. This presentation examines emerging digital rights as a preventive framework for addressing risks that arise within the contemporary digital environment. Starting from the view that existing fundamental rights remain essential but are no longer fully sufficient, it focuses on new claims developed in response to rights violations, conflicts of rights and novel issues produced by technological change. More specifically, the presentation discusses the right to be offline, the right to internet access, the right to start over with a clean digital slate, the right to change one's mind, the right to a clean digital environment, the right to digital

education, the right to cybersecurity and the right to AI individualisation. These rights are approached as mechanisms of protection against concrete digital risks, including burnout, anxiety and device dependency linked to constant connectivity, digital exclusion caused by inequality and lack of digital literacy, social polarisation driven by misinformation and targeted content, harmful online environments, and growing exposure to cyber-threats in an increasingly interconnected world. From a criminological perspective, the presentation argues that emerging digital rights should also be understood as preventive safeguards against digital harm. In that sense, they contribute to a broader discussion on protection, resilience and safety in the digital era.

Criminogenic Risks in the Age of AI: A Criminological Perspective on Ethics, Accountability and Personal Data Protection in Accounting *Evangelia Androulaki, Department of Business Administration, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens (GR); Fotios Spyropoulos, PHILIPS UNIVERSITY (Cy) | CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF CRIME (Gr)*

Artificial intelligence is increasingly embedded in accounting through automated decision-support, risk assessment, anomaly detection, and data-processing systems. While these developments are often framed in terms of efficiency, innovation, and professional ethics, this presentation argues that they should also be examined from a criminological perspective. More specifically, it explores how AI-enabled accounting environments may create conditions conducive to misconduct, misuse of personal data, discriminatory profiling, weakened human oversight, and the concealment or normalization of harmful organizational practices. Particular emphasis is placed on the changing role of accountants as professional gatekeepers in data-intensive compliance environments. In contemporary accounting practice, professional responsibility extends beyond accuracy and confidentiality to due diligence, suspicious transaction reporting, risk monitoring, and the lawful processing of personal and financial data. When these functions are increasingly mediated by algorithmic tools, however, responsibility may become diffused, the attribution of blame more difficult, and meaningful accountability harder to secure. From a criminological standpoint, such developments are closely related to white-collar crime and corporate misconduct, especially where harmful practices remain difficult to detect yet capable of producing significant economic and social harm. Drawing on criminological scholarship on white-collar and corporate crime, as well as on contemporary debates on data governance, this presentation examines accounting as both a site of control and a potential site of harm. Using personal data protection in accounting information systems as its analytical focus, it argues that AI ethics in accounting should be approached not only as a matter of compliance, but also as a question of power, surveillance, accountability, and harm prevention in digital organizations. It concludes by proposing a framework centred on human oversight, explainability, clear lines of accountability, and data protection by design.

Can Italy's Age-Verification Model Keep Minors Safe from Online Pornography? A Crime-Proofing Analysis *Bianca Donati, Centre of Security and Crime Sciences, University of Trento and University of Verona; Gabriele Baratto, Faculty of Law, University of Trento | Centre of Security and Crime Sciences, University of Trento and University of Verona*

The growing accessibility of sexually explicit content online has intensified concerns about minor's premature exposure to pornography, leading legislators across Europe to develop regulatory responses centred on age assuring mechanisms. Italy has recently introduced one of the most stringent age-verification frameworks in the region, built around a "double-anonymity" systems that delegates identity verification to independent third-party providers while assumingly safeguarding users' privacy. Despite being presented as an inherently effective tools, limited acknowledgment has been reserved to its potential vulnerabilities or unintended consequences. This contribution critically examines the Italian model through the theoretical lens of Situational Crime Prevention (SCP), applying a crime-proofing approach to assess the system's ex ante capacity to reach its intended goal. Two clusters of risk are identified and analysed. The first encompasses circumvention and non-compliance opportunities affecting respectively users and platforms. The second addresses side effects, with particular attention to potential displacement effects toward less regulated and potentially more harmful online spaces. By identifying such loopholes against a criminological perspective, the presentation offers a preliminary evaluation of the regulatory architecture's resilience and its broader implication for online child protection policies in the national and regional landscapes.

The "Child Certificate" as a Tool for Preventing Crimes Against Children *Soňa Pospíšilová, Masaryk University*

This paper focuses on a new measure introduced in the Czech Republic, informally referred to as the "child certificate" which, starting January 1, 2027, will serve as a special registry of information relevant to working with children in the Czech Republic, with the aim of strengthening the preventive protection of minors against individuals convicted of serious violent or sexual offenses. The research analyzes how this legal framework alters existing preventive mechanisms for protecting children from individuals convicted of serious crimes, and examines its impacts on practice, proportionality, and its relationship to the principles of offender rehabilitation. The research also includes a comparison with selected European legal frameworks that employ various models for screening individuals working with children. The aim of this paper is to present the results of this analysis, identify similarities and differences between Czech and foreign approaches, and assess whether the Czech model aligns with European trends or represents a significantly different and stricter solution.

Rethinking youth prevention in Europe: Digital citizenship, Participation and Early intervention *Angeliki Kakou, IPS_Innovative Prison Systems; Margarida Madruga*

Damas, IPS_Innovative Prison Systems; Beatriz Filipe Martins, IPS_Innovative Prison Systems

Across Europe, young people are increasingly exposed to complex social risks linked to digital environments, misinformation, and exploitation, some connected with extremist actors and organised crime networks. These challenges are often addressed through reactive or justice-oriented responses, while early intervention remains underdeveloped. Strengthening primary and secondary prevention is therefore key to reducing vulnerabilities to extremism and anti-social behaviours, whilst supporting more cohesive and resilient societies. This understanding underpins efforts to strengthen resilience, digital and civic citizenship, guiding two European projects: DIGIDEM 'Fostering Digital Democracy and Citizenship in Higher Education' and FUTURE-ART 'Sentinels of the Future: Together to Eradicate Human Trafficking'. Placing youth, education and art at the forefront, these projects address growing social risks affecting young people, focusing on prevention through participation and engagement. Following data collection methods, both quantitative and qualitative, different vulnerabilities were signalled for youngsters and educational environments. However, these also highlighted opportunities for intervention, drafting a potential action plan for non-security focused preventive measures, showcasing how the combination of learning with participatory approaches can strengthen prevention beyond formal justice systems. Through a cross-country comparison, this presentation focuses on current needs, challenges and best practices in digital citizenship, online prevention and art-based approaches. This will highlight common gaps in digital literacy, limited integration of digital citizenship in formal education, and increasing exposure to polarised online content. Moreover, an analysis lens will also be used to understand how this connects with trafficking of human beings. Together, the outcomes of the above mentioned projects illustrate how combining education with participatory methods can strengthen prevention efforts, enhancing critical thinking, social awareness, and civic engagement. These results point to the value of integrating such approaches within education and community settings to support coordinated and sustainable responses to emerging social challenges.

371. EUROC Panel 10. Case Studies of Corruption

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Corruption (EUROC)
Paper Session
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.012
Chair:
Alexander Fürstenberg, Heidelberg University
Participants:

The importance of corruption whistleblowers as a key element of Ukraine's anti-corruption system *Kateryna Kulyk, Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University, Ukraine*

The fight against corruption is an essential part of ensuring stability, development and prosperity in any country. This problem is even more pressing during a period of martial law in Ukraine. One of the key approaches to preventing corruption is the creation of a pro-integrity society, which will not engage in corrupt practices or conceal acts of corruption that have been uncovered. Achieving this goal requires the continuous development of the whistleblower protection system. State protection for individuals who assist in exposing corrupt practices was first enshrined legally in Ukraine in 2011. Since then, the institution of protection for whistleblowers has developed significantly. A major expansion of the rights and safeguards for whistleblowers took place in 2014 and 2018. Today, anyone can be given the status of a whistleblower, provided they comply with the legal requirements applicable to such individuals. If a person has acquired the status of a whistleblower, they enjoy a wide range of rights, including: the right to free access to legal services; the right to confidentiality; the right to anonymity; the right to security; the right to psychological support; the right to reward in certain cases specified by law, and etc. Thanks to the government's proactive anti-corruption policy, the number of people who are properly informed about the legal protections for whistleblowers (16.9% of respondents according to a 2025 National Agency on Corruption Prevention survey) is increasing year on year. However, despite the achievements already made, there are still many issues that need to be resolved: a low level of respect for whistleblowers in society; a lack of the necessary knowledge to report cases of corruption effectively; the continued lack of institutional capacity among the relevant authorities; shortcomings in the legal framework. Thus, the process of developing the institution for the protection of whistleblowers in Ukraine continues.

