

NEWSLETTER OF THE EUROPEAN
SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY

2026

Criminology in Europe

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→ PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

By Anna-Maria Getoš-Kalac

Criminological Authority and the Future of the ESC



Dear colleagues,

I would like to share some thoughts on what marked this year for our Society, what it taught me about criminological authority, and what that may mean for the future of the ESC. These questions converge on a simple one: what kind of scholarly society do we want the ESC to be?

I begin with the compromise reached after the first genuine stress-test our community has faced in its 25-year trajectory. Members had the opportunity to express fundamentally opposed views on how the ESC should engage with the armed conflict in Gaza. Dissenting voices may not always have felt welcome, been sought, or received prompt responses. Nevertheless, the views and inputs were factored in. In a polarised debate, the realistic outcome was a compromise: a membership vote on 'votable' questions distilled from the General Assembly's discussion and tested against basic academic and fundamental-rights principles. The aim was to address core concerns without directly or indirectly undermining equal treatment or anyone's right to maintain their "criminological home (away from home)"⁽¹⁾.

Unsurprisingly, that compromise fully satisfied neither side. But that is the nature of a compromise aimed at keeping a community together and in dialogue rather than dividing it beyond repair. Some objected to the

vote, the questions posed or the solutions offered; others contested its constitutional mandate, democratic safeguards or representativeness. These concerns are valid, but I will not adjudicate them here. What matters is what the experience taught me – and perhaps us – about the scholarly society we want the ESC to be.

Throughout the year, I devoted much professional time and personal effort to listening to, engaging with and understanding opposing positions and different perspectives. Before this controversy, I had no affiliation or prior connection with either the colleagues raising the issue or the colleagues most affected by it, and neither group formed part of my professional or personal networks. My professional engagement was neither a campaigning exercise – it came after the vote was concluded – nor an institutional mission on behalf of the Executive Board or the ESC. I approached these encounters as a fellow criminologist and equal colleague, with genuine scholarly care: to grasp the concerns, arguments and experiences on all sides and, where possible, to identify some minimal common ground – or at least to ensure that different perspectives were heard and taken seriously.

As a scholar heavily engaged in what I understand as science activism – using scientific knowledge and methods to improve institutions and practice – I strongly identify with the idea that our profession and discipline can entail a moral calling and a right to seek a better

(1) Getoš Kalac, A.M. (2024). Election of ESC President: Candidate Profile Anna-Maria Getoš Kalac. *Newsletter of the European Society of Criminology* 22(2)

Our Society welcomes all participants, and neither excludes nor discriminates against them on grounds unrelated to scientific exchange.

and safer world⁽²⁾. In that scholarly and professional spirit, I felt genuinely welcome and engaged at a conference hosted by the Ljubljana Law Faculty's Institute of Criminology exploring "Criminological Perspectives on Palestine". In the same spirit, I participated in the biannual conference of the Israeli Society of Criminology and the Drapkin Conference, hosted by the Institute of Criminology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. It brought into sharp focus the complexities of terrorism and armed conflict and their human consequences on the ground. The value of both encounters lay precisely in listening and engaging without requiring agreement as a precondition.

What I learned through these encounters profoundly deepened and enriched – and added further complexity to – the understanding I had developed through my own science activism⁽³⁾, lived experience in a conflict-torn region, the work of our Balkan Criminology Network and ESC Working Group, and prior research⁽⁴⁾. If there is one conclusion I draw with confidence, it is that the underlying criminological questions require more discussion and encounter, not less – and least of all a simple "yes" or "no".

Most importantly, the compromise has been implemented. Guidelines for ESC public statements on international conflicts and an affiliation-designation Guide are in effect; the Executive Board issued a "Statement on the War in Gaza and the Israel/Palestine conflict"; and the Society will support affected scholars and early-career researchers through fellowships and dedicated scholarly spaces⁽⁵⁾. The strengthened

Guidelines for participants in ESC activities reaffirm our commitment to equality and diversity, and apply irrespective of political agreement⁽⁶⁾.

Our Society welcomes all participants, and neither excludes nor discriminates against them on grounds unrelated to scientific exchange. Calls to do so are incompatible with our Society's mission and Constitution⁽⁷⁾ and, in my opinion, fundamentally incompatible with criminological reasoning and academic exchange. For that reason, I oppose academic boycotts. When undermining scholarly participation and cooperation, such boycotts necessarily operate through a scholar's Israeli institutional affiliation and thereby make an aspect of that scholar's Israeli (professional) identity a basis for exclusion, disadvantage or political conditions on equal scholarly standing. Treating a colleague's institutional affiliation or national (professional) identity as evidence of criminal conduct or complicity – or as itself sufficient to establish criminal culpability – replaces individual responsibility with collective indictment and punishment. This is my scholarly and professional position, not a partisan political statement. The individual-level consequences are foreseeable – in some formulations even expressly instrumental – and evidenced empirically⁽⁸⁾. Academic boycotts are a form of political protest, and the right to advocate them in political debate is entitled to protection. But they should not be conflated with scholarly exchange or scientific argument. When we speak as scholars, or in the name of the ESC, and invoke our criminological authority, we incur a corresponding obligation to ground our claims in criminological knowledge and scientific evidence.

(2) On "science activism" and "political activism" see: Getoš Kalac, A.M. (2026). Logos of Criminology: Harm, Conflict, and Academic Freedom. *Newsletter of the European Society of Criminology*, 23(3), available [here](#).

(3) See Getoš Kalac (2023) and Getoš Kalac, Ilić & Capak (2026).

(4) See Getoš, A.M. (2012).

(5) ESC Member Consultation on 2025 General Assembly Matters, available [online](#).

(6) Guidelines for participants in ESC activities, available [online](#).

(7) Statements of the Executive Board of the ESC, adopted on 31 August 2025, August 2025, and 8 November 2024, available [online](#).

(8) For empirical research see for example Kranz & Liebig (2026), and Farber (2024). For a detailed analysis of the implications of academic boycotts and university responses, see for example Muraille (2026).

That brings me to the central question: what qualifies us, as criminologists, and the ESC as a scholarly society – or indeed Criminology itself – to speak with scholarly authority? Why is criminological authority particularly meaningful and necessary amid political controversy?

Criminological authority arises not from certainty, moral conviction, institutional status, seniority, or the volume and numbers with which a position is asserted. It derives from a way of producing knowledge in which questions remain open to investigation, claims remain traceable to evidence, methods remain open to scrutiny, competing explanations are acknowledged, and conclusions remain corrigible. Academic freedom therefore necessarily includes the “right to err”⁽⁹⁾: it protects inquiry, disagreement and correction, not claims to infallibility. The opposite of moral certainty is not moral indifference. It is intellectual responsibility and ethical accountability.

This distinction matters when public policy relies on knowledge produced outside conventional criminological research and scientific publishing, especially in morally and politically charged fields. European migration and fundamental-rights policy is one example. It is surrounded by monitoring reports, commissioned assessments, institutional guidance, NGO documentation, expert recommendations and other forms of ‘grey literature’. Much of this material is valuable and influential, but its methodological foundations and evidentiary standards vary considerably.



Ceuta, July 2026. Photograph: Reduan Dris/EPA

The implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum demonstrates this particularly well, while the events in Ceuta in July 2026 remind us how rapidly migration, border management, vulnerability, security and fundamental rights can become matters of life and death⁽¹⁰⁾. The Pact’s new monitoring architecture requires independent scrutiny of compliance with fundamental rights in border procedures. Yet independent monitoring is not merely a legal or human-rights exercise, but also a core field of criminological engagement and authority. It involves institutional and organised criminal behaviour, police discretion and misconduct, reporting and non-reporting, vulnerability, victimisation, criminalisation, trust, evidence, implementation and evaluation. However, systematic criminological expertise remains conspicuously underrepresented in the ongoing methodological discussions about the design of that monitoring⁽¹¹⁾.

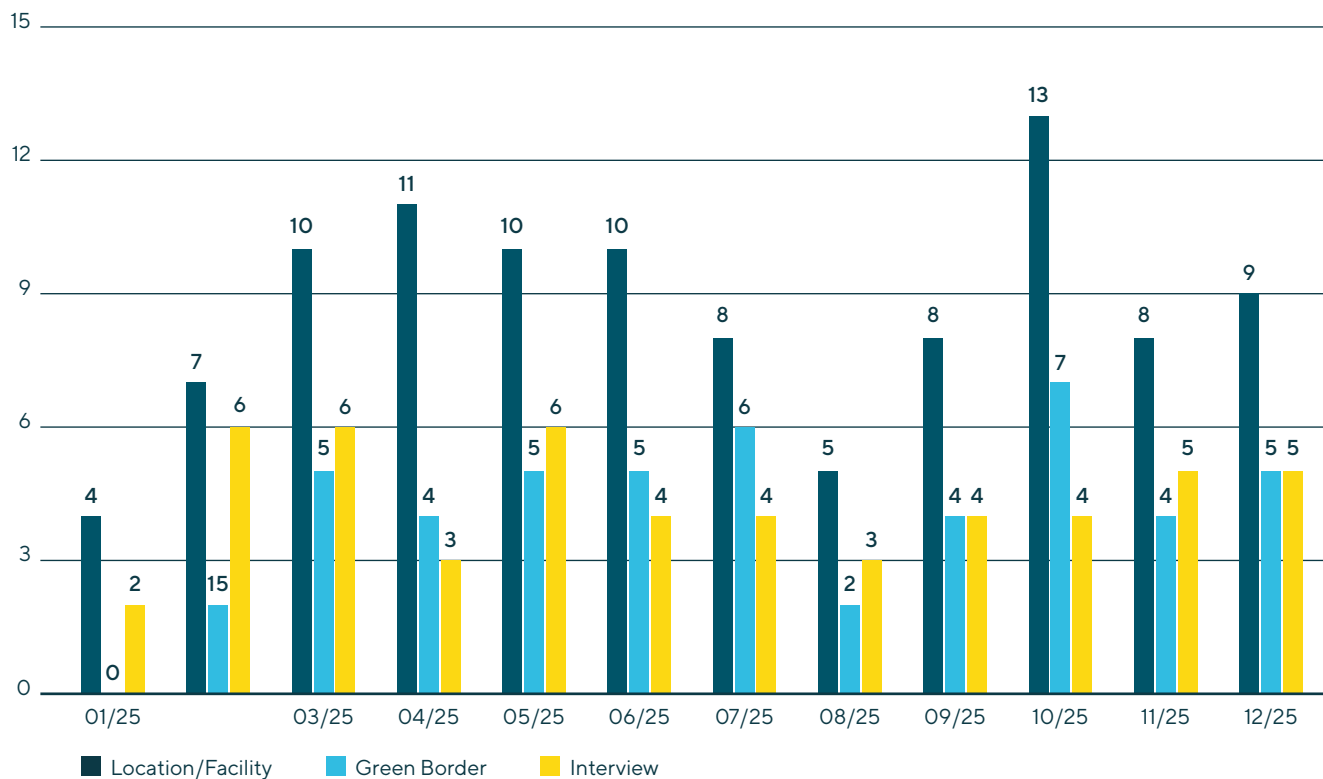
Five years of work with Croatia’s Independent Monitoring Mechanism – particularly designing and upgrading its methodological and operational architecture while engaging with domestic and European actors and the relevant publicly available ‘grey literature’ – have given me first-hand insight into how this field operates. Independent monitoring works best through critical but constructive engagement between independent experts, those whose practices are monitored and affected populations, supported by a robust methodology and evidentiary architecture that distinguishes observations from assumptions and findings from expectations. We developed risk-based sampling; conducted unannounced green-border and police-conduct monitoring operations and migrant interviews (see graph below); tested standardised tools; compiled evidence packages; initiated referrals of irregularities; and built follow-up, multilayer verification and public reporting into the system. Its transdisciplinary work brought Criminology and Victimology together with asylum, criminal and European Law, Medicine, Criminalistics, Security Studies, crisis management, Pedagogy, humanitarian and inter-cultural expertise.

(9) See Vrielink, Lemmens & Parmentier (2011) .

(10) Jones, S. (30 July 2026). Spain sends extra troops and police to Ceuta after thousands of migrants arrive: Unknown number of people have swum and waded into Spanish enclave that neighbours Morocco. *The Guardian*, available [online](#), accessed August 10, 2026.

(11) See for example: European Commission (8 May 2026). Report on the state of play on the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, available [online](#), accessed August 10, 2026; Fundamental Rights Agency (21 July 2026). Migration and Fundamental Rights Bulletin – 2/2026, available [online](#).

