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Criminology in Europe

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→ MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Josep M. Tamarit-Sumalla

Presidential address



European Criminology goes East

This year, European criminologists will meet in September in Bucharest, where they will also expect to meet participants from countries outside Europe. Bucharest is the eighth largest city in the European Union by population and one of the most populated cities in Eastern Europe. Furthermore, as the Call for Participants emphasises, it stands as the easternmost city among the conferences organised by the ESC. Despite this, the Conference's motto of 'going East' might appear somewhat surprising, possibly suggesting that Criminology has not yet reached that region.

Piacentini and Slate (2023) recently highlighted the relative absence of Eastern Europe (and Eurasia) both as a geographic location and as part of the global imagery among criminologists. They find it particularly curious that the East is eclipsed from prison studies, especially considering that the war against Ukraine has brought attention to the mobilisation of Russia's prison population, which they see as an opportunity for reflection for criminologists. Reflections of this kind can pave the way to hope for a new flourishing of Eastern criminology, as was the case with the re-emergence of Southern criminology.

There is no doubt that scholars from Eastern countries have made significant contributions to criminological research and have played a pivotal role in promoting better policies and practices that harmonise crime control with human rights and empirical evidence. Benjamin Mendelsohn stands out for his noteworthy

contributions, particularly in pioneering victimology. As a tribute to his work, special attention will be given to him during the Bucharest Conference. It is also worth mentioning the ESC Working Group on Balkan Criminology, the activities of the Serbian Society of Victimology, as well as frequent victimological courses in Dubrovnik, and the commendable efforts of Aleksandras Dobryninas, Gorazd Mesko, Vesna Nikolic-Ristanovic, Miklós Lévy and Krzysztof Krajewski as former Presidents of the ESC, along with uncountable other achievements by colleagues, universities, and institutions.

However, data collected about the activities of the ESC clearly indicate that Eastern countries still need our attention and support if we aim to see them placed at the center of the European criminological community. From the 21 ESC Conferences (excluding the e-conferences in 2020 and 2021), only six were held in eastern cities (Cracow, Ljubljana, Vilnius, Prague, Budapest, and Sarajevo). And a much more striking fact should be highlighted: the revision conducted by Smith (2014) of the articles published in the European Journal of Criminology revealed that only 7.9% (17 out of 215) had one or more authors based in an Eastern country (Greece 5, Hungary 3, Poland, Bulgaria, and Slovenia 2, Lithuania, Russia, and Slovenia 1 each). Almost half of the articles were authored by individuals from the UK and the Netherlands (32.6% and 15.8%, respectively). Recent data presented by Kyle Treiber, Chief Editor of the Journal, to the ESC Board showed minimal advancements in recent years. Throughout the 2018-2022 period, authors from the United

Kingdom and the Netherlands still accounted for 40% of accepted articles, whereas only 6.5% were authored by researchers from Eastern countries, with the Czech Republic standing out as the country with the most published contributions in this geographic area (10).

Data extracted from the presentations held at the ESC annual conferences are also significant. Vander Beken et al (2021) investigated the content of 11.724 abstracts presented between 2001 and 2019 (a total of 17 conferences) and observed that more than 40% of all abstracts were authored by scholars from four Western northern countries (UK, Belgium, Netherlands and Germany). A review of the same data led me to conclude that abstracts submitted by authors from East Europe represented 11,8% of all abstracts presented at the aforementioned conferences. The Eastern countries that stood out the most regarding the number of participants at ESC conferences were Poland (1,8%), Slovenia (1,5%), Hungary (1,3%) and the Czech Republic (1,2%). The reasons that explain this difference are certainly of distinct nature: different academic backgrounds, different opportunities for research or the variety of education offer in European universities. In any case, we cannot forget that participation in conferences is conditioned by the capacity to cope with the economic expenses involved with travelling to conferences that have been held in Western cities.

For all these reasons, the fact that EUROCRIM2024 will be held in Bucharest is a matter of joy and interest.