State Subvention and Systematic Corruption: The Case of Thailand's Political Party Development Fund *punchada sirivunnabood, Mahidol University*

Established in 1998, Thailand's Political Party Development Fund (PPDF) was intended to professionalize the political landscape by replacing corporate influence with state subsidies. However, the system inadvertently incentivized "paper parties" to inflate membership rolls and establish inactive branches to maximize their funding. In response, the 2017 post-coup constitutional drafters introduced stringent regulations to tighten oversight. This article argues that these reforms have proven counterproductive; instead of eliminating corruption among minor parties, they have imposed an administrative burden so heavy that it stifles the growth of established parties and complicates legal compliance.

Political parties, corruption scandals and anti-corruption-legislation in Germany *Alexander Fürstenberg, Heidelberg University*

Calls from civil society for policymakers to expand and improve anti-corruption measures and legislation are becoming ever louder due to recurring corruption scandals and Germany's subsequent stagnation in international corruption rankings. Whilst the impact of democratic systems on curbing corruption is

empirically evident, the role of political parties at the meso-level in the fight against corruption remains under-examined. Political parties are, therefore, both the driving force behind anti-corruption legislation and, at times, implicated in scandals themselves. Whilst scandals can reduce the chances of re-election for the parties involved, they enable other parties to achieve better election results by positioning themselves as opponents of corruption. This raises the question of how the involvement in corruption scandals and anti-corruption legislation is interrelated in democracies. Drawing on case studies of corruption scandals involving political parties at federal level in Germany since their formation in 1949, this study systematically examines the links between such scandals and changes of government, as well as their role in the introduction of anti-corruption legislation. From the early 1980s onwards, there was a rise in scandals and anti-corruption legislation in Germany. Changes of government and the tightening of anti-corruption laws followed major corruption scandals. Overall, the findings point to a cultural institutionalisation of the understanding and politicisation of corruption.

372. Gangs, drugs and the gig economy

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Cultural Criminology
Roundtable
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.014

How are gangs organized today? And how does the drug trade operate within—and beyond—them? While much remains familiar, recent years have also brought about more fundamental shifts—driven, in part, by the increasing digitalization, transnationalization and "para-criminality" (Vigh & Sausdal 2025) of illegal activity. Here, one development stands out in particular: the emergence of a growing “gig economy” of gangs and drugs (cf. Fraser & Joe-Laidler 2024; Sausdal & Hannerz 2025). In this criminal gig economy, the business of drugs is no longer straightforwardly the business of gangs—at least not in the traditional sense. Rather than vertically organized groups managing their criminal enterprises in-house, we see a growing tendency toward outsourcing. Key tasks—drug distribution, acts of violence, etc.—are delegated to more or less willing actors, often young and precarious, who operate on a quasi-freelance basis. This is also what has come to be described as a “crime-as-a-service” economy: a fragmented and flexible criminal marketplace that is not merely a netherworld invention but, rather, closely mirrors developments in the legitimate economy and contemporary business culture. It is this emerging formation—organizationally diffuse yet logistically sophisticated—that this roundtable seeks to explore and discuss further. Led and organized by criminological ethnographers and gang-cum-drug researchers—Henrik Vigh, Tove Westberg, Erik Hannerz, Keith Hayward, and David Sausdal—the roundtable does so by paying close ethnographic attention to the “gang gig economy’s” everyday workings, combined with a cultural criminological interest in how such criminality both mirrors and shapes wider societal formations.

Chair:
David Sausdal, Lund University

Discussants:
Tove Westberg, Lund University
Erik Hannerz, Lund University

373. Youth, Routine Activities and Cybervictimisation

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Cybercrime (Cybercrime WG)
Paper Session
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.116

Chair:
Mario Santisteban Galarza, Universidad Miguel Hernández de Elche

Participants:

Individual and Routine-Activity Risk Factors for Cybervictimization: A Comparative Analysis of Interpersonal and Financial Cybercrimes *Catarina Simões Martins, School of Criminology, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal; Inês Sousa Guedes, CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice, School of Criminology, Faculty of Law of the University of Porto; Samuel Moreira, CIJ (Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice) - School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Porto, Portugal | CEJEIA (Center for Legal, Economic, International and Environmental Studies) - Lusíada University, Portugal*

Cybercrime has become one of the most pressing security concerns of contemporary societies, enabled by the rapid expansion of digital technologies and their integration into everyday life (Yar & Steinmetz, 2023). Research drawing on Routine Activity Theory (RAT) (Cohen & Felson, 1979) has substantially advanced our understanding of online victimization (Martins et al., 2023). Yet, empirical evidence remains scarce regarding whether RAT’s core elements operate similarly across different types of cybercrime (Aizenkot, 2022). This study examines whether individual characteristics and RAT mechanisms operate differently across two fundamental forms of cybercrime victimization: interpersonal (cyberbullying and cyberstalking) and financial (identity theft and consumer fraud). Using data from an online survey (N = 331), we analyse the role of sociodemographic factors, online exposure, target suitability and capable guardianship. Results indicate that 30.8% of respondents experienced interpersonal cybervictimization and 22.4% financial cybervictimization. Logistic regression analyses show that being female, having a lower perceived household income and engagement in risky online activities increase the likelihood of interpersonal victimization. Furthermore, online avoidance behaviours were found to be positively associated with interpersonal victimization, suggesting a reactive rather than preventive role. In contrast, sociodemographic variables were not associated with financial cybervictimization. Instead, exposure through online activities related to goods and services, as well as games and interaction, emerged as significant predictors. Moreover, online safety behaviours did not significantly reduce the risk of this type of cybervictimization in the regression models. These findings suggest that RAT mechanisms operate

differently across cybercrime types and underscore the need for differentiated prevention strategies.

Exploring the overlap between offline and offline youth crime in the Netherlands *Emma Kolman, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; Marleen Weulen Kranenbarg, Vrije Universiteit (VU) Amsterdam; Lisa van Reemst, VU Amsterdam; Edward Kleemans, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*

Previous research on the prevalence of offline and online delinquency among adolescents suggests that, rather than a shift from offline to online delinquency, there may be an overlap between these forms of crime. However, little research had examined this overlap or its potential association with risk factors. Given that the online environment provides adolescents with additional opportunities to combine offline and online offenses, and that generalists – youth who engage in both offline and online delinquency – appear to have the highest risk profile compared to those who engage exclusively in either offline or online offenses, it is important to further investigate this overlap. As part of a PhD project on the development of digitalized crime, the overlap between offline and online offenses is researched by using data from the Monitor Self-Reported Youth Crime (MZJ). The MZJ is a largescale survey on self-reported delinquency, victimization, and risk factors, conducted among approximately 18,000 Dutch adolescents aged 12 to 23. Using data from the 2023 wave of the Monitor Self-Reported Youth Crime (MZJ), this study used Categorical Principal Components Analysis (CATPCA) to examine the potential overlap between offline and online delinquency amongst youngsters in the Netherlands, as well as its association with risk factors. This is done by using different bivariate and multivariate analyses. Preliminary results indicate that three clusters of offenses can be identified that are frequently committed together: a cluster with more serious offline offenses, one with lighter offline and offline offenses, and an online cluster with both cyber-dependent and cyber-enabled crimes. In addition, several risk characteristics for offending appear to be associated with these clusters.

Digital leisure and cyber victimization of gamers: an ecology of routine and design patterns *Mario Santisteban Galarza, Universidad Miguel Hernández de Elche; Steven Kemp, University of Girona; Fernando Miró-Llinares, CRÍMINA Center, University Miguel Hernández of Elche*

Social science research on video games has traditionally focussed on their criminogenic effects in the offline world, but attention has recently turned toward the relationship between gaming and cybercrime. Existing studies on this relationship, however, tend to conceptualise gaming as a single routine activity or setting, overlooking the fact that gaming is a rich environment of diverse practices that connect players across a spectrum of cyber places. Moreover, gaming shapes players' broader leisure habits, including interactions across multiplayer and single-player experiences, active participation in forums and closed communities, content creation, and the consumption of live or on-demand video. Players meet in digital architectures differentiated by design choices related to functionality, interaction possibilities, and structural features that promote or diminish guardianship and social control, all of which can create or reduce criminal opportunities for different forms of cybercrime. The present study explores how online routine activities and gamer interactions related to specific types of places within the gaming ecology are associated with victimisation risk profiles. Using Conjunctive Analysis of Case Configurations (CACC) on data collected through a victimisation survey of gamers in Spain (N=1,812), we identify risk profiles for three victimisation categories: sexual victimisation, financial victimisation, and experiencing insults or offensive comments. Results indicate that individuals who interact in gaming cyber places that enable economic transactions or content creation are at greater risk across all three victimisation types. Multiplayer settings and commenting on gaming-related content are particularly relevant for experiencing insults or offensive comments, while being female is the most distinctive risk factor for sexual victimisation. These findings are discussed through the lens of the geography of cybercrime, suggesting that the activities occurring in certain gaming cyber places, rather than gaming itself more generally, shape victimisation patterns. Practical implications for prevention in gaming platforms with certain structural characteristics are also highlighted.