Monthly composition of the Croatian IMM's 2025 evidence base by type of operation (N=204).



Source: Getoš Kalac, A.M., Ilić, S., & Capak, K. (2026). Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Mechanism for 2025. Independent Monitoring Mechanism, Zagreb, p. 53.

One deceptively simple example of what hands-on criminological authority can contribute is the IMM's "Letter of Rights and Complaints" Procedure⁽¹²⁾. It provides migrants with standardised information about their rights, creates a documented channel for complaints concerning police conduct and makes that channel itself subject to external monitoring. Following its successful pilot, the Croatian Ministry of Interior decided to implement it voluntarily and nationwide. It offers a concrete model for other jurisdictions as comparable mechanisms develop across the EU. What matters here is not the Letter itself, but the model of criminological engagement it reflects.

As criminologists, we work with practitioners and institutions while retaining independence: identifying vulnerabilities, understanding operational realities, translating knowledge into workable safeguards,

Our discipline should be particularly attuned to the dangers of replacing questions with conclusions and evidence with accusations, especially in morally and politically charged fields - as many, perhaps most, criminological topics are to some degree.

(12) See Getoš Kalac, Ilić & Capak (2026), pp. 74-75 and 128-129.

scrutinising implementation and evaluating whether an intervention works. In doing so, we show that engaged Criminology need not become advocacy, and that criminological authority does not require distance from practice or indifference to suffering, but independence of judgement. Our discipline should be particularly attuned to the dangers of replacing questions with conclusions and evidence with accusations, especially in morally and politically charged fields – as many, perhaps most, criminological topics are to some degree.

For a scholarly society, and particularly for us as criminologists, consistency in equal treatment and in the criteria we apply is not merely a matter of fairness or methodological rigour. It is an essential condition of credibility.

That insistence on individual responsibility, evidence and equal treatment seems particularly worth remembering as we meet in Warsaw for our conference. Few European cities offer a more immediate reminder of the catastrophic consequences of antisemitism and the denial of equal human worth. Before the Holocaust, Warsaw was one of the great centres of Jewish life in Europe. That history does not decide contemporary political disputes. It should, however, sharpen our criminological lens for examining whether, and under what circumstances, collective attribution or unequal treatment may acquire an antisemitic dimension. Neither criticism of the Israeli

government nor advocacy of anti-Israeli boycotts as a form of political protest is, in itself, antisemitic. But singling out Israeli affiliation or identity – or scholarly opposition to academic boycotts – for exceptional treatment, construing any of these as evidence of personal criminal conduct or complicity, or using them as a basis for exclusion or public stigmatisation has no place in any scholarly community, least of all a criminological one. For a scholarly society, and particularly for us as criminologists, consistency in equal treatment and in the criteria we apply is not merely a matter of fairness or methodological rigour. It is an essential condition of credibility.

This brings me, finally, to the responsibility that comes with governing our Society. The Presidency – and indeed every position of responsibility within the ESC – is an honour, a recognition and a privilege, as much as it is an obligation and a duty of stewardship. Election or appointment to office does not transform personal convictions, however sincerely or strongly held, into positions of the Society. Nor does the authority attached to office belong to any of us personally. It is entrusted temporarily for the purpose of fulfilling our Society's mission. The greater the authority of the office – and the stronger one's prior public commitment to a contested matter, or where a potential conflict of interest exists – the greater the obligation to distinguish personal conviction from institutional mandate and to manage conflicting interests in favour of the Society's constitutional mission.

We strengthen the ESC because it is our “criminological home (away from home)”: a space in which we can flourish, challenge one another, educate future generations and share research and knowledge. That is how I understand loyalty to the ESC and my membership, as well as the trust placed in me as President. This trust I likewise place in the future of our Society – a future grounded in institutional integrity,

We strengthen the ESC because it is our “criminological home (away from home)”: a space in which we can flourish, challenge one another, educate future generations and share research and knowledge.

intellectual courage, common scholarly standards, the capacity to compromise in challenging times, and a genuine embrace of diversity of colleagues, knowledge and perspectives. Such a future depends not on everyone singing in a choir conducted by a privileged, deserving or vocal few, but on our willingness to remain open, rigorous, pluralistic and welcoming enough for genuine, reasoned disagreement – and on turning that diversity into contributions that matter within and beyond our community. Such diversity is not only constitutionally protected and academically valuable. It is what allows Criminology to question itself, advance knowledge and contribute beyond its disciplinary boundaries. That is how a scholarly society should function, and the condition under which any of us – and the Society itself – may claim to speak with criminological authority.

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→ EUROCRIM 2026

By Dagmara Woźniakowska

Frontiers of Criminology, Warsaw, 9-12 September 2026



9-12 SEPTEMBER 2026, WARSAW

EUROCRIM 2026

FRONTIERS OF CRIMINOLOGY

It is our great pleasure to announce that Eurocrim 2026 – Europe's largest Criminology conference – will take place in Warsaw. This vibrant and modern capital blends contemporary energy with a rich and complex history.

The event is organised by the University of Warsaw, with tremendous support from the City of Warsaw and the Polish Society of Criminology.



How Do We Understand the “Frontiers of Criminology”?

In our rapidly changing world, boundaries of all kinds – technological, social, climate and environmental, legal – are constantly renegotiated. As criminologists, we are challenged to ask anew: Where are the boundaries between crime and non-crime today? Some acts vanish from penal codes as they become obsolete (e.g., “impulse theft from public payphones” – siphoning phone credits – unfamiliar to younger generations). Others emerge with technology, like deepfake frauds. Still more spark debate: acts seen as harmful or immoral by many yet legally tolerated, such as fur farming, which remains legal in Poland despite growing ethical concerns.

We must also question the boundaries of Human Rights – and whether humanity itself has limits. Fierce disputes, fuelled by far-right groups in the Global North, target transgender rights and migrants’ place in society. For people on the move, humanitarian boundaries collide with geopolitical borders and the regimes that enforce them.

Digital spaces create yet another frontier: Where do Human Rights stand in cyberspace, especially as AI-related harms grow – from manipulative algorithms to technology-enabled harassment?

This leads us to a crucial question: Are we, as criminologists, doing enough to protect humanitarianism, fairness, and human dignity?

At the same time, new frontiers are emerging in areas such as environmental and climate justice: how should Criminology respond to ecological harms, climate-related conflicts, environmental victimisation, and the inequalities produced by global energy transitions? We must also consider the rural and peripheral frontier, examining how crime, safety, resilience, and access to justice are experienced beyond metropolitan centres, in regions facing depopulation, marginalisation, and uneven development. Equally pressing is the frontier of data, surveillance, and algorithmic governance: the growing role of predictive policing, big data, and artificial intelligence raises urgent questions about bias, legitimacy, accountability, and the future of democratic control over security. Finally, the youth

frontier reminds us that the boundaries between experimentation, risk-taking, and criminalisation are especially fragile in adolescence. Understanding peer influence, maturity gaps, and the critical moments that shape desistance is essential to preventing harm before it solidifies in adulthood.

Daily news from Ukraine under ongoing Russian attacks tests frontiers of humanity. Atrocities and crimes against humanity unfold in Europe, on our doorstep and at the EU’s edge. Conflicts beyond Europe also affect our community. We therefore invite balanced, thoughtful, respectful scholarly debate in Warsaw. No topic is too difficult – but all will be approached with care and without hostility.

Hosting Eurocrim 2026 in Poland, a country located on the EU’s periphery, allows us to amplify underrepresented voices. Societal shifts often differ here from the centre, offering unique insights. Eurocrim 2026 will explore Criminology’s frontiers: those reached, those ahead, and lessons from peripheral regions.

A Fresh Approach to Plenary Sessions

This year, plenaries shift to roundtable discussions, replacing loosely connected keynotes. These topics matter to all criminologists – our field is interconnected.

– Thursday, 10 September: *European Entanglements in Atrocity Crimes and Transitional Justice: A Dialogue?* Join the dialogue – understanding mass harms strengthens global prevention.

– Friday, 11 September: *Victims of crime.* Why attend? Insights into needs and vulnerabilities inform justice systems, prevention, and restoration.

– Saturday, 12 September: *Youth and crime.* Why attend? Grasping troubled youth prevents troubled adults, breaking harm cycles for opportunity.

Why Come to Warsaw?

Eurocrim is renowned for its scientific excellence – expect intellectually intense and inspiring days.

The University of Warsaw's venues are centrally located, making it easy to walk to sessions if you stay nearby. For those staying farther away, free public transportation passes will be provided thanks to the City of Warsaw and the Warsaw Tourism Organisation. Warsaw is a major scientific and cultural hub. Almost entirely destroyed during World War II, it has since been rebuilt into a vibrant, diverse city featuring museums, theatres, historical sites, and green areas. The Warsaw Tourism Organisation will offer guided tours for anyone wishing to explore.

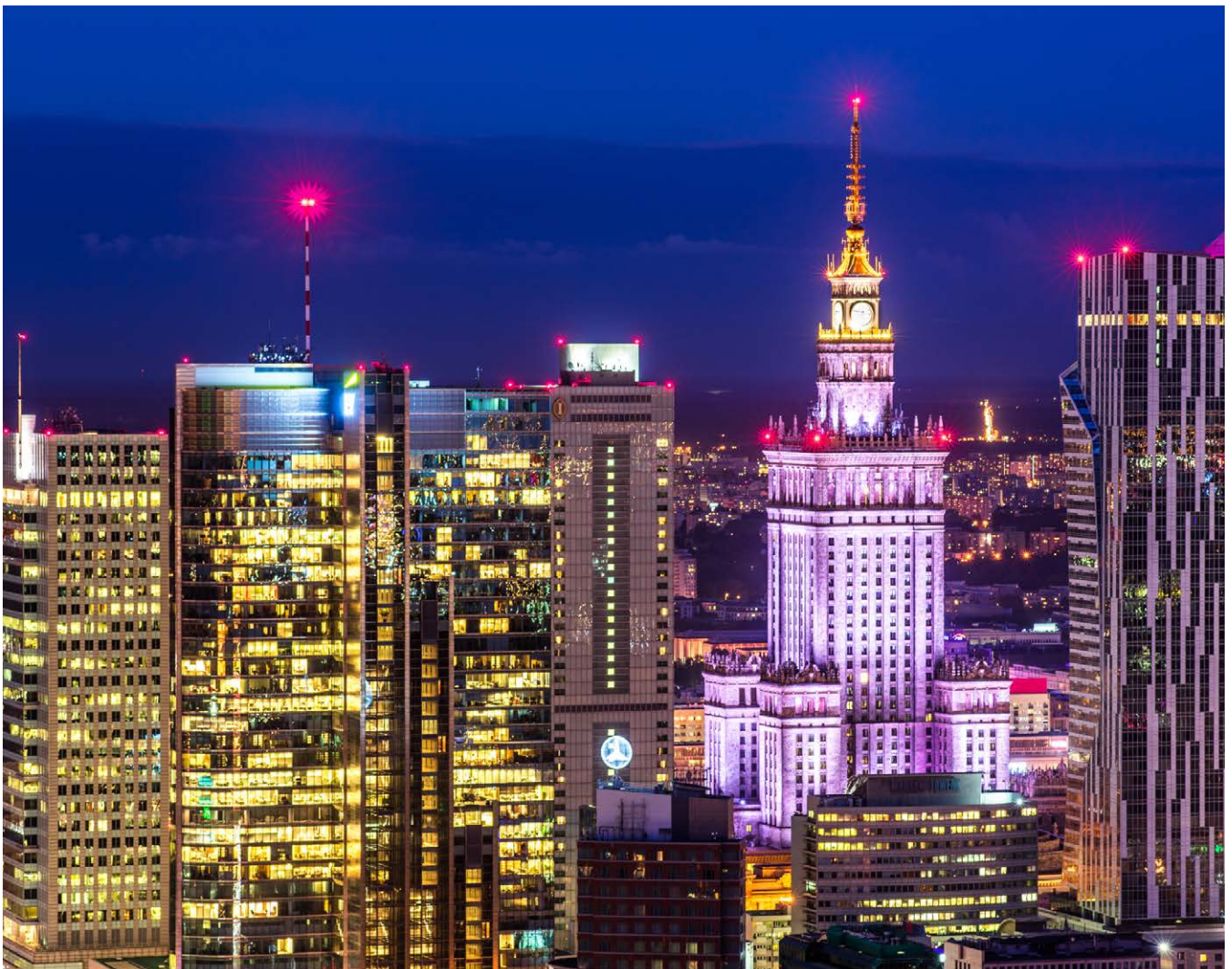
The farewell dinner will take place at the iconic Palace of Culture and Science – once a symbol of the 1950s Soviet era, now a beloved part of Warsaw's skyline.