The Bucharest ESC Conference will tackle issues related to the development of criminology in Europe and beyond. As a plenary speaker, I will present an update on the information currently available regarding the evolution of European criminology in recent years, organised by thematic areas. The above-mentioned review by Vander Beken found that the most prevalent topics among abstracts presented at the ESC conferences were: research methods, critical study of the reaction to and discourse on crime, UK-based research, self-reporting, probation and studies on crime and society. In this revision, four topics increased significantly from 2013 to 2019: desistance, victims and their involvement in the criminal process, cybercrime and environmental harms. The last one, reflecting the expansion of green criminology and, despite the upward trend, still received low interest from

researchers compared to the most attended thematic areas. In addition to these topics, it was observed that abstracts increasingly used a specific theoretical, methodological and meta-scientific vocabulary. Conversely, studies on hate crimes, sexual offending and homicide rates declined over time.

A first analysis about the evolution of topics at the last conferences (e-conferences 2020 and 2021, EUROCRIM2022 – Malaga – and EUROCRIM2023 – Florence) show the emergence of new areas of interest in criminological research. Beyond those papers that reflect an interest of researchers in transient social problems, such as studies on the effects and implications of pandemics, some emerging issues are likely to stay. This will certainly be the case with artificial intelligence, considering the broad and profound impact it may have on crime research, policing and crime control, particularly within the criminal justice system. Also digitalisation, digital criminology, the social construction of crime, extremism, wrongful convictions and social media have received increasing attention by scholars from different countries. This entails an expansion of the scope of criminological research, since “old” topics don’t seem to disappear from the panels. Juvenile delinquency, identified by Smith (2014) as the most prevalent topic among the articles in the European Journal of Criminology, still remains a significant area of research. In the same vein, criminological theories, methodology, policing, prisons, drugs, organized crime, victimology and victim’s rights, correlates of crime, gender, time and spaces of crime, restorative justice, domestic violence, community interventions and corporate crime have featured a large number of presentations. However, a smaller presence of contributions relating to critical criminology has been observed. The effective activity of the thirty-six working groups established in the ESC will also serve as a test of how the criminological community is adapting to the changing circumstances of our countries.

Europe is confronting new challenges in 2024, making it necessary to question whether certain topics will receive greater attention from the criminological community. With the elections for the European Parliament taking place amidst the rise of far-right political parties and social tensions related to migration and xenophobia, there is a potential for hate crimes and migration issues to take center stage once again. Topics such as politically oriented crimes, particularly those

committed by right-wing extremists, may see increased attention in this context. In addition, researchers may be interested in war crimes as a consequence of the continuation and even intensification of the armed conflicts provoking devastating impacts on Eastern countries and populations which share common geographical regions and cultures. Moreover, increasing concerns on climate change, problems of rural areas and evolving social sensitivities and norms at the international and national level will move criminologists towards the enhancement of Green Criminology, crimes against animals and Rural Criminology.

We should not forget our pending issues. Catrien Bijleveld reminded us, one year ago (2023), that there is a significant gap in European data. Of course, victimisation surveys in Eastern countries are welcome, but, above all, we still need a pan-European crime victimisation survey that provides us with baseline data to study crime trends across the continent and to identify differences between countries and geographical and political areas. This must be a priority for the European Society of Criminology.

I hope that EUROCRIM2024, in Bucharest, will once again be a milestone in the evolution and consolidation of European Criminology, and that, together, we can respond to the needs of our societies.

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→ EUROCRIM2024

By Andra-Roxana Trandafir

Bucharest, an emerging milestone for criminological research



„Bucharest, a city under construction. All the old and deserted slums have now metamorphosed into building sites on which monumental blocks are being erected. Our provincial boulevards of yesterday are mobilising at the edges and seeming to shrink in width, are growing vertiginously in height. The number of architects has become far too small. Not only that. Where yesterday there were maze-like streets, today we have huge

squares criss-crossed by cars, trams and statues. In just a few years, Bucharest has become a half-western and presentable city.” (Ionescu, 1934, translation using deepL.com)