374. The Criminal Use of the Legitimate Economy: Vulnerable Sectors, Modi Operandi, and Prevention (PREVENT Project Part II)

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Organized Crime (Organized Crime WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.130

The infiltration of the legal economy by organised crime and high-risk criminal networks (HRCNs) poses a growing threat to economic integrity, governance, and public security across Europe. Criminal networks increasingly exploit legitimate business structures to facilitate illicit activities, launder profits, and embed themselves within local markets. While widely recognised, the mechanisms of infiltration and the most effective prevention responses remain insufficiently understood, particularly at the local level where criminal use of legitimate businesses materialises through specific urban sectors, regulatory vulnerabilities, and institutional contexts. The panel brings together four complementary contributions. The first offers a comparative analysis drawing on a literature review across eight EU member states and original case studies from nine European cities, identifying the sectors most vulnerable to criminal use and the common modi operandi through which criminal networks exploit the local economy. The second presents a case study of Sofia, showing how HRCNs embed themselves in nightlife, fast-credit, and construction waste sectors, using legal businesses to facilitate drug distribution, violent loansharking and extortion, and illegal waste disposal. The third examines the systemic infiltration of the Casalesi clan in Italy, exploring the "grey zone" of collusion between criminal networks, entrepreneurial

actors, and public administration, and evaluating preventive asset recovery and administrative measures as tools for shielding the legal economy. The fourth introduces a European barrier model that systematically maps how HRCNs exploit opportunities within legitimate markets and examines administrative approaches — including multi-agency cooperation and regulatory interventions — to limit criminal penetration. Together, these papers illuminate shared mechanisms — legal business fronts, subcontracting chains, regulatory loopholes, and corruption — and advance prevention frameworks developed within the PREVENT research project, applicable at both local and European levels.

Chair:

Atanas Krasimirov Rusev, Center for the Study of Democracy

Participants:

The criminal use of the legal economy by criminal networks: Case studies from nine European cities *Jelle Janssens, Ghent University; Billie Baetens, Scientific Researcher, Faculty of Law and Criminology, University of Ghent*

As societies continue to promote and strengthen the principle of free enterprise, they inadvertently create opportunities for criminal entrepreneurship. The criminal use of the legitimate economy by criminal networks poses a significant risk to the integrity of the financial system, to public security and to economic fairness. Legitimate businesses have become key tools for these networks, enabling them to carry out illegal activities, conceal criminal activities and launder illicit profits. Virtually no sector of the legitimate economy remains untouched by organised crime. Despite their global reach, criminal networks' use of the legitimate economy is often manifested locally. Understanding the local context is critical to identifying how these networks thrive, where criminal assets infiltrate the legitimate economy, and the patterns through which they develop and expand. This local lens is essential for understanding the wider implications for economic and social systems. We conducted a review of studies on the criminal use of the legal economy over the last five years, collecting literature from eight EU Member States: Belgium, Bulgaria, Spain, Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, France and Italy. This review sheds light on the economic sectors most vulnerable to criminal use and provides insights into the modi operandi of criminal use of the legal economy. Next to the review, case study analyses have been conducted in 9 European cities to examine the use of the legal economy by criminal organisation at the local level.

Licit Covers, Illicit Profits: Criminal Network Infiltration in Sofia's Economy *Atanas Krasimirov Rusev, Center for the Study of Democracy; Madlen Nikolova, Senior Analyst, Center for the Study of Democracy, Bulgaria*

High-risk criminal networks (HRCNs) in Sofia have increasingly embedded themselves within the city's legitimate economy, exploiting legal business structures to facilitate and conceal criminal activities. Drawing on in-depth interviews with law enforcement and prosecution authorities, judicial case files, and open-source investigative reports, this study examines HRCN infiltration across three economic sectors identified as particularly vulnerable: nightlife venues, non-bank fast-credit providers, and construction waste disposal. The findings reveal that criminal actors use licensed nightclubs to distribute drugs, operate violent loansharking and extortion schemes through franchise payday-lending models, and sustain a large-scale illegal construction waste disposal market underpinned by corruption. Across all three cases, criminal networks rely on professional facilitators, opaque beneficial ownership arrangements, cascading subcontracting chains, and high-cash-flow business models to blend illicit and licit revenues and facilitate their criminal activities. Weak enforcement, institutional vulnerabilities, and corrupt practices enable long-term criminal penetration. The resulting harms encompass violence, predatory financial exploitation, environmental degradation, money laundering, and significant erosion of public trust in regulatory institutions.

Criminal Infiltration of High-Risk Criminal Networks in the Legal Economy: Developing a European Barrier Model *Lienke Hutten, Stichting Centrum voor Criminaliteitspreventie en Veiligheid; Joeri Vig, Stichting Centrum voor Criminaliteitspreventie en Veiligheid*

Organised crime in Europe operates through high risk criminal networks that exploit the legal economy to facilitate and conceal criminal activities. This poses a significant threat to economic integrity, governance, and security across Europe. Within the PREVENT research project, the Dutch Centre for Crime Prevention and Safety (CCV) developed an European barrier model to analyse how high-risk criminal networks infiltrate legitimate economic sectors. By examining the mechanisms, opportunities, and vulnerabilities that enable criminal infiltration, the model provides a systematic overview of how organised crime networks establish and maintain positions within the legal economy. The model is based on comparative research across multiple subsectors in eight EU member states and provides insight into the mechanisms and opportunities that enable criminal infiltration. Next to the barriermodel the central question of the project is how such networks can be countered effectively. Particular attention is given to the role of administrative approaches in preventing the misuse of legal infrastructures. Through multi-agency cooperation, information sharing, and regulatory interventions, administrative measures can create barriers that limit opportunities for organised crime within the legal economy. This paper presents the barrier model, discusses cross-national patterns of infiltration, and reflects on the potential of administrative measures as part of an integrated European strategy against organised crime.

High-Risk Criminal Networks and the Infiltration of the Legitimate Economy: The Case of the Casalesi Clan in Italy *Michele Mosca, University of Naples 'Federico II'; Caterina Scialla, University of Naples 'Federico II'*

The contribution provides a comprehensive analysis of the systemic infiltration of organized crime into the legitimate economy, through a specialized case study of the Casalesi clan in Caserta, Italy. By examining the clan's historical penetration into strategic sectors—

such as construction, waste management, gambling (public and private sector) and social services—the research elucidates the sophisticated mechanisms through which criminal networks distort market dynamics. The study highlights the 'grey zone' of collusion, where coercive power intersects with entrepreneurial strategies and public administration, eroding the foundations of fair competition and socio-economic development. Central to this analysis is the use of robust preventive legal instruments to counter the infiltration of organised crime into the legal economy, thus functioning as an essential safeguard for the social economy. It is unquestionable that effective deterrence requires a transition from reactive judicial measures to a proactive administrative framework designed to shield social enterprises from criminal contamination. At the same time, such measures entail a significant interference with individual rights and procedural guarantees, and therefore require careful calibration with fundamental rights standards. This study underscores both the significant strategic value of the Italian experience for the broader European context and its weaknesses. As transnational criminal networks increasingly threaten EU markets, Italy's long-standing expertise in countering high-risk organizations—such as the Mafia, Camorra, and 'Ndrangheta—offers a sophisticated blueprint for refining repressive assets. By integrating administrative prevention with the promotion of social economy models, this research advocates for a harmonized European approach to safeguarding institutional integrity and ensuring sustainable, law-abiding economic growth.