Although Eurocrim days are busy, Warsaw offers many ways to relax: diverse global cuisine, numerous cafés and bars, and one of Europe's most vegan-friendly food scenes.

Nearly 40% of the city is green space, including parks, squares, urban forests, and the scenic Vistula riverbanks with eight city beaches.

Join us – Warsaw awaits!

In the meantime, visit the [conference website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#). Or scan the QR Code.



→ EUROCRIM 2026

By Krzysztof Krajewski and Dagmara Woźniakowska

Criminology in... Poland



The beginnings of Polish Criminology can be traced back, like in many other European countries, to the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. However, at that time Poland did not exist as an independent nation: territories of the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth since the end of the 18th century were partitioned between Russia, Germany (earlier Prussia), and Austria. Polish universities existed only since 1863 in the liberally governed Austrian part, namely in Krakow and in Lviv (*Lwów* in Polish, *Lemberg* in German). The university in Warsaw was Russian. The same applied to the university in Vilnius (*Wilno* in Polish). In the German part, there was no university at all, with the nearest German universities being located in Berlin and in Breslau (*Wrocław* in Polish).

Like in many other countries, three main sources for the development of Criminology could be identified. The first one was related to jurisprudence and resulted from the emergence of the Positive School in Penal Law. Its most prominent representative was Juliusz Makarewicz (1872-1955), Professor of Penal Law in Lviv since 1909. Although he was never directly involved in criminological research, he was an enthusiast of the Sociological School and was strongly influenced by Franz von Liszt (1851-1919) and his ideas about the purposes of punishment and of individual prevention. At the end of the 19th century, Makarewicz had already engaged in debate with representatives of the Classical School, having published critical assessments of that current of thought and its insistence on free

will and the retributive concept of punishment. This constituted direct polemics with the views of Edmund Krzymuski (1852-1928), Professor of Penal Law at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, and the most prominent representative of the Classical School. The debates between Makarewicz and Krzymuski formed the equivalent of the “dispute between schools” (*Schulenstreit*) which involved Franz von Liszt and Karl von Birkmeyer (1847-1920) in Germany.



The second source for the development of Criminology came from Medicine. The main representative of this current of thought was Leon Wachholz (1867-1942), Professor of Forensic Medicine at the Jagiellonian University, in Krakow. He also published on issues related to forensic psychiatry, including the concept of moral insanity, which also brought him to the field of Criminology. Later on, he developed his own multicausal concept of criminal behaviour, arguing for a biosocial theory of crime causation.

The most prominent representative of the third source, the sociological one, was Ludwik Krzywicki (1859-1941), Professor at the Society for Scientific Courses (*Towarzystwo Kursów Naukowych*), a small private Polish university founded in Warsaw in 1905 which later became the nucleus of today's Warsaw University. Krzywicki, considered to be the founding father of Polish Sociology, was declared a Socialist and Marxist. Criminology was by no means his main area of research, but by the turn of the century he had published several articles establishing the new discipline of Criminology in the country. He perceived social conditions as the main causes of criminal behaviour and was strongly critical of Lombroso and of Criminal Anthropology. He

was also the first person to use, in the title of an article published in 1888, the Polish term Kryminologia, or Criminology (Krzywicki, 1888).

It is also worth mentioning another founding father not only of Polish, but also of American Sociology: Florian Znaniecki (1882-1958), who provided a thread connecting Polish Criminology with the iconic Chicago School of Criminology. In 1919 Znaniecki was among the founders of Poznań University and could hardly be described as a criminologist, but in the years 1918-1920 he co-authored, together with William I. Thomas, the multi-volume study *The Polish Peasant in Europe and America* (Znaniecki & Thomas, 1918). His analyses of social disorganisation, migration, and normative conflict contained in that study laid important foundations for various criminological theories.

After Poland regained independence in November 1918, during the interwar period, there was no radical change in the institutional situation of Criminology. There were only five universities in the country. Three of them, in Krakow, Vilnius and Lviv⁽¹³⁾, had a long history as they were established respectively in 1364, 1579 and 1661. The Polish university in Warsaw was formally established only during World War I in 1918, and the University of Poznań was created in 1919. Additionally, there was the Polish Free University in Warsaw (*Wolna Wszechnica Polska*), a private, progressive higher education institution that provided accessible, socially engaged academic education outside the traditional university system. It was the only academic institution with a department of Criminology, headed by Adam Ettinger (1878-1934), who was not only a declared Marxist but also an activist for the radical wing of the Polish social democratic movement before World War I, and for the communist party after the war. He was the author of the first Polish monograph in the field of Criminology: *The criminal in the light of Anthropology and Psychology* (*Zbrodniarz w świetle antropologii i psychologii*). It contained a strong criticism of Lombroso's anthropological concepts and an equally strong support for a sociological approach, including concepts by Enrico Ferri (Ettinger, 1924). Leon Radzinowicz (1907-1999), in his memoirs “Adventures in Criminology” (Radzinowicz 1999), is very critical

(13) The two last cities are now in Lithuania and Ukraine, respectively, but between the two World Wars were situated in Poland.

of Ettinger – without actually mentioning his name – considering him an orthodox and dogmatic Marxist, which may have been true, even if his book does not necessarily confirm it. Certainly, it refers to Marx and to Engels, but rather parsimoniously, especially when compared with the excesses often present in the social science literature of the Soviet Bloc during the years 1948–1989.

After Poland regained independence in November 1918, during the interwar period, there was no radical change in the institutional situation of Criminology.

Certainly, the most prominent person in Polish Criminology between the two world wars was Leon Radzinowicz. World-wide, he is best known as the founding father – along with Hermann Mannheim and Max Grünhut – of modern British Criminology, but he also had a serious impact on Criminology in Poland. Born in Łódź, he returned to Poland in 1928 after receiving his doctorate under Enrico Ferri, and attempted to establish himself in Kraków at the Law Faculty. Alas, without success: lawyers were obviously not keen on creating a separate department devoted to Criminology. He finally became a Lecturer in Penal Policy at the already mentioned Polish Free University. Radzinowicz was a prolific writer during that time. His monograph *The Foundations of Penitentiary Science* (*Wstęp do nauki o więziennictwie*) (Radzinowicz, 1933)

is still worth reading. He also published a pioneering and detailed analysis of trends, structure and territorial patterns of crime using police and court statistical data (Radzinowicz, 1935a, 1935b). In these articles, he established terminology and templates for such analyses which are still used to this day by Polish criminologists. He also published several dozen articles devoted to issues concerning the state of prisons and prison reform. Radzinowicz was very critical of both, considering the state of criminal justice, especially the prison system, and the state of criminological research in Poland at that time. A very brief chapter on his Polish years, and mentioned in his memoirs, is titled “A penological cul-de-sac”. Certainly, Poland at that time was by no means a champion of penal progress or a pioneer in criminological research. Still, Radzinowicz’s criticism may have been somewhat too harsh.

Interestingly enough, there are no traces of any close contacts between Radzinowicz and Juliusz Makarewicz, the most prominent Polish legal scholar in Penal Law and the most important person behind the 1932 Polish Penal Code, considered to be a very modern piece of penal legislation. It was based on the ideas of the Sociological School, but without some of the extreme solutions adopted, for instance, in the Italian Rocco Code. Despite being engaged primarily in traditional normative legal analyses, Makarewicz, as representative of the Sociological School, was also interested in criminological topics. Therefore, his and Radzinowicz’s views on Penal Law and Penal Policy, especially on the role of individual prevention, were, to a large extent, convergent. Despite this, both men seem never to have cooperated, and in 1938 Radzinowicz left Poland for Britain on a half-official mission to study the British penitentiary system, definitely settling in the UK. What was an enormous gain for Britain was a great loss for Polish Criminology. At the same

Certainly, the most prominent person in Polish Criminology between the two world wars was Leon Radzinowicz. World-wide, he is best known as the founding father – along with Hermann Mannheim and Max Grünhut – of modern British Criminology, but he also had a serious impact on Criminology in Poland.

time, leaving Poland could have saved Radzinowicz's life. Being Jewish, his chances of surviving the German occupation were certainly narrow.

After World War II, apart from sporadic private contacts with some people, Radzinowicz maintained practically no contact with the communist ruled Poland, having visited the country of his birth only once, during the 1970s. However, he published one article in a Polish journal (Radzinowicz, 1969). Before his departure to Britain, he had collected data on the impact of the Great Depression on crime but did not manage to publish on the subject. He finally used that data in a couple of his English-written publications (Radzinowicz 1941a; 1941b), and, by the end of the 1960s, Prof. Jerzy Jasiński, in agreement with Radzinowicz, prepared the Polish versions, which were then published with a short introduction by Radzinowicz himself.

In his aforementioned memoirs, Radzinowicz wrote that any hopes for the development of Criminology in Poland had to be placed in two young scholars, whose names he did not reveal. He most likely had in mind Tadeusz Kuczma and Stanisław Batawia. Unfortunately, Tadeusz Kuczma (1905-1940), because of World War II, became another loss for Polish Criminology. Kuczma was a prosecutor and an Assistant at Poznań University. In the years 1933-1935, he was a fellow of the Rockefeller Foundation in Chicago, where he worked under the supervision of Edwin Sutherland. Therefore, he constituted an additional link between Polish Criminology and the Chicago School. It is impossible to say today whether this had anything to do with the position of Florian Znaniecki, who was Professor of Sociology in Poznań, esteemed in the US and especially in Chicago. In 1939, Kuczma published a monograph titled *Genetic factor of crime (Genetyczne ujęcie przestępstwa)* (Kuczma, 1939), where the word "genetic" was used in a somewhat confusing way for a contemporary reader, as it meant a rather complex set of factors influencing criminal behaviour, and had nothing to do with today's meaning of genetics. It was devoted to the analysis and discussion of individual and environmental theories and factors of criminal behaviour. It also provided a proposal for criminological analysis, bearing some traces of Znaniecki's humanistic Sociology. Unfortunately, in the autumn of 1939, like many scholars from Polish universities in Kraków, Lviv and Poznań, he was

arrested by the Nazis and did not survive the especially brutal maltreatment in a Gestapo prison.

The second person Radzinowicz obviously had in mind as a promising criminologist was Stanisław Batawia (1898-1980). A lawyer and psychiatrist, in 1931 he published the monograph *Introduction to the study of the criminal (Wstęp do nauki o przestępcy)* (Batawia, 1931), a book considered valuable enough to be reissued in 1984. Batawia was the editor-in-chief of the journal *Criminological Archives (Archiwum Kryminologiczne)*, the most important journal devoted to Criminology in pre-World War II Poland. In the years 1933-1939, five issues were published altogether, containing crucial publications for the development of criminological research in Poland, including several articles by Radzinowicz.

During the 1930s, there were other people involved in criminological research, who then continued after World War II. The first deserving a mention is Witold Świda (1899-1989), Lecturer at Vilnius University. His area of interest included primarily recidivists and issues related to habitual and dangerous offenders. He published several articles on the subject, including detailed statistical analysis and assessment of the application of special security measures for dangerous offenders, introduced under the new 1932 Penal Code (Świda, 1936). These special measures, adopted under the influence of the Sociological School of thought, made possible the post-penal, indeterminate detention of certain offenders because of their dangerousness for society, and were subjected to ample debate. Radzinowicz also participated critically in it.

Another person worth mentioning is Paweł Horoszowski (1908-1986). During the 1930s he was involved in research on homicide, especially what was considered "homicide of passion" (Horoszowski, 1939). His monograph on the subject was published only after the war, and his studies were some of the first examples of research using court files as a data source, a method which became very popular in Polish Criminology. After World War II, Horoszowski became more involved in Forensic Science or Criminalistics, particularly researching the lie detector. He was probably the first example of a specific combination between Criminology and Criminalistics, a pattern that became quite common not only in Poland but also throughout Central and Eastern Europe.

With the outbreak of World War II, Criminology in Poland came to a halt and, in effect, ceased to exist. The war years were a struggle for survival and left no room for conducting scientific research in this field. The war also brought enormous human losses – for example, of the five pre-war staff members of the Department of Criminology at the University of Poznań, only one survived. Severe damage to infrastructure was also noticeable, with entire buildings and facilities destroyed, and, with them, books, textbooks, and research materials were lost. In sum, material losses affected the whole scientific infrastructure in Warsaw.