Criminology goes East. Balkan Criminology

Definitely the most postponed conference in the history of ESC, the 24th Annual Meeting is finally taking place in Bucharest on September 11-14, 2024! I remember the adventure of applying for organising the conference in Cardiff (2017), where I landed at 10 PM without any luggage due to a storm in Amsterdam (the airport of my connecting flight) and, therefore, only wearing jeans and a t-shirt for my appearance in front of the Board the next day, also missing the flyers of the Faculty I had brought from Bucharest... (the guys were nice however! all the members of Board I've ever met were kind and helpful with an enthusiastic - yet a bit lost - Romanian scholar in the field of criminology). While waiting to meet the Board in the hallway, I was happy to meet the organisers of the conferences in Malaga (2022) and Florence (2023, initially 2021), with whom I have been collaborating ever since. As happy as I was for organising the conference in 2020, the COVID pandemic ruined all the plans and forced the Board to rapidly adapt to an online event (and then to another one...), which determined months of weekly video meetings for planning. Luckily, those times are in the past and here we are, making sure that everything goes as smoothly as possible for our September meeting.

As stated in the general presentation of the conference, Bucharest is the Easternmost city of the conferences organised by the European Society of Criminology (a title previously held by the 2011 ESC conference in Vilnius). Moreover, except for Ljubljana (2009) and Sarajevo (2018), the Balkans, even in a broader sense of the notion (Sundhaussen, 2014), have not played host to the EUROCRIM conferences.

The Balkans are, however, a region which continuously had to adapt to new realities, mixing influences of Western European culture and regional particularities. Criminology did not escape such a need for adaptation, nor was it far from the said influence. Perhaps the most important proof, which included Romania and opened a significant path for criminological research in this country, is the creation, in 2012, of the Max Planck Partner Group for Balkan Criminology – a joint venture between the Max Planck Institute and the University of Zagreb’s Faculty of Law.

The Partner Group conducted a total of 20 research projects, hosted or organised 5 conferences (one of which was in Bucharest) and 5 one-week intensive courses, held 15 panels at ESC conferences with a total of 65 presentations, issued 13 newsletters, and published several volumes in the Balkan Criminology book series. A real model of successful cooperation, the Partner Group was led with enthusiasm and energy by Prof. Dr. Anna-Maria Getoš Kalac, who will be one of the plenary speakers at Bucharest’s EUROCRIM2024.

We will also have the pleasure of hearing the plenary speeches of Sally Simpson (University of Maryland, USA), Thomas Ugelvik (University of Oslo), Marieke Liem (Utrecht University), Nicholas Lord (University of Manchester), Ioan Durnescu (University of Bucharest), together with the opening plenary speech of Josep M. Tamarit Sumalla (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, President of the ESC).

Bucharest, Romania

Certainly, some historical characteristics of Romania could be linked to its general topic and to the ideas previously mentioned regarding the Balkans. For centuries, geography positioned Romania between different civilisations. As such, the constant swing between cultures gave birth to the present day’s mix. One should take the Romanian language, which is

predominantly Latin, but with heavy Slavic influences, as an example. Romanian cuisine has mainly Eastern influences, but, throughout time, borrowed Western habits. The list can go on.

This is also shown by the words of the great Romanian playwright Eugen Ionescu, quoted above, written 90 years ago, at the exact moment when Benjamin Mendelsohn was graduating from the Faculty of Law of the University of Bucharest. As history has a symmetrical way of making its presence felt, Bucharest, Mendelsohn’s hometown, is now trying to bring closer not only Western European criminology but also scholars from around the world to reflect together on current issues related to crime and crime control, whereas victimology and victim protection will be of special interest, in honor of Mendelsohn’s work.

The Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest



Over the course of its 160 years of existence (celebrated this year), generations of students and teachers have managed to make the University of Bucharest the most important institution for higher education, research and culture in Romania;

it nowadays enjoys solid national and international prestige. Under the tutelage of the academic professorial staff, the almost 34.000 students at the University of Bucharest are actively involved in the academic community, partaking in scientific events held yearly within the University. Within the University of Bucharest, there are 19 faculties and 1 department.

With almost 4000 students, the Faculty of Law, established in 1859, is one of the oldest faculties belonging to the University of Bucharest and one of its three founding faculties. Its academic staff includes remarkable legal scholars as well as highly active politicians, working as members of the traditional chairs: the public law chair, the private law chair and the criminal law chair.