375. New Objects and Epistemic Challenges in Criminology

Topic 1: Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Behavior/Theoretical and Epistemological debates in Criminology (Crime, Science and Politics WG)

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.136

Chair:

Robin Taylor Brooker, University of Reading

Participants:

"ARchival Harms": Wearable Tech, Hyper-Exposure, and the Criminology of Permanent Data Retention *Janos Mark Szakolczai, University of Glasgow; Mark McGill, University of Glasgow*

This paper develops a criminological account of "archive harms" within pervasive sensing ecologies defined by continuous data capture, indefinite retention, and expanding AI access. Contemporary data infrastructures are reconceptualised as archival regimes in which individuals are persistently rendered into stored, recombinable, and reinterpretable forms of "capta." Harm thus emerges not from discrete breaches, but from conditions of ongoing hyper-exposure across augmented layered systems, including satellite imaging, vehicular sensing, wearable cameras, and LiDAR-enabled environments. Drawing on empirical material from an interdisciplinary computer science and human–computer interaction project, the paper examines the growing normalisation of these sensing practices. Particular attention is given to the re-emergence of wearable cameras and sensing technologies as a critical inflection point. While not new, their integration into fashionable, ambient devices enables continuous, first-person capture. Unlike smartphones, wearable systems operate as always-on infrastructures, incorporating depth sensing and audio to produce granular, replayable records of everyday life. Two criminogenic dynamics are identified: the erosion of meaningful consent in augmented data environments and the absence of effective mechanisms to trace, contest, or erase archived data once it is integrated into AI systems. Stylised and conceptualised as "ARchival harms," these dynamics highlight the risks of converging pervasive sensing, social acceptance, and permanent storage, underscoring the need for new rights-based responses.

Awkwardness in Criminal Justice Settings: Opening a Window We Didn't Know Was There *Andrzej Światłowski, Uniwersytet Jagielloński*

Awkwardness is examined as a potentially valuable analytical lens for criminology. Rather than being understood solely as a breakdown in communication, it is presented as a moment of interpretive instability — an instance in which established frameworks for understanding events momentarily fail. These brief "but—what?" moments prompt actors to pause, reassess the situation, and reconsider its meaning. Across police work, courtroom procedures, and other sectors of the criminal justice system, such moments illuminate how people try to make sense of ambiguous situations and how interpretive work subtly shapes practices within the justice system. Drawing on Goffman, Collins, Habermas, memory studies, and the criminology of emotions, the analysis suggests that awkward silences, hesitations, misunderstandings, mismatched emotions, and sudden "wait—what?" moments signal points where formal institutional expectations meet reality. Awkwardness functions as a productive intermediary between the micro-level frictions of everyday situations and broader structural arrangements. It is also proposed as an epistemological tool that can expand criminology's conceptual repertoire. In this sense, awkwardness may serve as both an ethnographic anchor and a conceptual window onto how people experience criminal justice in real time.

Creating a Desire: Atmospheres and the Sensory Life of Commodities *Diāna Bērziņa, University of Manchester*

Drawing on my PhD thesis and current research project, this presentation moves beyond the dominant conceptions of commodities-related crime and [illicit] markets, which tend to treat circulating objects as passive, interchangeable, and view choices made by humans as primarily driven by economic incentives. A growing body of research indicates that decision-making may not be as straightforward. Non-cognitive, sensory influences play a role too. Arguably focus on sensorial and affective dynamics remains at periphery especially in some research areas. Addressing this disconnect is necessary to create a more nuanced understanding of human behaviour and decision-

making. This is especially true in the case of commodities-related harms and crimes. My work explores non-economic influences, senses and atmospheres and the relationships with objects that those forces engender in contexts that may include or lead to harmful or illegal behaviour. If commodities can have social lives (Appadurai,1986; Kopytoff, 1986) and in some cases criminal lives too (see Mackenzie & Bērziņa, 2022 on NFTs), then perhaps we should also account for their sensory lives. This perspective helps us to explore the ways commodities influence humans directly or influence them through the interplay between wider material and sensorial environment or 'atmospheres'. The recognition of these relations within the research on commodities-related harms and crimes would align with the calls in other disciplines to focus on emplacement and embodied experiences. This theoretical lens focusing on emotions, senses and atmospheres has primarily been applied to physical environments and objects, and not the digital world. This highlights a gap within our approaches to commodities-related harms and crimes in online spaces considering their ability to affect humans and their behaviour on a subconscious level. Attuning to the atmosphere of digital market spaces allows to address some of the analytical dilemmas of how we conceptualise crimes and harms underpinned by digital technologies.

White Coat Crime: Research Misconduct, Questionable Research Practices, and Epistemic Harm *Robin Taylor Brooker, University of Reading*

Breaches of research integrity – ranging from falsification and plagiarism to questionable research practices (QRPs) – are typically framed as matters of professional ethics, research governance, or regulatory compliance. Yet such behaviours can also be understood as forms of deviance: they violate normative expectations, generate harm, and undermine trust in scientific institutions. In some cases, they may also amount to fraud or other forms of wrongdoing more familiar to criminology. Despite this, limited criminological attention has been paid to deviance occurring within science itself. This paper argues that research misconduct and QRPs should be treated as objects of criminological inquiry and understood as forms of epistemic harm. Drawing on Merton's normative structure of science and developments in meta-science, the paper shows how criminological perspectives – including strain, neutralisation, and opportunity theories – help explain why researchers transgress epistemic norms, how such practices are rationalised, and the organisational conditions under which they become possible. To ground this argument empirically, the paper draws on survey data relating to QRPs, using respondents' accounts to illustrate how pressure, justification, and institutional context shape engagement in, and understandings of, these behaviours. Reframing research misconduct through a criminological lens extends criminology to an under-examined domain of harm while also contributing to wider debates on deviance, organisational wrongdoing, and the production of harm within trusted institutions. In doing so, the paper makes the case for taking epistemic harms seriously as a matter of criminological concern.

376. Safety and Violence in Prisons

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Imprisonment, Prisons, Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment (Prisons WG)
Pre-arranged Panel
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.156

This panel addresses the complex nature of safety and violence in prison settings, bringing together empirical research conducted in the Netherlands that speaks to wider international debates in criminology. Across many jurisdictions, prisons are increasingly expected to deliver both security and humane conditions, yet these aims often sit in tension. Understanding how safety is produced and perceived within these environments remains a central challenge for scholars and practitioners alike. Rather than treating violence as a series of discrete incidents or as the outcome of individual pathology, the research presented in this panel conceptualises safety as socially constructed and foregrounds the situational dynamics of violence. The papers in this panel examine perceptions of safety among both staff and incarcerated individuals, social norms surrounding violence among incarcerated individuals, and how individuals interpret and respond to potentially volatile situations. Methodologically, the panel showcases the use of innovative and complementary approaches, including experimental designs and other quantitative analyses, to capture dimensions of prison life that are often difficult to access. This includes the study of behavioural tendencies and decision-making processes in simulated environments, as well as the identification of distinct safety-related profiles. The panel highlights the need to move beyond incident-driven and purely managerial perspectives, and instead engage with safety as a dynamic, relational, and context-dependent phenomenon. In doing so, the panel offers insights that are relevant not only to the Dutch context, but to comparative and international scholarship on prisons and other closed institutions.

Chair:
Esther van Ginneken, Leiden University

Participants:

Perceived Safety of Prison Staff *Miranda Sentse, Leiden University*

Increased violence, staffing shortages, overcrowding, and high-stress work environments: prison is not your typical workplace. With current developments in Europe and beyond, the subjective safety of prison staff is under significant pressure. Although previous research has informed us on important determinants and consequences of subjective safety of prison staff, those studies are often focused on individual staff factors and overlook the context in which feelings of safety arise. Moreover, the concept of perceived safety might be multifaceted stemming from interpersonal, personal, and social safety indicators. Thus far, it remains unclear how such indicators relate to each other and to what extent they are embedded in the larger context of the prison work environment. In this study we use administrative and survey data from a large and nationwide sample of Dutch prison workers in different work roles and across 28 penitentiary facilities. Multilevel analyses are used to examine if and how

different indicators of perceived safety of prison staff are interrelated, and to what these are (differently) associated with work climate perceptions. Results can contribute to prison policies and inform prison management on how to increase perceived safety among their staff.

Experiences of (Un)Safety in Prisons *Sophie Martens, Leiden University*

It is well known that not all incarcerated individuals feel equally safe while spending time in prison. Often, when predicting differences in fear or (un)safety, researchers have relied on survey scales, collapsing different elements of safety into a single measure. In this paper, we argue that safety consists of several elements: concrete fears of victimization (affective fear), behavioral adaptation (behavioral fear), and feelings of unsafety (formless fear). Following the fear of crime and functional fear literature, we investigate whether these different manifestations of (un)safety in prison can be clustered into patterns. We employ latent class analysis to investigate how participants from a nationwide prison study in the Netherlands (N = 3931) score on different dimensions of safety, and which patterns of fear and behavior can be distinguished. Subsequently, we investigate which individual characteristics predict these patterns (i.e., class membership). In doing so, we hope to bridge the gap between fear of crime theory and prison studies and help practitioners in prison better recognize patterns of unsafety.