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In the immediate post-war years, another challenge was that the very existence of Criminology as a discipline was questioned, and ideological arguments about its alleged lack of scientific rigour prevailed. It was argued that Criminology should not be treated as a separate discipline, and that issues concerning the nature, causes, and trends of crime should be explained within the framework of Criminal Law (Lernell, 1952). Marxism–Leninism was thought to provide a definitive explanation of the aetiology of crime, which, in a communist state, was viewed merely as a consequence of the fact that most people were socialised earlier under the system of capitalist exploitation (Fajst, 1995). Therefore, during the first post-war years, Criminology experienced a deep crisis. But it never disappeared completely from the landscape of Polish academia.

Among the pre-war scholars involved in Criminology who survived the war and continued their work in Poland were Witold Świda, Paweł Horoszowski, Józef Bossowski and, most of all, Stanisław Batawia. As early as August 1945, Stanisław Batawia was habilitated as a docent in Criminology, with his dissertation having been submitted just before the outbreak of the war (Pływaczewski, 2019, p. 395). And in 1946, the first Department of Criminology was established at the University of Łódź by Paweł Horoszowski. The second department was created in 1949 at the University of Warsaw by Stanisław Batawia (Pływaczewski, 2019, p. 389). During this period, Stanisław Batawia conducted research on Nazi war criminals. His analysis of the biography of Rudolf Höss, the commandant of the Auschwitz extermination camp, became particularly well known (Batawia, 2003), as it was based, among other data sources, on personal interviews. Rudolf Höss was tried in court and subsequently executed in Poland.

The death of Joseph Stalin in 1953 somewhat softened the authorities' approach to Criminology as a discipline. The political thaw also led to a reorganisation of the structures of the Polish Academy of Sciences, within which the Institute of Law Studies was established in 1956. The Department of Criminology, headed by Stanisław Batawia, became part of this institute. The following years marked a very dynamic period in the development of Criminology in Poland, and a significant contribution of Professor Batawia to the development of the field, at that time, was the creation of an interdisciplinary research team. For many years, it brought together scholars from diverse fields, including Law, Psychiatry, Psychology, and Sociology, and was often expanded to include practitioners such as probation officers and medical professionals. This diversity generated clear added value: combining different perspectives enabled a more comprehensive understanding of the issues studied, the use of varied research methods, and multi-layered interpretations of results. As a result, studies emerged that would not have been possible within a single discipline alone.

The political situation also dictated the focus of research: in the Polish People's Republic, Criminology was treated primarily as a science concerned with socially maladjusted individuals (Fajst, 2006). At the Department of Criminology, research focused on groups such as recidivists, juveniles and young offenders, prostitutes, and individuals with alcohol

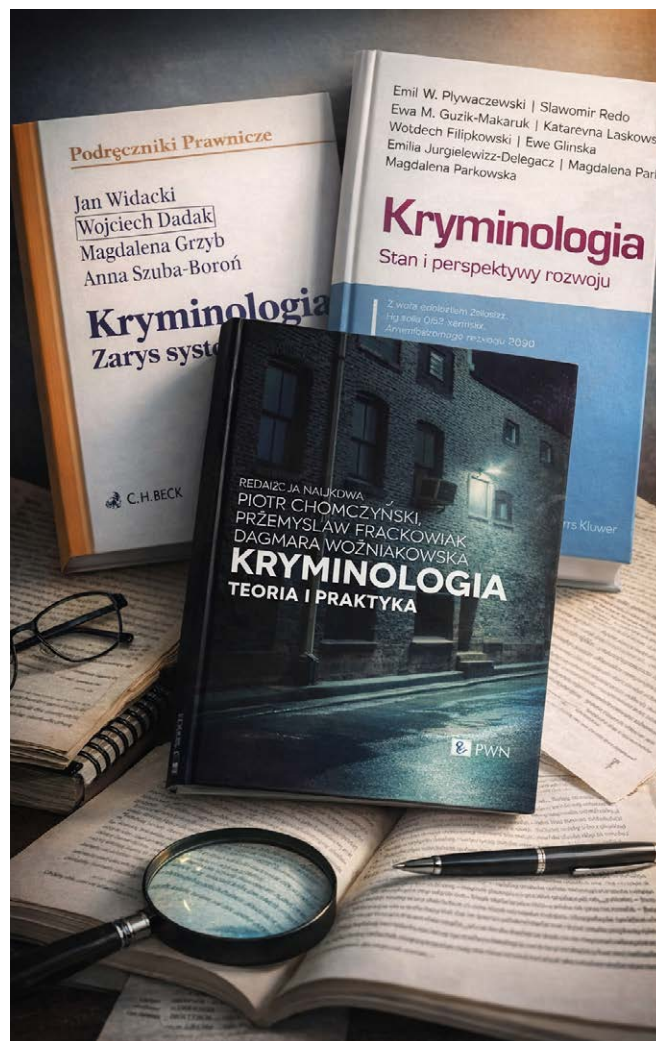
addiction. Over time, new areas of research emerged, including criminal policy, recidivism, “social parasitism”⁽¹⁴⁾, the analysis of criminological theories, the ecology of crime, victims, restorative justice, execution of penalties, general prevention, and economic crime.

Until 1989, Poland functioned within the Soviet sphere of influence as a member of the Eastern Bloc, which significantly limited contacts with the West. Nevertheless, Polish criminologists of that time – many of whom were proficient in foreign languages – were carefully keeping track of developments in Western Europe and the United States. The fact is that the quality of their research did not, in any way, fall short of international standards.

A particularly impressive aspect of criminological research at the time was the use of multiple research techniques in a single study. These included, for example, community interviews, assessments of offenders’ intelligence levels, knowledge testing, and anonymous surveys completed by school students. Researchers also relied on document analysis, court files, environmental studies, as well as psychological, psychiatric, general medical, and neurological examinations. They conducted interviews with juvenile offenders and their mothers, with prisoners and their families, and used questionnaires distributed to various institutions. From as early as the 1970s, self-report methods were also employed (Buczowski et al., 2007, pp. 51–52). This was facilitated by a very different research environment than today: large, interdisciplinary teams of experts working in one place, and the absence of strict time pressure to complete projects. The main drawback of research conducted at that time was the little consideration given to publishing results in English or in international journals. As a result, many excellent studies are available only in Polish.

During the communist period, between 1965 and 1969, a group of Chairs of Criminological Sciences operated in Wrocław under the leadership of Professor Witold Świda. In 1978, a Department of Criminology was established in Kraków at the Jagiellonian University.

From the 1970s on, Criminology in Gdańsk, Wrocław, Katowice (University of Silesia) and Toruń developed within Criminal Law structures, while separate chairs emerged only later as part of organisational reforms. Subsequent independent research units appeared after the collapse of communism: in 1997 in Białystok, and in 1999 in Olsztyn (University of Warmia and Mazury).



In post-war Poland, several criminology textbooks were also produced. Immediately after the war, as early as 1945, the study *News from the Criminological Sciences* (*Wiadomości z nauk kryminologicznych*) was published, written by Józef Jan Bossowski (Bossowski, 1945). The time for more comprehensive textbooks came only after the political thaw following the death of Joseph Stalin. In the late 1950s, Paweł Horoszowski

(14) In post-war Eastern Bloc countries, “social parasitism” referred to the failure to be enrolled in officially recognised employment and was treated as a form of socially harmful behaviour in the communist system. Besides people living from casual or informal sources of income, vagrants and beggars, and artists not affiliated with state institutions were considered “social parasites”. Regulations against “social parasitism” served as instruments of social control and citizen discipline in the communist state.

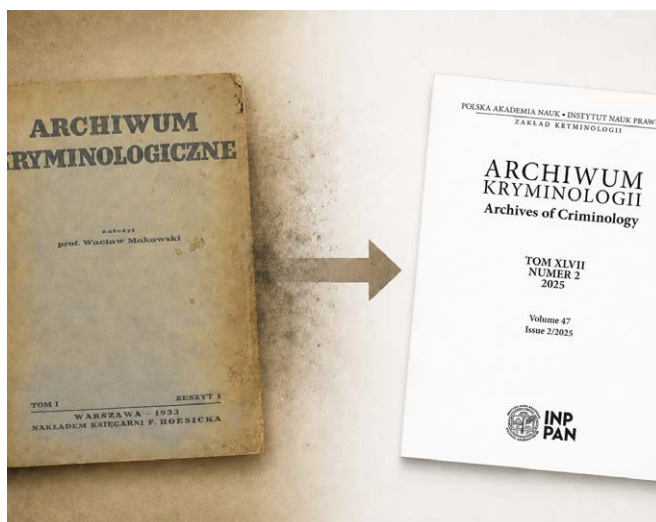
published the first Criminology textbook, with a more complete version appearing only in the mid-1960s (Horoszowski, 1965). In the 1970s and 1980s, at least five Criminology textbooks and coursebooks were published (Hołyst, 1979; Lernell, 1978; Marek, 1986; Świda, 1977; Tyszkiewicz, 1986). This culminated in 1999 with the publication of an outstanding textbook titled *Criminology*, authored by scholars from the Jagiellonian University (Błachut et al., 1999). It is worth highlighting that over the past seven years, as many as three new textbooks have appeared on the market: one published by a team of scholars from Białystok (Pływaczewski et al., 2019), another from Kraków (Widacki et al., 2022), and a third resulting from collaboration among authors from across Poland (Chomczyński et al., 2024).

Polish Criminology in the twenty-first century combines traditional areas of research – such as crime trends, criminal policy, and the functioning of the justice system – with a growing range of new themes, including victimisation, migration, human rights, green criminology, rural criminology, and restorative justice. Studies about the structure and dynamics of crime, as well as recidivism and criminal careers, continue to form an important core of the discipline, often supported by increasingly sophisticated quantitative analyses. Simultaneously, there is a strong and persistent interest in the functioning of criminal justice institutions, sentencing practices, and the execution of penalties, reflecting the close connection between Criminology and Criminal Law in Poland.

In recent years, however, the field has expanded significantly. Greater attention is now paid to the experiences and rights of victims, issues of social exclusion and marginalisation, and the broader social and political contexts of crime control. Research on migration, border control, and the treatment of non-citizens has also gained prominence, alongside a growing engagement with critical criminology. Methodologically, Polish Criminology is diverse and empirically oriented, using both qualitative and quantitative approaches, including self-report and victimisation studies. As a result, it is increasingly interdisciplinary and internationally connected, actively contributing to contemporary debates on crime, punishment, and social control.

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In Poland, Criminology remains a popular field of study. The Polish Society of Criminology, established in 1991, currently has 131 members, and its newsletter reaches nearly 200 recipients. Every year, a large Polish delegation also attends the annual conferences of the European Society of Criminology. In addition to Criminology-related articles being published in journals of Law, Sociology, and social rehabilitation Pedagogy, there are also dedicated Criminology journals published on a regular basis: *Archiwum Kryminologii* (*The Archives of Criminology*) and *Biuletyn Kryminologiczny* (*The Criminological Bulletin*). These journals are available in open access, and the first two regularly include articles in English. *Archiwum Kryminologii* is a direct continuation of the pre-war *Archiwum Kryminologiczne*, which was revived in 1960 under a slightly modified title by Stanisław Batawia, who had served as its editor before the war. Today, *Archiwum Kryminologii* is a biannual journal and is becoming increasingly international. A significant proportion of its articles are published in English, and all contributions in thematic issues are in English.



Simultaneously, Criminology is a popular choice of study. Bachelor's and master's programmes are offered at the University of Warsaw, the University of Białystok, the University of Gdańsk, the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, the University of Wrocław (where the master's programme is offered as "Legal Criminology"), and the University of Siedlce. Bachelor's programmes are also available at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin and Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce. Education at both levels is also provided by the Police Academy in Szczytno, which offers programmes open to civilian students. The attractiveness of the field has also been recognised by the University of Zielona Góra, which offers a programme in "Social Rehabilitation with Criminology" at both bachelor's and master's levels. In addition, the Pomeranian University in Słupsk, Kielce University of Technology, and Rzeszów University of Technology offer Criminology specialisations in separate programmes. Bachelor's programmes are also provided by Universities of Applied Studies in Gorzów Wielkopolski and in Piła. Interest in Criminology remains high at private universities as well.