One of the (few) positive aspects of postponing the conference was that, during the pandemic, many rooms of the Faculty have been refurbished and equipped with modern electronic devices, which will allow more than 40 parallel sessions to take place in only one building (and, looking at the abstracts received, it looks like we will need all the available space!).

Criminological education and research in Romania

While it was very rarely taught in universities at the beginning of the 20th century, criminology was prohibited in universities like in other countries in Eastern Europe (Simion, 2008). Only in 1969 did criminology become an academic discipline, being taught for only one semester within the law faculties. Nowadays, the Faculty of Law of the University of Bucharest is the only one that still includes criminology as a mandatory discipline; and the main textbook used in law faculties (Cioclei, 2024), aiming to provide a general overview of theories of crime, is written by a professor of the same faculty. Furthermore, criminology is rarely taught in sociology faculties.

Despite this, criminological research has started to emerge in Romania. Over the past years, various scholars in this country took part in some of the major international studies (e.g. the European SourceBook, the International Self-Report Delinquency Study), attended scientific events and published the results of their research in national and international journals.

Barbara Gualco wrote in her 2023 paper for the ESC Newsletter that she was extremely proud (and afraid!!!) to organise the conference and I can't agree more. I take example of her courage and joy in putting together this great event. I must confess, however, another reason for which I wished – for so many years – that the ESC Conference would come to Bucharest: during my first ESC conference (Budapest, 2013), I met only one Romanian national – Professor Ioan Durnescu, who, as I was saying, will also be Plenary Speaker of the Bucharest Conference. In Florence (2023), there were 15 Romanians. While this reveals the abovementioned emergence of criminology in Romania, I really hope that in 2024 the number will be at least double and that my colleagues will engage in fruitful cooperation with scholars from all over the world. Together with the local organising team, I look forward to receiving you all in six months!

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→ CALL

Nominations sought! The deadline is 31 March.

The ESC is currently seeking nominations and applications for the presidency, an at-large member of the Executive Board, and an auditor. The president is elected for a three-year term (the first year as president-elect, the second one as president, and the third one as past-president), the at-large board members are also elected for three years, and the auditors for two years. All mandates begin at the conclusion of the 2024 annual conference in Bucharest.

Nominations must be received by 31 March 2024 and will not be regarded as final without agreement of the person nominated.

Please send your nominations or applications by e-mail to: secretariat@esc-eurocrim.org.

→ THE EUROPEAN SUMMER SCHOOL OF CRIMINOLOGY

Interview with Fernando Miró-Llinares



What led to the creation of the European Summer School of Criminology?

The European Summer School of Criminology is an initiative of the members of the European Society of Criminology who decided to invest, the product of our resources over decades of conferences and activities of our society, in the training of young European researchers in criminology. Although there are many other activities that can and should be carried out in other multiple domains, none better reflects the idea

of “investment” than to do so by training those who are going to be the future of our European criminology. The academic structure of this course is intentionally crafted to leverage the synergies of the Society’s diverse activities and bolster the professional growth of our young researchers.

Can you please identify what students can expect from this summer school? How can students recognize the hallmark of the ESC in this summer school?

The fundamental idea of the European Summer School of Criminology is to provide PhD students and early PhD researchers with a comprehensive, practically oriented perspective on developing an academic career in criminology within Europe, by taking criminologists who have been doing it successfully for years as an example.

This year, Lausanne serves as the backdrop where participants can forge valuable connections. It’s an opportunity to initiate what Leon Radzinowicz, a notable figure in European criminology, referred to as a life of “adventures in criminology.”

We facilitate this by introducing the attendees to the leading figures in European criminological research. Our mentors include distinguished recipients of various ESC awards, ranging from established scholars who have been honoured with the ESC Award, to emerging talents who earned the Young Criminologist Award or the Early Career Award. This approach is the hallmark of the program. This year the mentors are figures such as Michael Levi, Letizia Paoli, Alberto Chrysoulakis, and Jakub Drápal, and we hope to maintain this approach in future years by including ESC award winners in the teaching team.