A Virtual Reality Experiment on the Influence of Provocation and Bystander Behaviour on Prison Violence *Dante Hoek, Leiden University*

Prison violence remains a persistent challenge for correctional systems worldwide, and the Netherlands is no exception. Much of the existing quantitative research on prison violence has focused on individual factors. While these factors are important, they offer only a partial explanation, as situational factors may also determine whether interactions between incarcerated individuals escalate into violence or not. In this 360° Virtual Reality (VR) experiment, we tested the effects of provocation and bystander behavior on intentions to use violence. Incarcerated men (N = 170) from three Dutch correctional institutions participated in vignette-based VR scenarios simulating a potentially violent situation. We employed a 2 × 3 mixed design in which provocation (low vs. high) was manipulated as a within-subjects factor and bystander behavior (passive, discouraging, or encouraging) as a between-subjects factor. During each VR scenario, participants verbally reported their expected behavioral response and their intention to use violence. Analyses revealed a significant effect of provocation: higher levels of provocation increased intentions to use violence. No significant main effect was observed for bystander behavior, nor was the interaction between these factors significant. These results indicate that situational factors can influence violent behavior during interpersonal interactions. They also demonstrate that VR can successfully elicit realistic behavioral responses in simulated prison settings.

Norms of Violence in Prison *Esther van Ginneken, Leiden University*

Violence in prisons is often understood as shaped by local social norms, yet empirical research rarely measures such norms directly. This study examines how norms regarding violent behaviour operate within prison units and how they relate to incarcerated individuals' attitudes and behaviour. Drawing on a nationwide survey (Life in Custody Study 2026) among approximately 4,500 incarcerated individuals in the Netherlands, we distinguish between norms at the individual and unit level. The survey includes measures of individuals' perceptions of others' violent behaviour and approval, their own attitudes, and their self-reported behaviour. Responses are aggregated to the unit level to capture the normative climate regarding violence. Multilevel analyses are used to examine how individuals' attitudes and behaviours relate to both perceived norms and collectively shared norms within their units. The findings contribute to sociological and criminological debates on prison social order by providing empirical evidence on the role of norms in shaping violent behaviour within custodial settings.

377. PWG Panel 15: Everyday Life, Space and Violence in Custody

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Imprisonment, Prisons, Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment (Prisons WG)
Paper Session
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.158

Chair:

An-Sofie Vanhouche, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Participants:

Juveniles in the Polish penitentiary system *Paulina Perska-Gradowska, Adam Mickiewicz University, Faculty of Educational Studies, Department of Penitentiary Sciences, Poznań, Poland*

The Polish juvenile system is characterized in the literature as a protective system. Minors are held criminally responsible only in exceptional circumstances, and there are no separate prisons for juveniles under 17 years of age within the Polish penitentiary system. Due to this lack of dedicated facilities for minors, they are instead placed in penitentiary units designed for young prisoners, specifically those under 21 years old. Since a minor can only be sentenced to imprisonment in exceptional circumstances, it should be assumed that the population of juveniles placed in penitentiary units is marginal, but includes the most demoralized individuals who have committed acts specified in Article 10 § 2 and 2a of the Penal Code. The separation of minors from adults in facilities is justified not only by the unique developmental stage of young people but also by the necessity to shield them from the potentially negative influence of adult offenders. The establishment of separate institutions for minors aligns with the implementation of international rules and directives. This study aims to analyze the conditions under which minors serve their sentences in prisons, as well as to identify the opportunities and barriers to effective

intervention. Additionally, the research will present findings from interviews conducted with Prison Service officers and staff at juvenile detention facilities, focusing on their perspectives regarding minors in the Polish penitentiary system.

Revenge: A rationale for violence on a women's prison unit *Celine Beaulieu, University of Alberta; Kevin Haggerty, University of Alberta; William J. Schultz, MacEwan University; Bucerius Sandra, University of Alberta*

This presentation draws on interviews with 88 women incarcerated in remand prisons in Canada to analyze narratives of physical violence on women's units. It demonstrates both the presence and patterned nature of such violence, challenging the persistent gender binary in prison scholarship that associates physical violence with men and relational violence with women. In doing so, it also revisits Michalski's "general theory of prison violence." Our analysis identifies five recurring rationales for physical violence—what we term the "five Rs": relationships, reputations, revenge, resources, and "rats" (informing). For this specific presentation though, we will discuss only one of these five Rs: revenge. These accounts show how violence is embedded in the social organization of prison life, rather than reducible to individual pathology or deviance. By foregrounding forms of violence typically coded as masculine, we illustrate how institutional conditions destabilize gendered expectations and shape women's engagement in violence. Rather than treating violence as a discrete act, we conceptualize it as a relational and processual phenomenon emerging from ongoing interactions, material constraints, and status negotiations. This reframing challenges moralizing interpretations of women's violence and calls for more nuanced, context-sensitive accounts of prison social order.

The Prison Cell as a Living Space *Ida Leibetseder, Hans Gross Centre for Interdisciplinary Criminal Sciences (Institute of Criminal Law, Criminal Procedural Law and Criminology, University of Graz, Austria); Stanislaus Stieber, Hans Gross Center for Interdisciplinary Criminal Sciences; Nina Kaiser, Hans Gross Centre for Interdisciplinary Criminal Sciences (Institute of Criminal Law, Criminal Procedural Law and Criminology, University of Graz, Austria)*

Bedroom, bathroom, living room, kitchen, office, and library — in the Austrian prison system, individuals spend up to 23 hours per day in their cell, of approximately 8 m2, making it an unparalleled focal point of intramural lived experience. The individual mode of relating to objects and the inhabitation of space is thereby shaped not only by personal preferences and needs, but also by a legally defined framework of possibilities that is strictly oriented toward security considerations. In its multifunctionality and conditionality, the prison cell thus represents a space in which the tension between individuality and punishment is concentrated and becomes particularly visible. The research project explores this narrative potential of prison cells through interviews with incarcerated individuals, as well as through photographic series, drawing on the documentary method as an analytical approach. Situated at the intersection of law, architecture, and psychology, this interdisciplinary approach investigates the explanatory value of the prison cell as a living space, contributing to the conceptual understanding of individuality within the penal system.

Who's cooking? An Examination of Demographic, Situational and Personal Factors Influencing Cooking Among Inmates in the Netherlands PWG *Julia Marcella Visser, Leiden University & Vrije Universiteit Brussel; Paul Nieuwbeerta, Leiden University; An-Sofie Vanhouche, Vrije Universiteit Brussel; Hanneke Palmen, Leiden University*

In recent years, Dutch correctional facilities have increasingly facilitated self-catering practices by expanding opportunities for incarcerated individuals to prepare their own meals. Previous research has highlighted several positive outcomes associated with self-catering, including improvements in the normalisation of detention and identity development and autonomy of individuals. However, the characteristics of those who make use of these self-catering facilities remain largely unexplored. This presentation examines the demographic, individual and institutional characteristics of incarcerated individuals who cook for themselves. The findings are interpreted within the frameworks of the importation and deprivation models and complemented by the specific regulation of the food system within Dutch correctional facilities. The analyses draws on data from the Food in Custody (FIC) and Life in Custody (LIC) studies, based on self-report questionnaires administered to incarcerated individuals in the Netherlands in 2024. The presentation contributes to a better understanding of engagement in food practices, participation during incarceration and provides insights how institutional and personal characteristics shape cooking behaviour in detention.

378. Hate crime Panel 1: Measuring, Preventing and Governing Hate Crime

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Hate Crime (Hate Crime WG)
Paper Session
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.164

Chair:
Nathan Hall, Kings College London

Participants:

"Comparative Bureaucrats" and the Politics of Hate Crime Measurement in Europe *Piotr GODZISZ, University of Leicester*

Hate crime statistics are often treated as "bad data": they vary widely across Europe, yet are increasingly used by governments as policy evidence. This paper examines the production of hate crime statistics as a process shaped not only by national recording practices, but also by international governance. Building on the concept of "comparative bureaucrats", it analyses the role of international institutions – particularly the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) – in promoting shared definitions, standardised reporting

practices, and improved data collection capacity across the region. Based on a diachronic review of ODIHR reporting outputs over two decades, the paper argues that international institutions have contributed to increased transparency and disaggregation of police-recorded hate crime data in many European states. However, significant gaps remain, particularly in relation to prosecution and sentencing statistics. The paper also identifies emerging risks linked to politicisation, including the strategic appropriation of hate crime frameworks by fundamentalist and anti-gender actors. It concludes by arguing that hate crime scholarship would benefit from deeper engagement with broader crime measurement theory and comparative criminology.