Polish Criminology thus has a rich tradition spanning more than a century. Its development was neither linear nor easy. The emerging discipline was severely disrupted by the devastation of World War II, which resulted in the loss of both human capital and institutional infrastructure. The following decades of communist rule further constrained its growth, limiting international exchange and shaping research agendas in ways that reflected the political context. Yet, despite these challenges, Criminology in Poland endured. It preserved its continuity through successive generations

of scholars and gradually rebuilt its institutional base. Today, it stands as a vibrant and expanding academic field, attracting a growing number of students, researchers, and practitioners. Its interdisciplinary character, methodological diversity, and openness to international developments position it well for future growth. With this strong foundation, Polish Criminology looks ahead with both confidence and curiosity, ready to engage with new challenges and contribute to global debates on crime and social control.

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→ SECRETARIAT REPORT

By Marcelo F. Aebi and Grace Kronicz

In brief

The 25th Annual Meeting of the European Society of Criminology (ESC), held in Athens, Greece, in September 2025, coincided with the twenty-fifth annual ESC conference and marked a year of renewed growth for the Society. Key highlights include:

- **Membership rebound:** ESC membership rose to 2,103 members, a 35% increase over the 1,560 members of 2024 and the second-highest total in the Society's history, just short of the 2023 record of 2,175.

- **Sustained global representation:** Members from 64 countries – 66 if figures for the United Kingdom are broken down by nations – across the five inhabited continents, with European countries accounting for 78% of membership.

- **Student engagement:** Student members reached 569, the highest absolute number in the Society's history, representing 27% of total membership.

- **Anniversary conference:** Eurocrim 2025 in Athens, held under the title "Logos of Crime and Punishment", attracted 2,230 participants, making it the second-largest conference ever organised by the ESC.

- **Awards:** Six awards were presented, including the ESC European Criminology Award to Ernesto

Savona for his lifetime contribution to European criminology and the Distinguished Services to the ESC Award to Krzysztof Krajewski.

- **Summer School:** The second ESC Summer School took place in Lausanne in June 2025, continuing the initiative launched in 2024 for the education of emerging scholars.

- **Oral history:** The European Criminology Oral History Project (ECOH) conducted two new interviews during the Athens conference, while the interviews recorded in Bucharest in 2024 were published on the ESC YouTube channel.

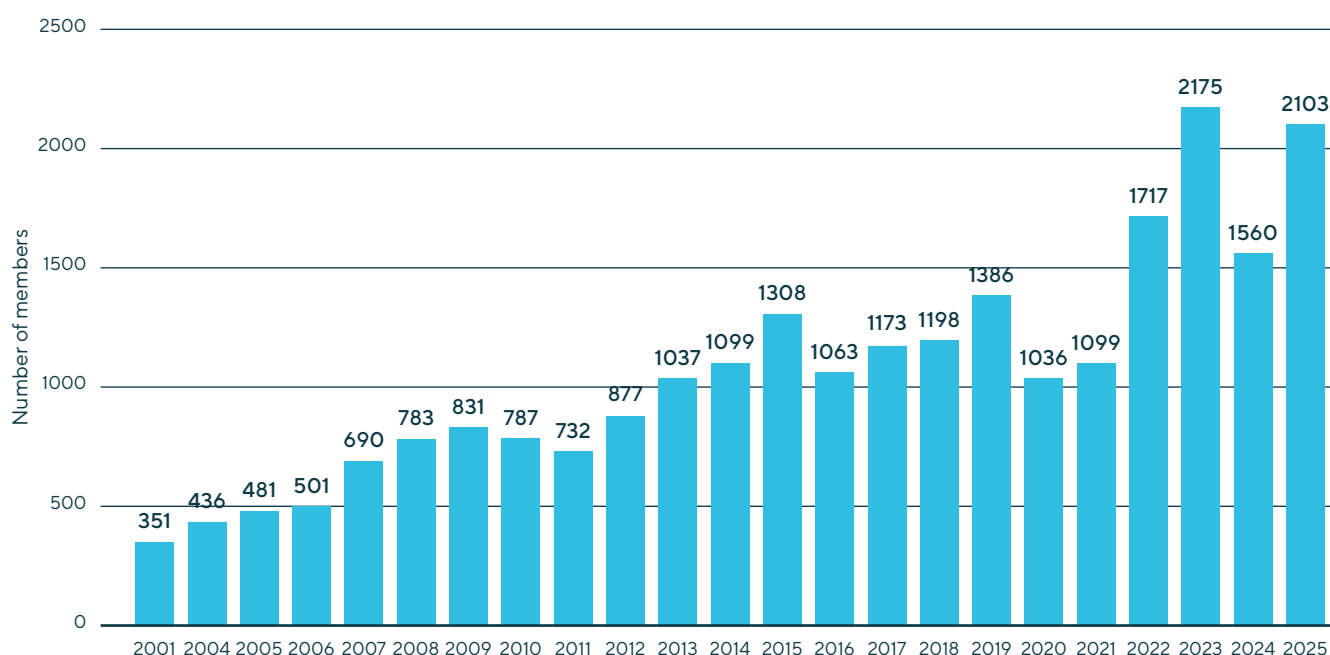
- **Leadership transition:** Letizia Paoli was elected President-Elect of the ESC, and Mirza Buljubašić as an At-large ESC Executive Board member.

- **Member consultation:** The General Assembly in Athens gathered some 700 members and hosted a debate on the Society's position regarding international conflicts; in follow-up, the Executive Board conducted a membership-wide consultation (January – February 2026), on the basis of which it issued, in March 2026, a statement on the war in Gaza and the Israel/Palestine conflict and adopted rules for specifying institutional affiliations in accordance with International Law in Eurocrim publications.

Trend in ESC membership from 2001 to 2025

The year 2025 saw a rebound in the membership of the European Society of Criminology (ESC), which rose to 2,103 members, an increase of 34.8% over the 1,560 members registered in 2024. This figure represents the second-highest membership total in the history of the Society, after the 2,175 members reached in 2023 (figure 1).

Figure 1. Members of the ESC from 2001 to 2025



Note: Membership data for 2002 and 2003 are unavailable.

This rebound confirms the cyclical pattern described in previous reports, according to which conference location and timing significantly influence membership numbers. The appeal of Athens as a conference venue, combined with the anniversary character of the 25th annual ESC conference, favoured membership growth, as the Florence conference had done in 2023. Beyond these fluctuations, the underlying trend is clear: 2025 was the fourth consecutive year with more than 1,500 members, and the 2025 total is roughly 50% higher than the pre-pandemic maximum of 1,386 members recorded in 2019.

A notable development in 2025 was the growth of student membership, which reached 569 members – the highest absolute number ever recorded by the Society – representing 27.1% of total membership,

compared to 25.6% in 2024 and 24% in 2023. This increase in student representation likely reflects the engagement of the emerging generation of criminologists and the role of initiatives such as the ESC Summer School.

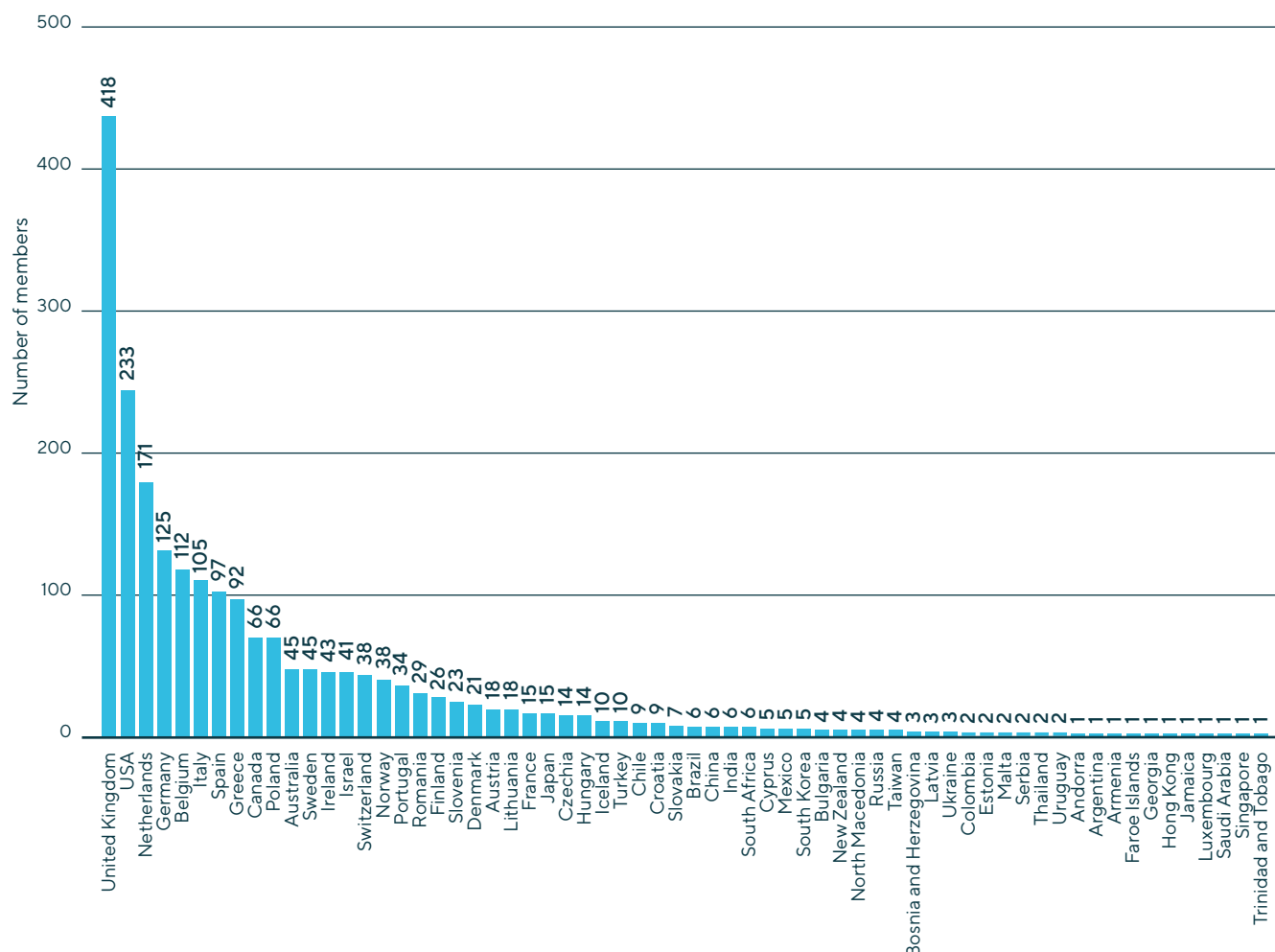
The link between conference attendance and membership remains evident.

Geographical distribution of ESC members in 2025

The year 2025 saw an increase in the geographical diversity of ESC members, with representation from 64 countries – 66 if figures for the United Kingdom are broken down by nations – across the five inhabited

continents. The growth in total membership was accompanied by an increase in the share of members from outside Europe (figure 2).

Figure 2. Members of the ESC in 2025 by country



European countries continued to form the core of the Society, accounting for approximately 78% of the total membership (1,638 members). At the same time, the proportion of members from non-European countries rose to 22% (465 members), compared to 16% in 2024. This increase was driven in particular by North American and Australian participation in the Athens conference.

The United Kingdom maintained its position as the country with the highest number of members, contributing 418 individuals or 20% of the total membership. The United States of America moved into second place with 233 members (11.1%), overtaking the Netherlands, which counted 171 members (8.1%). These figures reflect the continued participation of the North American criminological community in the Society.

Germany (125 members), Belgium (112), Italy (105), and Spain (97) remained among the most represented continental European countries. Greece, the host country of Eurocrim 2025, illustrates the conference-location effect: its membership rose to 92 members (4.4%), compared to 23 in 2024.

The Nordic countries maintained their presence within the ESC, with Sweden leading at 45 members, followed by Norway (38), Finland (26), Denmark (21), and Iceland (10), together representing approximately 6.7% of total membership.

Central and Eastern European countries also grew, led by Poland with 66 members – a figure likely boosted by the upcoming Warsaw 2026 conference followed by

Romania (29), Slovenia (23), Lithuania (18), Hungary (14), Czechia (14), Croatia (9), and Slovakia (7). This reflects the continued integration of criminological communities in the region, to which the Society has been committed since the Kraków conference of 2005.

Beyond Europe and North America, members also came from Australia (45), Israel (43), Japan (15), India (6), China (6), and South Korea (5), as well as from Latin American countries such as Chile (9), Brazil (6), Mexico (5), Colombia (2), Uruguay (2), and Argentina (1), and from South Africa (6).