What do these workshops consist of, and why have you approached teaching at the summer school in this way?

Europe is privileged to have institutions like the European Research Council within the European Union, which bestows the prestigious Starting Grants, among many other national and international funding programs dedicated to exceptional projects by young researchers. The European Summer School of Criminology has tailored its training to equip attendees with the necessary skills and knowledge to compete for these grants successfully.

Participants will be provided with detailed information and practical training relevant to grant applications. They will have the chance to cultivate their project ideas in team settings and gain insights from experts who have a track record of securing numerous grants. It is a matter of investing the effort and money of the ESC so that younger researchers have every chance to develop the best research projects for our society in the future.

How will the submission and selection process take place? Are there any scholarships available?

The European Summer School of Criminology welcomes early-stage and advanced PhD students, as well as postdoctoral researchers starting their careers in criminology and related disciplines, such as law, political science, sociology, or anthropology, whose research focuses on crime, deviance, and social control. We have designed a process to select the most suitable students based on their curriculum but, at the same time, considering their potential given their early career. In addition, national origin will also be considered to ensure diversity and representation from countries with varying levels of criminology development and to accommodate all European contexts. The ESC will award two scholarships to cover the cost of the stay for students coming from Universities in European countries where criminology is less developed. Simultaneously, the University of Lausanne awards two additional Solidarity Scholarships to cover expenses and travel for students who are currently enrolled in a higher education institution located in an ODA recipient country.

The application deadline is 15 April 2024. Students are required to submit a manuscript of their choosing by June 1. This submission, combined with their participation in the summer school week, will earn them 2 credit points.

How do you think the summer school can contribute to the development of Criminology and Europe and, thus, to the ESC itself?

I believe that there are many long-term benefits to be gained from the implementation of this Summer School, and I think the best indication that this will be the case is in the other activities that the ESC has done. In the past, the Society has established several opportunities, such as the annual Conference, the Working Groups, and the European Journal of Criminology, that have become international references for the dissemination of knowledge and the promotion of criminological science, as well as the consolidation of the academic community dedicated to its study.

The Summer School is an extension of this legacy; one which focuses on enhancing the educational foundation of young researchers. It is intended to support the development of future European researchers and the creation of robust networks. More importantly, it is about fortifying the scientific community by looking forward, preparing it to grow and to continue to be significant in the years to come. By launching this Summer School, we are bridging the wisdom of established scholars with the innovative potential of new ones, thus fostering a continuum of knowledge that will benefit our community and the field of criminology as a whole.

Further information [here](#).



"Exploring the Dynamics of Crime: Contemporary Challenges and Innovations in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice"

The World Conference on Criminology, a joint endeavour of O.P. Jindal University (Sonapat, India) and the International Society for Criminology (Paris, France), will be held in the capital city of Delhi, India, from June 19 to 22, 2025.

The theme is "Exploring the dynamics of crime: contemporary challenges and innovations in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice".

All information about the conference can be found on the freshly launched [website](#) where you can find information about the programme (in preparation), logistical and financial arrangements, timelines, and contact persons.

For security reasons, note that the legitimate Society for Criminology (Paris, France) should not be confused with International Society of Criminology, a fake organisation based in the US.

→ IN MEMORIAM

By Nigel South

Vincenzo Ruggiero



Vincenzo Ruggiero passed away in his adopted 'home' city of London on Saturday 2nd February 2024 with his partner and his daughter at his side. Vincenzo was the Renaissance Man of international criminology – a critical polymath and scholar of politics, economics, sociology, history, literature, languages and art – all of which, in unique style, he brought to his original and stimulating essays, books, lectures and wonderful conversations over food and wine.

Born to Neapolitan parents in Ferrara, Italy, in 1950, his family, like so many southerners, migrated to the north of the country for work but remained deeply rooted in their Neapolitan heritage. He lived for many years in Torino where he studied and taught and, in the 1970s, was a dedicated political activist along with many of his friends during the period of social conflicts and unrest that came to be known as "The Years of Lead".