Life courses of young hate crime offenders: Evidence from national survey and register data *Essi Pentikäinen, University of Helsinki; Karoliina Suonpää, University of Helsinki; Markus Kaakinen, University of Helsinki*

In recent years, hate crimes have been on the rise in Europe, highlighting the need for understanding the factors behind hate-motivated offending. Research on hate crime offenders is still rare and utilizes mainly official police records and register data. As a result, many relevant background factors remain uncovered. Moreover, since only a small share of hate crimes is reported to police, relying on official registers alone may bias the results. This study combines nationally representative survey data of 8 221 Finnish adolescents with detailed register data, enabling analysis of self-reported hate crime offending and associated risk factors across childhood and young adulthood. To produce a picture of typical hate crime within youth, we compare characteristics of self-reported hate crimes and non-hate-motivated violence. Second, we compare background factors of youth who reported having committed hate-motivated violence, to those who committed non-hate-motivated violence or other crimes. By combining survey and register data, we study both early risk factors of hate crime (e.g. low self-control or childhood circumstances such as parents' crime history and SES indicators) and later life-course (e.g. education and police-reported crimes and victimization). In addition, we analyze whether individuals committing hate crimes are more likely to be part of a criminally active group. By utilizing this unique design combining both register and self-report survey data, this study examines whether the life-course of young people committing hate crimes differs from their peers or perpetrators of non-hate-motivated crimes. The information on the risk factors of hate crimes contributes both to criminological theory on hate crime and criminal policies aiming to prevent hate crime victimization among youth.

Protective measures towards soft targets' protection across Europe. *Vivian Gravenberch, Dutch Institute for Safe & Secure Spaces; Sara Houweling, Dutch Institute for Safe & Secure Spaces (DISSS)*

This research establishes the theoretical and empirical foundations for enhancing the security and resilience of soft targets, such as places of worship, schools, and religious organisations, across Europe. These religious community spaces are affected by an EU-wide increase in reported hate crimes, which occur both on- and offline. By mapping existing protective tools and measures through comprehensive desk research, a Europe-wide survey, and a review of current practices, this study identifies effective strategies that move beyond purely securitised and reactive responses. The theoretical analysis confirmed that effective security relies on cooperative, sustainable, multidisciplinary coalitions, notably through Triangle Management (local government, law enforcement, and religious leaders) and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). These frameworks are essential for protecting both modern and ancient structures and are formally guided by the international standard ISO 22341:2021. Empirical data from the Europe-wide survey (n=152, predominantly law enforcement agencies, 74.83%) provided critical insights into the contemporary threat environment. Although the weighted overall risk score for faith-based institutions was assessed as low-to-moderate (1.2–1.5 out of 5), the data revealed pervasive and significant ideologically motivated threats. These include Islamophobia and Antisemitism, which manifest as online harassment, violent incidents, and systemic discrimination. In response, communities primarily focus on internal capacity building, such as encouraging incident reporting and providing resilience training. Crucially, a multi-actor, multi-faith framework—the Local Shielding Council (LSC) concept—was strongly endorsed, with approximately 72% of respondents rating its feasibility as moderate to high. The successful development of this local coordination model is conditional upon securing dedicated human and financial resources and establishing robust, risk-focussed cooperation with local police and public authorities. These findings underscore the necessity of the LSC model as the most supported path to developing a resilient and coordinated security ecosystem for soft targets across Europe.

Connecting the past, present, and future of 'independent advice': Reflections on 25 years of bridging academia and criminal justice policy and practice in hate crime *Nathan Hall, Kings College London*

Of the many policing and wider criminal justice changes in the UK that can be directly attributed to the legacies of the murdered teenager, Stephen Lawrence, the introduction of independent advisors, analysts, and academic experts into the hitherto closed world of policing is one of the most enduring yet, at times, challenging. In this paper I reflect on 25 years of working at the intersection of academia, community engagement, and policing and wider criminal justice policy and practice in the field of hate crime, primarily in England and Wales, but also elsewhere. By revisiting previously published work that similarly considered, at different points in time, the challenges of being an academic engaging with communities, government, the police, and other agencies of the criminal justice system, this paper connects the past, present, and (speculates on) the future of the role of 'experts' in informing and shaping official responses to hate crime. In doing so, the paper considers lessons learned in

relation to ongoing efforts to effectively bridge the worlds of academia and 'expert' knowledge and criminal justice policymaking and practice, and addresses the complexities of doing so in increasingly uncertain and volatile times.

379. Online/offline and victim/offender overlaps and correlates of cybervictimization of youth in Italy, Poland, Sweden and US

Topic 2: Types of Offending/School Violence and Bullying (ISRD WG)
Paper Session
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 2 - Room 2.170
Chair:
Szymon Nawrocki, University of Warsaw
Participants:

Sociodemographic, social and contextual variables of online bullying: evidence from Children and Adolescents in Italy *Gianluca Tatarelli, University of Bologna; Anita Lavorgna, University of Bologna*

This contribution, part of the broader multi-method and multi-country eDeTox project on antisocial behaviour and toxic communication online, examines online bullying as a specific subset of harmful digital practices. We analyse social and sociodemographic risk and protective factors linked to cyber-victimisation among children and adolescents in Italy, using nationally representative data from the Italian National Institute of Statistics Children and Adolescents 2023 survey (ages 11–19). Cyber-victimisation is measured across three dimensions: insults and verbal offences, exclusion and marginalisation, and humiliation and defamation. Drawing on quantitative modelling and exploratory comparison with EU Kids Online 2019 data, we consider a wide range of sociodemographic, social and contextual variables. Preliminary findings highlight significant associations with gender, parents' citizenship status, offline victimisation, and exposure to online and/or offline risks, revealing both key vulnerabilities and potential protective mechanisms.

Bullying and other forms of violence - Transitions in victim-offender classes across adolescence *Frida Bood, Örebro University; Brittany Evans, School of Behavioural, Social and Legal Sciences, Örebro University; Matthew Cashman, School of Behavioural, Social and Legal Sciences, Örebro University; Henrik Andershed, School of Behavioural, Social and Legal Sciences, Örebro University; Karin Hellfeldt, School of Behavioural, Social and Legal Sciences, Örebro University*

Bullying involvement is linked to both victimization and perpetration of other violent behaviors in adolescence, including physical assault and online harassment. Research has also demonstrated a victim–offender overlap, where some experience both victimization and perpetration within bullying and across different forms of violence. This study examines how victim-offender statuses in bullying develop and relate to other forms of violence over the course of adolescence, using a person-centered perspective. The study is based on longitudinal data from Swedish school students (N=1802, 52.7% boys), aged 11-13 at T1, 14-16 at T2, and 17-19 at T3. Self-reports about traditional and cyber bullying involvement were collected at T1-T3. Self-reports about involvement in physical violence and online harassment were collected at T3. Latent class analyses at T1/T2 included bullying items and resulted in three classes of bullying involvement: 'non-involved' (76/78%), 'victims' (23/19%), and 'bully-victims' (2/4%). Latent class analysis at T3 included bullying items together with items on physical violence and online harassment, also resulting in three classes: 'non-involved' (78%), 'bullying and online victims' (12%), 'physical violence victim-offenders' (5%). Latent transition analysis revealed that overall, most participants remained 'non-involved' across adolescence or became so by late adolescence. However, although most tended to move away from involvement over time, more than one-third of 'victims' and more than one-third of 'bully-victims' kept their involvement status over time or shifted into another involved status. While few participants ended up as 'physical violence victim-offenders', the highest risk was shown for bully-victims. Together, these findings highlight the need for early school interventions that address both victimization and perpetration in bullying and other forms of violence to reduce the risk of negative developmental outcomes.