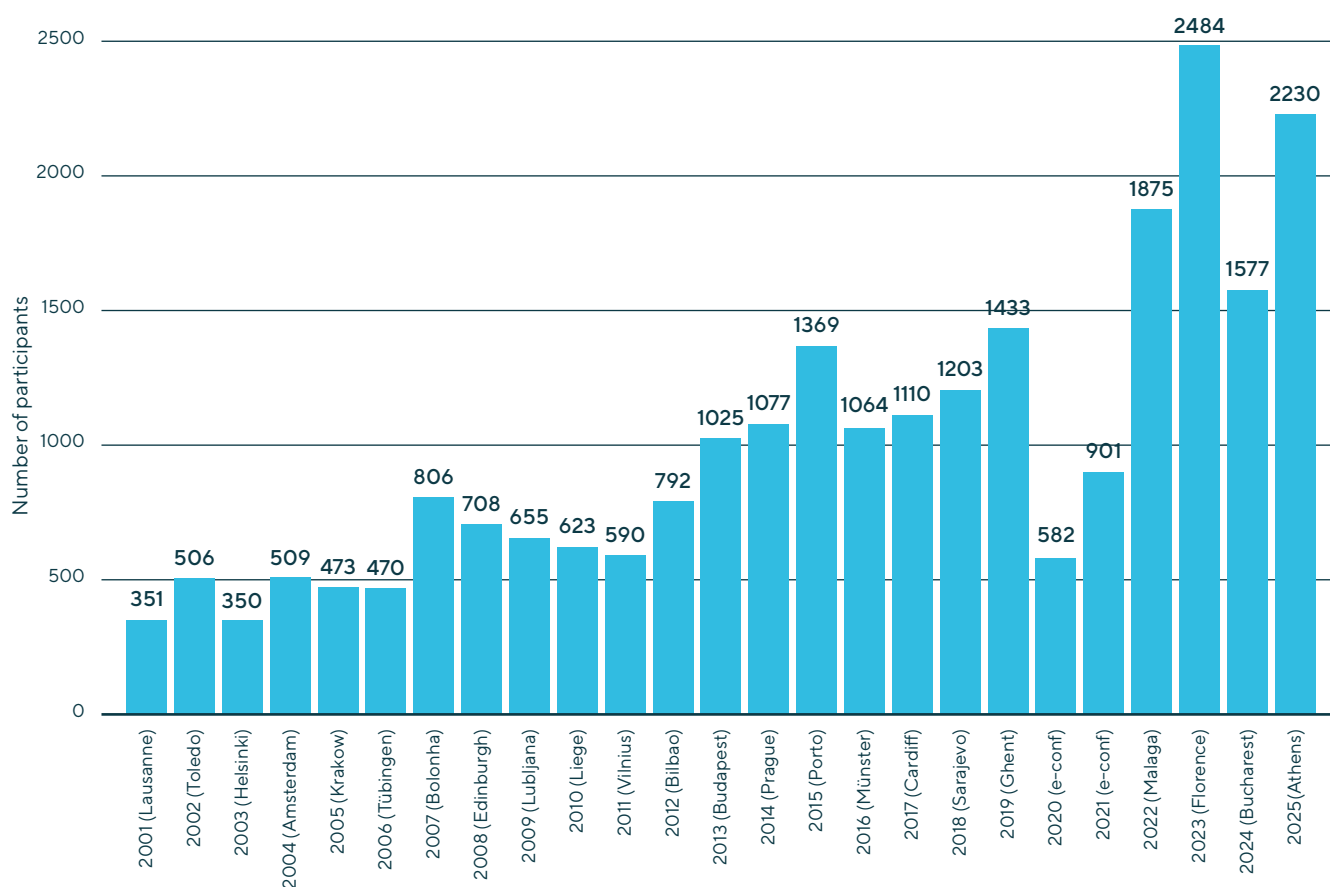
In sum, the geographical distribution of ESC members in 2025 reflected a diverse international community, with growth in both the total membership and its non-European component.

Eurocrim 2025 in Athens: The 25th Annual Meeting of the ESC

Under the title “Logos of Crime and Punishment”, the 25th Annual Meeting of the ESC, Eurocrim 2025, was held in Athens, Greece, from 3 to 6 September 2025. The conference attracted 2,230 participants from some 68 countries, making it the second-largest conference in the history of the Society, after the 2,484 attendees of Florence 2023 (figure 3).

The Athens conference marked a quarter of a century of annual ESC meetings since the founding conference held in Lausanne in 2001, which gathered 351 participants. The choice of Athens – long associated with democracy and logos – provided a fitting setting for this anniversary, and the conference’s opening ceremony offered an opportunity to look back on the Society’s development since its foundation. The addresses delivered at the ceremony were published in the preceding issue of this Newsletter.

Figure 3. Participants in the ESC Annual Meetings (Eurocrim) from 2001 to 2025



The General Assembly, held on 5 September 2025, was attended by some 700 members, the largest attendance in the history of the Society. Besides the customary statutory items, the Assembly devoted a substantial part of its session to a discussion of the Society's stance towards international conflicts within and beyond Europe, particularly in relation to the war in Gaza and the broader Israel/Palestine conflict. At the close of the discussion, the Executive Board committed itself to returning to the membership with a set of concrete questions to be submitted to a membership-wide consultation. The membership-wide consultation that followed is presented in the next section.

The relationship between conference attendance and membership remains evident, with both metrics rebounding in parallel from their 2024 levels and approaching the historical peaks of 2023. The next conferences are already scheduled: Warsaw, Poland, will host Eurocrim 2026 (9 to 12 September), followed by Skopje, North Macedonia, in 2027, and Dublin, Ireland, in 2028.

The member consultation on 2025 General Assembly matters

The discussion held at the Athens General Assembly originated in a motion submitted by a group of members, which requested a vote on the Society's position regarding the war in Gaza. On the basis of the legal guidance it had sought, the Executive Board considered that parts of the motion were incompatible with the ESC Constitution – in particular, exclusionary measures such as denying membership or conference participation on the basis of a person's nationality or their link to a particular state, territory, or institution – and that such measures would also be legally risky under Swiss law. The motion was therefore not put to a vote at the Assembly, but time was allocated for its presentation and for an open discussion in which members holding diverse views took the floor.

The Executive Board views this debate as a manifestation of a broader discussion about the role of the social sciences: a considerable portion of the membership believes that imposing a particular normative or moral perspective on scholarly activity is inherently unscientific, while another substantial contingent is uncomfortable with a Criminology that does not publicly denounce

injustices, with many members holding intermediate positions. The role of the Board, in that context, was not to serve as final arbiter in these debates, but to guide the Society through current events in a manner that allows members across this range of views to continue feeling at home within the ESC.

In fulfilment of the commitment made in Athens, the Executive Board adopted, on 29 January 2026, the ESC Voting Document: Questions, Context and Actionable Plans (2025 General Assembly Matters), available on the ESC website. This document distilled the central issues raised by the members into a set of concrete, legally compliant questions, each accompanied by its context, by draft guidelines, and by an actionable plan describing the steps that would follow each voting outcome. The vote was conducted as a membership-wide consultation initiated by the Executive Board – not as a formal referendum in the sense of Section 6(6) of the ESC Constitution – but the Board committed itself to treating the outcome as binding upon itself and to implementing it in good faith through the relevant policies, procedures, and practical arrangements.

The consultation was open from 30 January to 10 February 2026 and was conducted through a secure online voting platform guaranteeing the anonymity of the responses. It was open to the 2,103 members of the 2025 cohort – who had raised and debated these issues online and at the Athens General Assembly – as well as to the members already registered for 2026 by 29 January 2026. In total, 2,159 members received a personal voting link, 620 opened it, and 523 submitted a completed ballot, corresponding to 24.2% of those invited to vote. In line with the procedure announced in advance, the results were calculated on the basis of the Yes/No votes, with abstentions recorded separately.

The results were communicated to the membership on 12 February 2026 and published on the ESC website. On question 1a, concerning the issuing of public statements about international conflicts characterised by mass atrocities and serious human rights abuses within Europe, 357 members voted yes and 150 voted no, with 16 abstentions; the yes option thus obtained 70.4% of the Yes/No votes, corresponding to 68.3% of the 523 completed ballots. On question 1b, concerning statements about such conflicts outside Europe, 308 members voted yes and 196 voted no, with 19 abstentions; the yes option obtained 61.1% of the Yes/No votes (58.9% of the

completed ballots). On question 1c, concerning a public statement about the war in Gaza and the broader Israel/Palestine conflict, 316 members voted yes and 188 voted no, with 19 abstentions; the yes option obtained 62.7% of the Yes/No votes (60.4% of the completed ballots). Finally, on question 2, concerning the addition – alongside the self-designated institutional affiliations, and in Eurocrim publications only – of the geographical location of institutions as specified under International Law, 298 members voted yes and 184 voted no, with 41 abstentions; the yes option obtained 61.8% of the Yes/No votes (57.0% of the completed ballots).

In implementation of the outcome of the consultation, the Executive Board adopted, on 6 March 2026, the Statement on the War in Gaza and the Israel/Palestine Conflict, available in the news section of the ESC website and drafted in accordance with the guidelines annexed to the Voting Document. Under those guidelines, any future statement on an international conflict – within or outside Europe – remains reserved for exceptional cases directly related to the Society's core concern, the study of crime and societal reactions to crime, and subject to the strict conditions they set out. In addition, as from the Warsaw 2026 conference, the geographical location of institutions located in disputed or occupied territories will be specified in Eurocrim publications, alongside the self-designated affiliations, on the basis of authoritative sources of International Law and without any effect on conference participation.

ESC Awards

In 2025, the ESC presented six awards: the ESC European Criminology Award, the ESC Young Criminologist Award, the European Journal of Criminology (EJC) Best Article of the Year 2024 Award, the ESC Early Career Award, the ESC Book Award, and the Distinguished Services to the ESC Award. The awardees received their plaques and diplomas during the opening ceremony of the 2025 Eurocrim conference in Athens, Greece.

2025 European Criminology Award

The 2025 ESC European Criminology Award, recognising a lifetime contribution to European Criminology, was presented to Ernesto Savona. The award committee, composed of former ESC presidents Catrien Bijleveld (chair, NSCR and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands), Klaus Boers

(University of Münster, Germany), and Josep Maria Tamarit (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain), highlighted Professor Savona's academic career of almost 55 years. As one of the founders of the ESC, he has authored some 150 publications and founded Transcrime, a research institute that he built and developed into an international reference for research on organised crime. The committee noted his empirical research – including the development of crime risk assessment mechanisms and methods for assessing the vulnerability of legal sectors – the large number of scholars trained at Transcrime, and his frequent consulting work for supranational and international organisations such as the European Union and the United Nations, and concluded that he is a scholar of global eminence and impact.

2025 ESC Young Criminologist Award

Nikki Rutter received the 2025 ESC Young Criminologist Award for her article "Explosive and Harmful Impulses: A Subset of Child and Adolescent-to-Parent Violence and Abuse", published in 2024 in the Journal of Interpersonal Violence. The award committee, composed of Josep M. Tamarit-Sumalla (chair, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain), Anna Di Ronco (University of Bologna, Italy), and Marieke Kluin (Leiden University, the Netherlands), praised Dr. Rutter's work for challenging entrenched assumptions about family violence by illuminating a particularly overlooked form of harm – impulsive and emotionally driven violence by children and adolescents towards their caregivers. The committee highlighted her refusal to reduce complex behaviours to simple explanations, positioning this form of violence within broader contexts – neurodivergence, trauma, and structural marginalisation – and her innovative conceptual distinction between intentional and non-intentional forms of child and adolescent-to-parent violence.

EJC Best Article of the Year 2024 Award

Enes Al Weswasi was honoured with the European Journal of Criminology Best Article of the Year 2024 Award for his paper "Estimating the incapacitation effect among first-time incarcerated offenders", published in issue 21/6 of the European Journal of Criminology. The award committee, comprising ESC President Michele Burman (University of Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom), 2023 EJC Best Article of the Year Award winner Florian Kaiser (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law, Freiburg, Germany), and EJC Editor-in-Chief Kyle Treiber (University of Cambridge, England, United

Kingdom), described the study as cleverly designed, applying a meticulous state-of-the-art propensity score matching approach to detailed Swedish data. The paper shows that incapacitation has modest effects overall, while being much stronger for those at the highest risk of incarceration, providing evidence that non-custodial sanctions may be a favourable alternative especially for those at low risk. The jury agreed that the paper makes an important and robust empirical contribution to a seminal criminological question with direct implications for criminal justice policy.