In this decade he moved between London, where he worked as a porter at University College hospital, and parts of Italy, where he was involved in penal reform campaigns. In 1976 he founded a bi-annual paper on prison issues, coordinating a network involving prisoners, their families and reform activists and in 1977 established a new publisher – 'Senza Galere' ('Without Prisons') – later renamed 'Ruggiero Edizioni'. The press mainly published fiction and poetry and all authors were either prisoners serving a sentence or ex-prisoners. As Vincenzo suggested, this was surely an early example of 'Convict Criminology'. In the following years, between 1979–1983, he published his first academic books, on prison issues and drugs debates,

writing about communities he saw as marginalised but engaged in resistance and it was important to him that he had undertaken this research and advocacy from outside the formal bounds of the university system.

Between 1986–1990 he studied for his Doctorate in Sociology and Criminology at the University of Bologna but in the early 1990s settled in London, feeling an affinity to bohemian Fitzrovia and Soho. He took up posts as, initially, a visiting fellow at the London School of Economics and then a Research Fellow at Middlesex University, subsequently – and swiftly – becoming a Reader and then Professor (1996) at Middlesex, contributing to its rich tradition of being a centre for critical criminology. In 1998 he undertook a secondment to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna leading pathbreaking research on Transnational Organised Crime and contributing to the study of human trafficking at a point when its significance was still only emerging. In Vienna he also founded a journal, *Forum on Crime and Society* and was among the organisers of the 2000 UN 'Congress on Crime and the Treatment of Offenders' (writing most of the official papers for conference deliberations), as well as contributing to the formulation of the UN Convention against Organised Crime, launched in Palermo in 2000. He was a long-standing member of many professional associations and took on committee roles for the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control (1986–1993), and the American Society of Criminology Divisions on International Criminology (2016–2017) and Critical Criminology (2017–2018).

He also served as Director of the Centre for Social and Criminological Research at Middlesex University.

Vincenzo was not only one of the leading theorists within our field but also an innovator in the use of multi-methods approaches to data-gathering – very often in contexts that are among the most hard to research – the worlds of organised criminals, corrupt politicians, traffickers, and political activists. He could be the classic lone scholar – disciplined in sitting at his desk, working his way through his piles of books and papers, then launching into a new writing project but he also led various funded research collaborations and initiatives and was a great co-author and co-worker, sociable and inspirational. Vincenzo loved to write, to set down ideas and engage with his peers and students and in doing so he was astonishingly productive. He spoke and published in Italian, French and English and his work was also translated into German, Spanish, Portuguese, Greek, Lithuanian, Turkish and Mandarin Chinese.

His many publications include numerous academic articles and pieces of journalism as well as books such as: *Western European Penal Systems* (1995), *Eurodrugs* (1995), *Organised and Corporate Crime in Europe* (1996), *The New European Criminology* (1998), *Crime and Markets* (2000), *Movements in the City* (2001 Winner of the 'Premio Nazionale G. Arena – Città di Acri'), *Economic and Financial Crime in Europe* (2002), *Crime in Literature* (2003), *Crimes of the Economy* (2013), *Punishment in Europe* (2013), *Power and Crime* (2015), *Dirty Money: On Financial Delinquency* (2017 Outstanding Book Award, American Society of Criminology, Division on White Collar and Corporate Crime), *Organised Crime and Terrorist Networks* (2020), *Visions of Political Violence* (2020), *Critical Criminology Today: Counter-Hegemonic Essays* (2021). In 2016 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award of the American Society of Criminology, Division on Critical Criminology and Social Justice.

He completed his latest book just two months before his death and was able to choose a cover design while in hospital. Appropriately the book is a survey – in inimitable style – of *Keywords in Criminology: A cultural dictionary* (Routledge, 2024).

Vincenzo leaves behind a daughter, Lucia, and his partner Cynthia, with whom he formed a civil partnership after 33 years together – as well as an international family of friends, students and admirers who will all remember Vincenzo as embodying *gioia di vivere* – he will be missed so much.

Please raise a glass....