Machine Learning Analysis of Bullying in Rural Adolescents: A Survey-Based Study *Juyoung Song, Penn State University; Hakan Can, Penn State University; Joseph Squillace, Penn State University; Jeffrey A. Stone, Penn State University*

Bullying among adolescents in rural areas presents distinct challenges shaped by social isolation, limited institutional resources, and tightly knit peer networks. This study applies machine learning techniques—specifically Random Forest and Decision Tree models—to examine the predictors and patterns of bullying involvement among rural youth using a comprehensive survey dataset. The survey captures multidimensional factors, including life stressors (e.g., financial strain, health concerns), psychosocial experiences (e.g., loneliness, trauma-related stress), behavioral patterns (e.g., substance use, social media use), family conflict, peer relationships, and perceptions of school climate. Grounded in General Strain Theory and ecological perspectives, this research investigates how rural-specific stressors and social dynamics contribute to both bullying victimization and perpetration. Decision Tree models are employed to identify key risk pathways and interaction effects, offering interpretable insights into how combinations of stressors—such as social isolation and family conflict—elevate bullying risk. Random Forest models are used to improve predictive performance and determine the relative importance of variables across complex, non-linear relationships. Preliminary expectations indicate that loneliness, weak social support, and negative school environments will emerge as primary predictors of bullying involvement in rural settings. Additionally, factors such as limited peer networks and heightened visibility within small communities are expected to intensify both victimization and perpetration risks. Protective

influences, including strong family support and positive school engagement, are anticipated to mitigate these effects. Random Forest models are expected to demonstrate higher predictive accuracy, while Decision Trees will clarify actionable intervention pathways. This study contributes by highlighting the value of machine learning in uncovering nuanced patterns of bullying in rural contexts and informing targeted, data-driven prevention strategies for underserved youth populations.

New Technologies in the World of Modern Teenagers: Deviant Behavior and Victimization *Szymon Nawrocki, University of Warsaw*

In contemporary society, the Internet has transitioned from a separate entity to an integral part of daily life, particularly for the "digital native" generation. In Poland, where nearly 96% of households have internet access, adolescents spend an average of over five and a half hours online daily. While the digital environment offers vast opportunities, its anonymity and lack of physical barriers also foster deviant behaviors and victimization. This paper examines online hate and hate speech among Polish teenagers, drawing on data from the national research project "Juvenile Delinquency and Antisocial Behavior in Contemporary Poland." The study was conducted between 2024 and 2025 on a representative sample of 3,189 students aged 12–17. Using anonymous self-report surveys, the research analyzed the scale of internet aggression and its socio-psychological determinants. The findings demonstrate that boys are more likely to engage in online hate than girls. Furthermore, the tendency to resort to digital aggression occurs more frequently among adolescents facing various sources of frustration, such as poor family financial standing, a negative domestic atmosphere, past traumatic experiences, or a general sense of unhappiness. While these circumstances are identified as significant risk factors, the study emphasizes that they do not determine an individual's destiny. These risks can be balanced by protective factors, as many respondents facing significant difficulties do not engage in online hate. Conversely, the phenomenon occasionally involves individuals from stable, happy backgrounds. Regarding victimization, the study highlights a critical overlap between being a target and a perpetrator, suggesting a complex cycle of digital violence. Ultimately, online aggression results from a dynamic interplay between risk and protective factors, necessitating holistic prevention strategies.

380. Sex work, trafficking and victimization

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Sex Crimes, Sex Work and Sex Trafficking

Paper Session

10:30 to 11:45 am

Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.128

Chair:

Gaia Michelazzi, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore and Transcrime

Participants:

Between Marginalisation and Empowerment: Trans Women's Pathways into Sex Work and Perceptions of Safety *Cameron Coutu, University of Montreal; Francis Fortin, University of Montreal*

Most research on sex work has focused on women providing sexual services to men, and more recently, men offering services to other men. However, there is still a research gap in terms of understanding the experiences of transgender women sex workers. This study examines the experiences of six different trans women engaged in sex work in Québec, Canada. More specifically, it explores their pathways into sex work and their perceptions of risk and safety in this field of work. These findings were made possible through in-depth interviews conducted with the participants. Results showed that various forms of marginalisation and victimisation were linked to both being a sex worker and a trans woman. Experiences ranged from verbal harassment to repeated boundary violations from clients. At the same time, sex work also helped some participants feel more at ease in their bodies and sexualities, providing them a sense of empowerment by making them feel desired and recognised as women. These findings underscore the deeply ambivalent relationship trans women may hold toward sex work, shaped by both harm and affirmation.

Deterrence, risk, and law reform in commercial sex markets: An exploration of the experiences of sex buyers in England and Wales *Giulia Berlusconi, University of Surrey; Luca Giommoni, Cardiff University*

This paper presents the results of a study on men who engage with and visit full-service sex workers in England and Wales, their decision-making processes and buying patterns, and how they perceive and manage law enforcement risk associated with it. Despite ongoing discussions regarding further criminalising paying for sexual services in England and Wales, we know very little about how clients respond to sex work policy and legislation. Interviews with more than 30 sex buyers allow us to explore the role that sex work policy and legislation have in shaping buyers' understanding and perception of risk associated with engaging with and visiting sex workers, and the impact that changes in prostitution legislation may have on their willingness to continue engaging with sex workers in the future. We find that perception of risk seems to be associated with personal experience rather than a full understanding and appreciation of the law, and that further criminalisation may be unlikely to deter most men in our sample from purchasing sexual services. We conclude with some considerations about deterrence and law reform using commercial sex markets as an empirical case. The project was funded by the British Academy Small Research Grants Scheme.

From Theory to Practice: Identifying Power and Control in Sex Trafficking Cases *Anna E. Kosloski, University of Colorado Colorado Springs; Molly McDade, Portland State University; Christopher Carey, Portland State University; Bridget Diamond-Welch, University of South Dakota*

Contemporary research on sex trafficking has documented grooming and control tactics used by

traffickers (Basra et al., 2023; Casassa, 2023; Reid, 2016). Techniques for maintaining control are illustrated through the Polaris Project's (2010) Sex and Labor Trafficking Power and Control Wheel. However, much of the current research applies the power and control wheel to grooming and control tactics in the early stage of exploitation. This study examines the use of power and control not only to introduce exploitation but also to maintain exploitation, including when the exploiter is behind bars. Through an examination of case studies and analysis of intel data, this presentation highlights the powerful impact of coercive control in sex trafficking. Implications for intervention in exploitation and future research will also be discussed.

From enclave to embedded market? Chinese-linked indoor prostitution and local enablers in Milan *Gaia Michelazzi, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore and Transcrime; Alessandro Corti, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore; Giovanni Nicolazzo, Transcrime - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore; Francesco Calderoni, Transcrime / Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Milan); Michele Riccardi, Transcrime - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore*

Research on Chinese prostitution in Europe has often oscillated between trafficking narratives and enclave explanations. In Italy, however, Chinese-run massage parlours appear increasingly embedded in retail and real estate markets, raising a different question: whether their persistence depends not only on co-ethnic networks, but also on enabling actors. Situated within the Next-IJ focus on using open and journalistic sources to detect hidden illicit economies, this paper examines Chinese-linked massage parlours in Milan as hybrid business fronts combining a commercial appearance with suspected indoor sexual services. The study employs a mixed observational design combining open-source intelligence, journalism-derived leads, advertising data collection, Google Maps and Street View verification, business register data, and real estate ownership information. A census of over 100 addresses was compiled from sex-advertising platforms, massage directories, Google Maps, Telegram channels, and other open sources, then linked to registered firms in relevant personal-services sectors. The analysis compares suspicious venues with Chinese-branded tuina businesses lacking open-source indicators of sexual services. It addresses three questions: whether suspected venues display indicators consistent with sexual services, including tinted windows, unusual opening hours, and the absence of a credible website; whether they show a higher prevalence of non-Chinese individuals in governance roles; and whether the premises they use reveal dependence on non-Chinese real estate owners. Preliminary findings suggest that the Milan case is better understood as an embedded market than as a closed ethnic enclave. Suspected venues appear to rely on commercial camouflage and infrastructural relations extending beyond the Chinese community, especially through dependence on the real estate market. The paper contributes to debates on organised crime, sex markets, and hidden urban economies, while showing how open, journalistic, and administrative sources can support the detection of illicit business fronts. It is presented within the framework of the Next-IJ project, co-funded by the European Union.

381. Contesting Vulnerability: Interpreting Human Trafficking Across Legal, Institutional and Social Contexts

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Human Trafficking
Pre-arranged Panel
10:30 to 11:45 am
Faculty of Applied Languages - 55 Dobra Street.: Floor 3 - Room 3.150

This panel examines human trafficking as an evolving and contested phenomenon, shaped not only by patterns of exploitation but also by how victimization is interpreted, constructed, and adjudicated across empirical, legal, and institutional contexts. It brings together diverse perspectives to critically assess how vulnerabilities are identified and framed in different domains. A systematic overview of risks and vulnerabilities in underrepresented scholarship draws on studies from Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean, broadening the empirical and geographical scope of trafficking research. Contributions further explore how law enforcement constructs vulnerabilities in responses to sexual exploitation, alongside analyses of how victims are represented in media narratives. Finally, the panel addresses legal interpretations of emerging forms of exploitation, including forced criminality, labor exploitation within supply chains, and practices such as forced marriage and illegal adoption. Together, these papers provide a nuanced understanding of how trafficking is defined, recognized, and governed across contexts.