2025 ESC Early Career Award

The 2025 ESC Early Career Award, recognising outstanding scientific achievement by an early career European criminologist, was presented to Miguel Basto Pereira. The award committee, consisting of Anna-Maria Getoš Kalac (chair, University of Zagreb, Croatia), Anna Di Ronco (University of Bologna, Italy), and Ineke Haen-Marshall (Northeastern University, Boston, United States of America), commended Dr. Basto Pereira's significant contributions to developmental and life-course Criminology, which have advanced our understanding of the risk factors underlying the development and persistence of criminal careers. The committee underlined that his contribution has been both methodological and conceptual, through the development of innovative methodologies and of a new conceptual framework for the analysis of key childhood vulnerabilities that expose individuals to risks of antisocial behaviour and crime along the life-course, and noted his impressive track record for an early career scholar.

2025 ESC Book Award

Silvia Gomes and Dixie Rocker received the 2025 ESC Book Award for their work "Gender, Prison and Reentry Experiences: A Matter of Time", published by Routledge in 2024. The award committee, composed of Anna-Maria Getoš Kalac (chair, University of Zagreb, Croatia), Marieke Kluin (Leiden University, the Netherlands), and Evelyn Svingen (University of Birmingham, England, United Kingdom, winner of the 2024 award), reached a unanimous decision. The committee described the book as a thoughtful and timely contribution to Criminology, Sociology, and Gender Studies, which addresses a notable gap in the literature by focusing on the first phase of reentry - the period still spent within prison walls - thereby challenging the common assumption that reentry begins only after release. It also praised the integration of a substantial number of interviews conducted in various

prison settings and the authors' careful analytical restraint. 2025 Distinguished Services to the ESC Award

The 2025 Distinguished Services to the ESC Award

was presented to Krzysztof Krajewski in recognition of his outstanding service contributions to the effective functioning of the Society. The award committee was composed of ESC President Michele Burman (chair, University of Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom), Csaba Györy (Hungarian Academy of Sciences and ELTE Faculty of Law, Budapest, Hungary), and Marcelo F. Aebi (University of Lausanne, Switzerland). The committee stressed that Professor Krajewski has played a crucial role in the development and consolidation of the ESC from its early years, contributing with vision, commitment, and sustained service. His most visible contribution was the organisation of the 2005 ESC Annual Conference in Kraków, Poland - the first time the Society held its meeting in Central or Eastern Europe - whose success marked a turning point in the ESC's trajectory towards becoming a truly pan-European organisation.

All in all, these awards reflect the ESC's commitment to recognising and promoting excellence in criminological research and scholarship across Europe and beyond.

Briefs

Elections

In 2025, Letizia Paoli (KU Leuven, Belgium) was elected President-Elect of the ESC, and Mirza Buljubašić (University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina) was elected as an At-large ESC Executive Board member.

2025 ESC Summer School

The second edition of the ESC Summer School took place at the University of Lausanne from 9 to 13 June 2025, continuing the initiative launched in 2024 for the education of emerging scholars. Twenty young researchers from fourteen different countries were selected from forty applications, reflecting the demand for this educational opportunity within the criminological community.

The programme combined high-level scientific sessions with practical training on the design of competitive research proposals, including the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and the ERC Starting Grants. In line with the spirit of the Summer School, most of the speakers -

Per-Olof Wikström, Anna Sergi, Eric Beauregard, Florian Kaiser, and Gian Maria Campedelli – were recipients of ESC awards, and ESC President Michele Burman also took part as a speaker. The programme was completed by social and community-building activities, supported by the University of Lausanne.

European Criminology Oral History Project (ECOH)

Under the supervision of José A. Brandariz with the support of Ignacio González-Sánchez, the European Criminology Oral History Project (ECOH) continued its activities during Eurocrim 2025 in Athens, where two new interviews were recorded: Michele Burman interviewed by Lesley McAra, and Vania Ceccato interviewed by Gilda Santos. In addition, the six interviews recorded during the Bucharest conference in 2024 were published on the ESC YouTube channel in the course of 2025, contributing to preserving the history of European Criminology for future generations.

Keep in touch

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- The ESC [website](#)
- The ESC [Newsletter website](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- X (formerly Twitter): [@esc_eurocrim](#)
- [YouTube channel](#)

Candidates to the ESC board - 2026

Election of ESC President: candidate profile Wim Huisman



I was both surprised and honoured to be nominated for the Presidency of the European Society of Criminology. Like many previous presidential candidates whose profiles I have read in this newsletter, I can proudly say that I attended the very first EUROCRIM conference in Lausanne in 2001. And, like them, I have participated in almost every conference since. I missed a few in the early years, including one because of the birth of my second child. The conference has even caused me to miss her birthday on occasion (In fact, my daughter's birthday falls on the very day members will vote on my nomination).

All of this means that, like my predecessors, I feel deeply connected to the Society, and every year I look forward to seeing many friends and colleagues again at the annual conference. As the current President, Anna-Maria Getoš Kalac, expressed so aptly in her candidate profile in ESC Newsletter 2024/2, the ESC feels to me like a "criminological home (away from home)."

I could also point to my CV as evidence that I have earned my stripes and possess the administrative experience necessary to wield the President's gavel. Since 2009, I have led one of the largest Criminology departments in Europe, at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, and from 2015 to 2019 I served as President of the Dutch Society of Criminology. Between 2020 and 2022, I was Co-Chair of the Division of White-Collar Crime of the American Society of Criminology, and in 2024 I had the honour of receiving that Division's Gilbert Geis Lifetime Achievement Award. Since 2018, I have served as Co-Editor-in-Chief of Crime,

Law and Social Change, which I like to describe as the mainstream journal for non-mainstream criminological topics. In addition, I am a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of Transcrime, among other roles.

At the same time, I recognise that such a CV may also reflect a blind spot associated with the "old guard." This awareness was reinforced by the intense discussions at and around EUROCRIM 2026 in Athens concerning the implications for the Society of the atrocities committed during the war in Gaza. During the heated debate and emotional contributions at the General Assembly, I found myself sympathising with the President, who had the difficult task of steering the discussion constructively, while at the same time feeling a strong sense of responsibility. In conversations with younger colleagues before, during, and after the conference in Athens, I learned that loyalty to, and identification with, the Society cannot be taken for granted.

Organising the annual conference is perhaps the Society's most important activity, at least in terms of the time and effort invested. For early career researchers, attending the conference, where they present their first papers and establish their first international connections, is often far more important than membership of the Society itself. Yet early career scholars are the established scholars of tomorrow and constitute the criminological community of the future. It is therefore crucial that they feel engaged, represented, and heard by the Society and its leadership.

I also regard it as a major responsibility to ensure appropriate follow-up to the outcomes of the online vote on the submitted petitions, while continuing a constructive dialogue on these highly important yet complex issues. For a criminological society in particular, it is essential to maintain a clear position with regard to the most heinous forms of crime.

I consider the Working Groups to be the Society's operational backbone. For many members, their primary sense of belonging is to the Working Group where they meet colleagues who share their scholarly interests, and only secondarily to the wider ESC. That certainly applied to me as well. In 2010, I co-founded the European Working Group on Organisational Crime (EUROC), and until last year I served on its board. With some bias, I might say that EUROC is one of the Society's most active Working Groups. Every year, it succeeds in organising a wide range of excellent thematic sessions at the EUROCRIM conference. In addition, we have organised several stand-alone seminars, resulting in two edited volumes and two special issues. And, of course, there are the Working Group's popular social gatherings during the conference! At the same time, I see many inspiring initiatives emerging from other Working Groups. Supporting and facilitating these groups therefore seems, to me, to be one of the Board's key responsibilities.

Finally, I would like to champion greater attention to Criminology education within the ESC. Teaching is just as important as research. The popularity of Criminology degree programmes has led to the development of large Criminology departments in countries such as the United Kingdom, Portugal, Belgium, Hungary and the Netherlands. Education has thus become a major catalyst for the research activities of these departments. Unfortunately, in recent years I have also witnessed the closure of long-standing Criminology programmes at several universities.

The societal challenges that we study require strong academic programmes. While the Society is primarily a community of criminologists working in universities and research centres, and while the conference mainly attracts researchers, a significant part of our professional activity consists of teaching. Moreover, most of the criminologists we educate go on to work in professional practice rather than academia. Let

us not forget that, according to Section 2 of the ESC Constitution, the Society aims to foster not only research, but also teaching and training, and it aims to bring together persons engaged in research, teaching and/or practice in the field of Criminology. I believe it would be a worthwhile challenge to explore how the ESC can further strengthen its contribution to education and professional practice. I sincerely hope that the members will grant me the mandate to pursue these goals within the board of the ESC.

Candidate to at-large board member: candidate profile Natalia Daško



My work sits at the intersection of Criminology, Criminal Law and Criminal Policy, with a particular interest in empirically informed law and policy reform. Combining criminological and legal perspectives allows me to approach crime and its regulation from multiple angles: to understand its nature and causes, examine its social impact and search for effective ways of preventing and responding to it.

My research focuses primarily on two broad areas: sexual crime and economic crime, particularly the counterfeiting of goods, pharmaceutical crime and food crime. For me, however, understanding the nature of crime and the people who commit it has never been purely a theoretical endeavour. Alongside my academic career, I have practised for many years as a criminal defence lawyer. This gives me first-hand experience of the criminal justice system, while criminological knowledge helps me better understand offending and offenders in my work as a practitioner.

I graduated in Law from Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Poland, where my master's thesis, *Criminological Aspects of Female Criminality*, marked the beginning of my academic interest in Criminology. I subsequently obtained my PhD in Law from the same University with a dissertation entitled *Criminal Protection of Trademarks*. I am currently working on my habilitation. In 2018, I also completed the Postgraduate Studies in Intellectual Property Law at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Warsaw.

My research frequently connects theory with practice.

In addition to analysing Law and Criminal Policy, I conduct empirical research, including court-file studies and in-depth interviews with criminal justice professionals such as police officers and prosecutors. I publish in Polish journals as well as various international academic outlets. I am currently co-editing the special issue of the *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice* 'Rape Control in Europe – Towards a New European Paradigm', to be published in November 2027, which examines sexual crime and its regulation across selected European jurisdictions.

I am also committed to making knowledge about Criminology, Criminal Law and Criminal Policy accessible beyond specialised academic debates. Most recently, I co-edited a textbook on Criminal Policy in Poland, to which I contributed chapters on responses to sexual offences and road traffic crime.

International cooperation has become an essential part of my academic work. It allows me not only to exchange ideas and experiences with colleagues from different academic traditions, but also to develop comparative perspectives in my own research. Most recently, in 2026, I undertook research stays at the College of Law at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln in the United States and at the Department of Business and Economics Law at Luiss Guido Carli University in Rome, Italy.

I have been an active participant in EUROCRIM conferences for many years and regularly present my research at other major international academic events.

In 2026, for example, I presented a paper on Food Fraud at the Stockholm Criminology Symposium. I also actively seek opportunities to engage with scholars outside Criminology and Law, as I consider interdisciplinarity to be an essential condition for high-quality research. In 2025, for example, I presented my work at the IPSA World Congress of Political Science in Seoul, Korea.

This interdisciplinary approach is also reflected in my institutional activities and research collaborations. I lead the Interdisciplinary Research Team on Legal Issues of Food and Nutrition at Nicolaus Copernicus University and am a member of DigiTech4SELE – Digital Technologies for Society, Economy, Laws and Ethics, as well as the University Interdisciplinary Centre for Technology in Society. Through these initiatives, I have had the opportunity to work with researchers from other disciplines, including Economics, Chemistry, Sociology and Ethics. I have also been involved in several internationally funded research projects, including projects supported by the European Commission and the Polish National Science Centre. I currently serve as Poland's National Rapporteur to the International Association of Penal Law (AIDP), responsible for preparing the Polish National Report on Gender, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Criminal Law for Section 2 of the XXII International Congress of Penal Law.

I strongly believe that research should contribute to practical goals, including better criminal policy and more effective responses to emerging forms of crime and social harm.

Being elected as an at-large member of the ESC Board would be, for me, above all an opportunity for responsible and committed work for the Society and for European Criminology. I would particularly like to bring a Central and Eastern European perspective to the Board – one shaped by the distinctive research traditions, criminological problems and profound social, political and legal transformations experienced in our part of Europe.