→ WORKING GROUP REPORTS

By Loraine Gelsthorpe, Michele Burman & Joana Gomes Ferreira

Gender, Crime and Justice Working Group

The Gender, Crime and Justice Working Group was established in 2010 following the Liege conference. Co-convener by Loraine Gelsthorpe and Michele Burman and now operating with much assistance from Joana Ferreira, the Working Group involves around 100 members drawn from across Europe and beyond. The Working Group was conceived of as a collegiate space for encouraging and supporting scholars working in the area of gender, crime and justice who may often be quite academically isolated in their home institutions.

When dedicated Gender, Crime and Justice Working Group panels were first introduced in the ESC conference in 2011 (in Vilnius) there were just two panels; last year in Florence there were 12 panels of individual paper presentations and another 5 pre-planned panels – all highlighting the growth and expansion of European scholars working in this area and the vibrancy of the field. Since the Working Group's inception 14 years ago the scope of work engaged in by members has also expanded rapidly. It now includes theoretical, conceptual and empirical work on all aspects of violence against women and children (sexual violence; domestic abuse; stalking; honour-based violence; FGM); cybercrime, intersectional analyses of female criminality and pathways to offending; the gendering of environmental crime; gender and organized crime; gender and corruption; the punishment of women (imprisonment, community sanctions); criminal justice responses to women as victims and offenders; alternatives to justice for women, and; incorporates both quantitative and qualitative approaches.

Although it is a little while now since we have been able to organise a mini-Spring conference (covid and costs have limited opportunities), the Working Group produces an annual newsletter highlighting members' publications, research grants, events and activities, and will shortly be introducing a section which showcases individual members (both early and later career academics) talking about their research. We have also introduced online writing retreats for working group members to come together for a half day to focus on writing. These sessions provide a supportive space for members to start or develop writing projects – from writing up a PhD thesis or an academic article to progressing a research monograph. The next online writing retreat is scheduled for April 10th 2024 1-4pm (contact one of us if you wish to be included). And for the future, we are also thinking about an online conference and half day workshops to pick up on some of the forthcoming conference themes.

→ WORKING GROUP REPORTS

By Nora Markwalder

European Homicide Research Working Group



The European Homicide Research Working Group's goal is to stimulate homicide research in Europe and to promote contact between researchers working on homicide studies in Europe and beyond.

Last year, the European Homicide Research Working Group again organised two sessions at the ESC conference in Florence. A first pre-arranged panel contained contributions about homicide trends as well as different subtypes of homicide incidents in various European countries which used the European Homicide Monitor system. The Working Group also hosted, in collaboration with the European Homicide Monitor network, an Author Meets Critics panel of the book "Nordic Homicide in Deep Time", with Janne Kivivuori as one of the book authors, Marieke Liem and Manuel Eisner as discussants and Nora Markwalder as moderator. The book is based on the idea of expanding the European Homicide Monitor backwards

in time and collecting data on historic homicides. The book, as well as the coding manual and ready-made coding templates, are open-access resources freely downloadable and usable by anyone interested in long-term homicide studies (for access go to <https://hup.fi/site/books/m/10.33134/HUP-15/>).

The members of the Working Group also met for a social event at the Ristorante Frescobaldi and found the time to discuss further over some wine and cheese. The Working Group is always happy to add new members. For researchers interested in joining the Working Group or in case of questions, please get in contact with the Chair Nora Markwalder (nora.markwalder@unisg.ch).

→ EDITORIAL NOTES

Rita Faria, Editor-in-Chief of *Criminology in Europe*



The granddaughter of a wanted terrorist

A story that most people don't know about me is that I am grandchild of a lawyer that, from 1945 to the 1960's in Portugal, was actively involved in demanding a democratic and egalitarian society. As far as I know, he never used violence for that purpose. Despite that, in 1958 he, together with many other men, was sent to jail for 2 weeks and prevented from actively preparing and participating in elections, and in 1961 he was considered a threat to the country's internal and external security and had a criminal warrant against him. The crime? Endorsing a document titled "Program for the Democratization of the Republic".