Chair:

Ieke de Vries, Leiden University

Participants:

Risk Factors and Vulnerabilities Associated with Human Trafficking Victimization: A Systematic Literature Review of European, Latin American and Caribbean Studies *Irina Zudina, Leiden University; Salomé Lannier, University of Luxembourg; Ieke de Vries, Leiden University; Joanne P. van der Leun, Leiden University*

This systematic review provides an overview of empirical research on vulnerability and risk factors associated with human trafficking victimization in two regions: Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Existing literature has substantially advanced understanding of individual characteristics and demographic indicators, as well as micro-level factors such as intimate relationships, family dynamics, and peer influence, as contributors to trafficking vulnerability. However, there remains limited engagement with frameworks that examine risk at the exo- and macro-levels, including infrastructural conditions, political and economic contexts, and broader socio-cultural and community factors. To address this gap, this review synthesizes factors associated with increased susceptibility to human trafficking victimization in European and LAC contexts. A systematic search was conducted across major academic databases and relevant repositories. Inclusion criteria covered empirical studies published between January 2005 and January 2026 examining trafficking vulnerability across all ages and genders in Europe or LAC. The multilingual search included English, Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, Dutch,

and German publications. This contribution examines (1) how empirical literature frames human trafficking and (2) how vulnerability and risk factors are defined and operationalized, with a cross-regional discussion of whether non-Anglo-American research places greater emphasis on structural and contextual influences.

Constructions of Human Trafficking Vulnerabilities within Law Enforcement Responses to Sexual Exploitation *Amy Farrell, Northeastern University; Ieke de Vries, Leiden University; Fallon Cooper, Leiden University*

Research on vulnerability in criminal justice has predominantly relied on an individualistic framework that locates risk in personal characteristics, behaviors, and experiences. In cases of sexual exploitation of minors and young adults, this perspective reinforces stereotypical victim portrayals and narrow notions of deservingness. This study examines how vulnerability is interpreted and given meaning in police investigations of sexual exploitation, asking who is considered vulnerable and on what grounds, as police investigations shape the evidentiary record and legal framing on which prosecution and sentencing decisions rely. The analysis draws on 21 investigative files and 26 semi-structured interviews with law enforcement professionals and other stakeholders in the Netherlands. Using a constructivist grounded theory approach, the study analyzes how vulnerability is described, interpreted, and mobilized in case documentation and investigative reasoning. Findings show that investigative files frequently document socioecological vulnerabilities – such as dysfunctional families, precarious housing, peer involvement in crime, and institutional neglect. Yet these structural conditions rarely guide formal vulnerability assessments or investigative strategies. Instead, interpretations follow individualized narratives aligned with dominant images of the "ideal victim," directing investigative attention to personal histories and behaviors rather than structural contexts. This pattern mirrors Dutch public prosecution guidance on "abuse of a position of vulnerability," which also emphasizes individual-level indicators. The study forms part of a broader project combining qualitative and quantitative methods to examine vulnerability in commercial sexual exploitation, funded by the Dutch Research Council.

Victim representations in Epstein news *Ilse A. Ras, Leiden University*

Accused of sexual abuse of a minor, convicted of "procuring a child for prostitution", and again formally accused of sex trafficking, Jeffrey Epstein is perhaps one of the most notorious figures associated with human trafficking/modern slavery in recent history; although his death in jail ensured he could not stand trial for the last accusation, his longtime associated Ghislaine Maxwell was found guilty of sex trafficking in association with Epstein. On February 8th, 2026, Dutch research journalist Zoë Papaikonomou appeared in an NPO Radio 1 broadcast to criticize Dutch media reporting on the Epstein-case, including the relative lack of attention to victim (survivors), prompting the question how victim (survivors) are represented, and how broadly her critique applies.The proposed presentation examines a corpus of Dutch national newspaper (print) reporting on Epstein, published between January 1st, 2000, and December 31st, 2025. Through a methodological triangulation of corpus linguistics and content analysis, this study examines to what extent victim (-survivors/affected) occur in the reporting, and where they occur, how they are represented lexically and grammatically. Findings will be explicitly linked to Appel's 2024 study on representations of victims of human trafficking in Dutch national newspapers to illustrate similarities and differences.

Do we need to transpose Directive 2024/1712? European categories of exploitation under the human trafficking offense and the principle of legality *Salomé Lannier, University of Luxembourg; Isotta Rossoni, Leiden University; Monika Szulecka, Institute of Law Studies PAS; Georgios Bastounas, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki; Angelos Constantinou, Open University of Cyprus; Eva Brucknerová, Masaryk University, Faculty of Law; Minna Kimpimäki, University of Lapland; Märta C. Johansson, Örebro University; Masja van Meeteren, Radboud University; Jan Stajnko, University of Maribor*

Directive 2024/1712 marks the first substantive reform of the European Union's anti-trafficking framework since 2011 by adding three new forms of exploitation to the human trafficking offence: forced marriage, illegal adoption and surrogacy. Although these phenomena were already referenced in the 2011 Directive's preamble, their express inclusion has prompted significant debate about whether Member States are legally required to transpose them as standalone exploitation purposes, or whether they can be absorbed within existing exploitation categories. This paper examines that question through a comparative analysis of fourteen Member States' criminal laws and judicial interpretations, assessing the interaction between national drafting choices and the components of the legality principle, namely lex scripta, lex certa and lex stricta. The paper develops categories of transposition strategies used for exploitation forms, ranging from detailed material elements to references to existing offences, criminal law categories, international definitions or open-ended general clauses. These diverse legislative techniques shape the boundaries of criminalisation and determine the feasibility of integrating new exploitation forms without legislative amendment. While some jurisdictions rely heavily on pre-existing offences or detailed statutory definitions that restrict interpretative flexibility, others use broader formulations that enable gradual judicial expansion, provided such interpretations remain foreseeable and within the essence of the offence. The analysis shows that forced marriage, illegal adoption and surrogacy may already fall within existing national frameworks in limited circumstances, particularly where provisions capture practices similar to slavery, the removal of organs or conditions contrary to human dignity. However, significant inconsistencies, legislative silos and divergent national understandings of exploitation undermine legal certainty and risk uneven protection across the Union. The 2024 reform therefore raises

broader questions about the EU's competence in defining exploitation, the anticipatory nature of human trafficking as an offence, and the potential inflation of trafficking law to compensate for gaps in national criminalisation of harmful practices. By clarifying when transposition is required and when interpretative inclusion is sufficient, this study contributes to ongoing legislative reforms. It underscores the need for coherence between trafficking offences and related national frameworks to ensure predictability for defendants, effective protection for survivors and respect for fundamental criminal law principles.

382. Plenary Roundtable 3 (Saturday) Youth and Crime

ESC
Plenary Session
12:00 to 1:15 pm
Old University Library: Old University Library

Why should you be there? Because understanding troubled youth helps us prevent troubled adults. A conversation about juvenile delinquency is always a conversation about what researchers studying adult crime will be dealing with in 5–10 years. Moreover, understanding troubled youth is how we stop troubled adults—because early intervention can transform not just one life, but an entire community. Every juvenile delinquent is a second chance waiting to be shaped. The smartest way to reduce future crime is to understand where it begins. By studying minors in conflict with the law, we break cycles of harm and open the door to cycles of opportunity.

Chair:
Piotr Chomczyński, University of Lodz

Discussants:
Ineke Haen Marshall, Northeastern University
Clemens Kroneberg, University of Cologne
Dagmara Woźniakowska, University of Warsaw

383. Closing Ceremony

ESC
Plenary Session
1:15 to 2:00 pm
Old University Library: Old University Library

A short event right after the last plenary roundtable, involves a brief ceremony to officially close the conference and pass the ESC flag to the organizers of the next annual meeting, which in 2027 will take place in Skopje, North Macedonia.

Chair:
Anna-Maria Getoš Kalac, University of Zagreb Faculty of Law

Presenters:
Dagmara Woźniakowska, University of Warsaw
Angelina Stanojoska, Faculty of Law, University "St. Kliment Ohridski" Bitola
Letizia Paoli, KU Leuven Faculty of Law and Criminology