I would also like to contribute to strengthening opportunities for networking and academic exchange worldwide, particularly for scholars who have more limited access to established international networks. Coming from Central and Eastern Europe, I am

particularly aware that access to international academic networks and opportunities for collaboration remains uneven across Europe. From my own experience, I know how important international contacts, collaboration and the exchange of ideas are not only for individual researchers but, above all, for the advancement of criminological knowledge. I would therefore be particularly committed to helping create opportunities for scholars from Europe and around the world, those from divergent academic traditions and career stages, to meet, collaborate and learn from one another. In short, my lifelong goal and dream is to help people connect, network, and to grow and develop international collaborations to the benefit of all.

Candidate to at-large board member: candidate profile Mélanie M. Tiago



I am honoured to present my application for the position of At-Large Board Member of the European Society of Criminology. I have been a member of the ESC since 2015 and have attended its conferences every year. That involvement is what motivates this candidature: I would like to contribute more directly to the work of a society that has been an important part of my academic life.

My background is in comparative criminology and criminal justice data. I completed my doctoral degree at the University of Lausanne, where I also spent seven years contributing to the SPACE project – work that gave me a close understanding of how cross-national comparisons are built, and where their limits lie. I am currently an Assistant Professor and Vice-Director of the criminology programmes at the Faculty of Law of University Lusófona in Lisbon, and I continue to collaborate with ESEHA in Switzerland on the analysis of data on the Swiss criminal justice system.

If elected, I would focus on three areas. The first is the visibility of national criminological practices: knowledge of how different countries approach crime, prevention, and justice tends to stay within national or linguistic boundaries, and I think the ESC can do more to create spaces for that exchange. The second is representation of the diversity of European criminology within the Society's structures – different legal traditions and research cultures deserve to be reflected in how the ESC organises its work, and I would pay attention to this in everything from conference programming to working groups. The third is support for early-career

researchers: having made the transition from doctoral candidate to faculty member recently, I remain aware of what that involves, and I would like to explore whether the ESC could develop more structured mentoring and guidance for junior scholars.

The ESC is one of the few spaces where criminologists from different European traditions can genuinely meet and work together. I would be glad to contribute to that, and I would welcome the support of ESC members.

→ CANDIDATES TO THE ESC BOARD - 2025

Candidate to at-large board member: candidate profile Alessandro Corda



I am an Italian scholar based at Queen's University Belfast in the United Kingdom, where I served as Director of the Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice from 2021 to 2024.

My research focuses on the collateral consequences of criminal justice involvement, the sociology of punishment, and comparative penal policies and practices, areas I've explored through a transnational academic journey that includes many years of study and work in the United States and collaborations with several academic institutions across Europe.

The ESC has been my intellectual home for well over a decade. I've always deeply appreciated its unique combination of diversity and cohesion, and I've found in it a space where rigorous scholarship and genuine collegiality flourish. Over the years, I've been actively involved in the Society, most notably as co-founder and co-chair of the Working Group on the Collateral Consequences of Criminal Records, launched at the ESC conference in Ghent in 2019. Through this role, I've helped build a vibrant community of scholars working on issues that are often overlooked but have a profound impact on the lives of those affected by the operation of criminal legal systems.

If elected to the Board, I would bring a collaborative and collegial approach, together with a commitment to fostering connections across research areas, countries, and career stages. I am particularly keen to contribute to the development of the ESC Summer School and other initiatives that support knowledge exchange,

professional development, and the engagement of early-career scholars. I believe in listening carefully, encouraging open dialogue, and helping to create opportunities through which our community can continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you very much for considering my candidacy.

by Miikka Vuorela

The European Historical Criminology Working Group



The **European Historical Criminology Working Group (EHC-WG)** was relaunched in 2019 to create a coordinated venue for disseminating information among historical criminologists across Europe. Historical Criminology is the application of an historical perspective to the study of crime and social control, and it also encompasses the history of Criminology. Over the past seven years, Historical Criminology has emerged as a systematic field of inquiry with a robust theoretical and methodological foundation and a flourishing academic community. Our working

group has participated in this development, providing a venue for scientific and colloquial discussions and encouraging international cooperation.

A major milestone for the field was the publication of *Historical Criminology* by David Churchill, Henry Yeomans and Iain Channing (Routledge, 2021). The monograph offered one clear vision of Historical Criminology and proposed an agenda for developing historical approaches to Criminology. Furthermore, three of our working group members, Lynsey Black, Esmorie Miller and Lizzie Seal



are currently authoring the *Routledge International Handbook of Historical Criminology*, an edited volume that will provide a more nuanced picture of the vastly diverse field of Historical Criminology.

Perhaps our most exciting endeavour has been participating in the establishment of a dedicated scientific journal in close collaboration with the British Society of Criminology's Historical Criminology Network, the American Society of Criminology Division of Historical Criminology and the Australia New Zealand Society of Criminology's Historical Criminology Network. Our efforts resulted in the foundation of **The Journal of Historical Criminology**, which published its first issue in July 2025. The Journal, co-edited by Iain Channing and Alex Tepperman, is the first and only academic journal exclusively dedicated to research and scholarship in historical criminology. The fully open-access journal can be found on the [website](#).

The uplifting development of Historical Criminology is quantifiable by looking at the growth of historical criminological activity within the European Society of Criminology. The roots of our working group trace back to Eurocrime 2018, in Sarajevo. There was a single historical perspectives panel in the conference programme, scheduled at 8:30 on Saturday morning. The panel session had six people in attendance, including the three presenters. The participants of this small gathering would later become the founding members of the working group. In contrast, for Eurocrim 2026 in Warsaw, our working group accepted 30 individual papers and three pre-arranged panel

sessions. Today, the working group brings together 40 members from 17 countries. Our next ambition is to launch a biannual Historical Criminology conference series. We will also keep up our current tasks and activities and continue our fruitful collaboration with our sister communities in the other criminological societies.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to any members of the European Society of Criminology interested in Historical Criminology or the history of Criminology to join our working group!

→ *IN MEMORIAM*

Miroslav Scheinost, longtime director of IKSP

*19.1.1949 †1.6.2026



On June 1, 2026, Dr. Miroslav Scheinost, a prominent criminologist and long-time director of the Institute for Criminology and Social Prevention in Prague (IKSP), passed away suddenly. We have lost a prominent figure in Czech and European criminology, but also a man who loved his work and diligently sought to advance knowledge and bring about positive change in his field. The criminological community has lost a creative individual who was able to combine his professional expertise with his personal values, who passionately defended scientific findings, and who exemplified diligence and the ability to engage in well-informed dialogue. He was among those figures who are respected even in the international community.

He was born in Sušice, South Bohemia, but spent most of his childhood in Prague. There, he completed high school and later enrolled at the Faculty of Arts at Charles University. He studied and earned his degree in sociology and ethnography. From 1990, he worked at the IKSP, a research organisation of the Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic, where he began as a research fellow. Following Dr. Otakar Osmančík's departure from the position of director of the Institute, he was entrusted with its management by the then-Minister of Justice, Dr. Otakar Motejl, effective April 1, 2000, and subsequently appointed the new director of the IKSP by the next minister, Dr. Jaroslav Bureš, effective May 1, 2002. He served as director for an incredible twenty years, until March 2020; however, even after resigning from that position, he remained a research fellow at the Institute. As a manager, he was

well-liked by his colleagues because, while effectively leading the institute, he gave them ample space to apply their personal skills and innovative approaches in their research activities. He ensured that the findings of scientific research were made available to the broader professional community and could be put to practical use.

He made a fundamental contribution to the significant development of the Institute, of criminological research, and of criminology as an independent academic discipline in the Czech Republic. He was recognised as a leading figure in Czech criminology and became, among other things, the first president of the Czech Criminological Society, founded in 2012. In his research, he long covered a wide range of topics, particularly organised crime, criminal activity by foreign nationals, and trends in crime. He was highly respected in the criminal justice system, where he shared his experience and empirical findings with the Ministry of Justice and various agencies. He selflessly shared his knowledge through teaching criminology and social pathology at university students, as well as through professional training and continuing education for legal professionals. In 2015, he was awarded the Minister of Justice Award for his exceptional contributions to the development of criminology.

He made significant contributions to the development of criminological and penological research, to the popularisation of scientific findings, to the dissemination and sharing of international knowledge, to the application of key findings in

practice, and to the promotion of new preventive and resocialization approaches. He knew how to listen and speak appropriately on a variety of topics; he was constructive and objective, often drawing on his excellent memory, and was well-read and well-informed. He also devoted his attention to young people, striving to guide them and share life ideals with them.

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Moreover, in his circle he was recognised and beloved not only as a respected scientist, but above all as an exceptionally kind and empathetic person, a witty companion, and a patient colleague with an indomitable zest for life, unquestionable moral integrity, and profound wisdom. He was married; last year he celebrated 51 years of marriage. From this relationship, he had two daughters and a son, and he was a grandfather to four grandchildren. In his private life, he had many friends with whom he enjoyed spending time and sharing his free time. He played the guitar and sang well; he was interested in history and cultural events; he kept up with sports and current events; he read extensively; and he loved exploring and travelling.

May he rest in peace!

Kazimír Večerka and Petr Zeman, his grateful colleagues and friends at IKSP, on behalf of everyone else.

→ EDITORIAL NOTES

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There has been extensive discussion about the pressures academics face to perform and to take on a growing range of roles that extend well beyond teaching and research. Publication metrics, institutional rankings, increasingly heavy administrative workloads, measures of societal impact, and many other demands have progressively been added to academic responsibilities. As a result, it can sometimes become difficult to find the time to keep up with new readings, update teaching materials, reflect on research findings, or simply think. These challenges can become even greater when institutions – and those leading them – lack the vision and strategy needed to support academics in conducting research, managing research teams, and improving teaching practices.

As Krzysztof Krajewski and Dagmara Woźniakowska show in their contribution on Polish Criminology, many of the constraints on the development of the field can be traced to disputes with other areas of scholarship, including Criminal Law, and, at times, the poor recognition of the importance of criminological inquiry in the country. Similar tensions have emerged in other European countries. Yet the history of Criminology in Poland teaches us much more than this. It reminds us that peace and stability are crucial conditions for developing the critical mass, scientific infrastructure, and institutional continuity needed to sustain high-quality criminological research. Poland's experience – marked by two world wars and subsequent periods of profound social, political, and geographical reconstruction – should encourage us to think of Criminology as a long-term European project, and indeed as a project with relevance far beyond Europe.

Such a project is often sustained and enriched by people who wish to contribute in ways that go beyond research and teaching – for example, by volunteering their time and expertise to scientific societies. This is where I would like to emphasise the importance of colleagues who, on a voluntary basis, serve on the Board of the European Society of Criminology (ESC), following regular elections in which all ESC members are invited to participate. This year, four candidates have presented themselves, demonstrating their motivation to contribute to the development of Criminology in Europe by serving voluntarily on the Board, with all the responsibilities that this entails, while maintaining active professional and personal lives.

A special thanks is due to all previous Board members, and particularly past presidents and at-large Board members, whose contributions have sustained the stable development of the ESC as a signpost for Criminology in Europe. Through their work, they have helped execute the ESC mandate and activities, including working groups, annual conferences, training opportunities for early-career researchers, outlets for scientific publication, fellowships, awards, creation of rules and procedures, and, above all, the development of a European – and increasingly worldwide – community of scholars committed to Criminology. The 2025 report by the executive secretariat clearly shows the dynamics and stable growth of such a community.

As the presidential address so clearly stresses, Euro-crim 2026 in Warsaw will remind us of the importance of memory and history. World events can have devastat-

ing consequences for the development of knowledge and science, with direct and lasting effects on people's lives as well as on organisations and scientific communities. At the same time, the conference will retell how essential communities are to sustaining Criminology and its efforts to improve people's lives – including those of victims, members of the general public, youth, or people in prison settings – and to contribute to better public policies on crime and harm.

Eurocrim 2026 will therefore be an opportunity to (re) connect, to continue learning and sharing, to contribute to the development of European Criminology, and to transform some of the pressures of academic work into meaningful and fruitful moments of engagement. For those who will not be able to join us in Warsaw, the ESC will continue its work as a forum for the dissemination of criminological knowledge at the European level, and as a community supporting a diverse group of highly engaged individuals who recognise the importance of science in shaping both micro- and macro-level social processes.

Perhaps this is also what the history of Criminology in Poland can teach us: scientific fields do not develop through individual achievement alone. They require time, peace, strong institutions, devoted individuals, memory, and – above all – communities of people willing to invest in something that extends beyond themselves.



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