In Portugal, where I was born and have lived always, 2024 marks the 50th anniversary of the end of a dictatorship that lasted for more than 40 years. In the 20th century, together with other European countries, Portugal experienced all sorts of suspensions of individual and collective rights and freedoms, rigged elections, censorship, and overseas wars in different territories where Salazar's regime insisted on colonial occupation despite international condemnation. Hunger and misery, high rates of child mortality and low education, social immobilism, stiff patriarchal conceptions of family and of women's rights, detention and torture of activists and freedom fighters are only a few of the numerous sufferings people had to endure. In countries other than Portugal, dictatorial regimes were openly more violent.

In April of 1974, in Portugal, the regime collapsed in what came to be known as "The Carnation Revolution". The following year, my grandfather, the same who had been considered a national threat, was elected to the Parliament and helped draft and approve the new Constitution that, with some minor changes, still exists to this day. I was lucky enough to be born during the first years of democracy.

But this is about me, my grandfather and my country only to a certain extent. The European Society of Criminology (ESC) was created in 2000. That is: 26 years after Portugal and Greece welcomed free elections and democracy; 25 years after the same started happening in Spain; 11 years after Ceaușescu in Romania (that will be welcoming EUROCRIM2024) was overthrown. Freedom is essential for scientific enquiry and critical knowledge, especially in areas where, as it happens with Criminology, frequently, the focus is on structural harms or on rooted social and economic causes for violence, crime and victimisation. Scientific evidence obtained from rigorous analysis and empirical research is detrimental for hateful and oppressive structures, oligarchical and atavistic powers, unequal and unjust institutions.

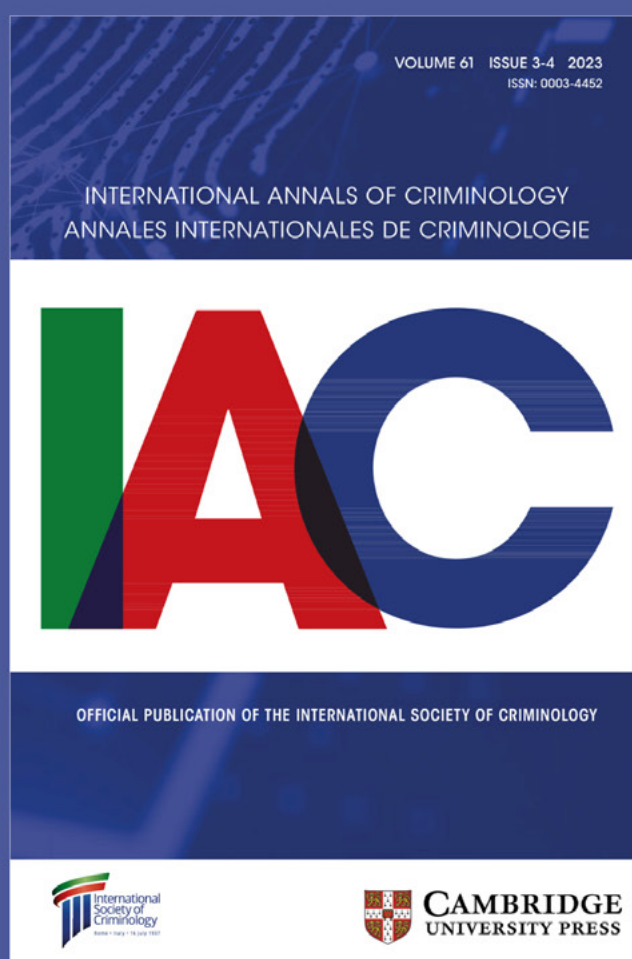
„The ESC represents the maturing of Criminology and of science in Europe.“

The rise in the number of its members, working groups (WGs) and activities, including the annual conferences, publications at the European Journal of Criminology and now including a new Summer School, should be proof of existing conditions in Europe for valuable science conducted in conditions of freedom.

However, let us not forget about the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the rise of hate speech, racism and xenophobia throughout Europe, or sweeping populist discourses on crime and justice. Europe is not the only stage for this. But the ESC has a special role in promoting criminological scholarship on a European level, certain that more just societies produce better science and that, in turn, Criminology contributes to more just societies.

Soon we will be celebrating the ESC's 25th anniversary. Let's also celebrate freedom.

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