

NEWSLETTER OF THE EUROPEAN  
SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY

2025

# Criminology in Europe

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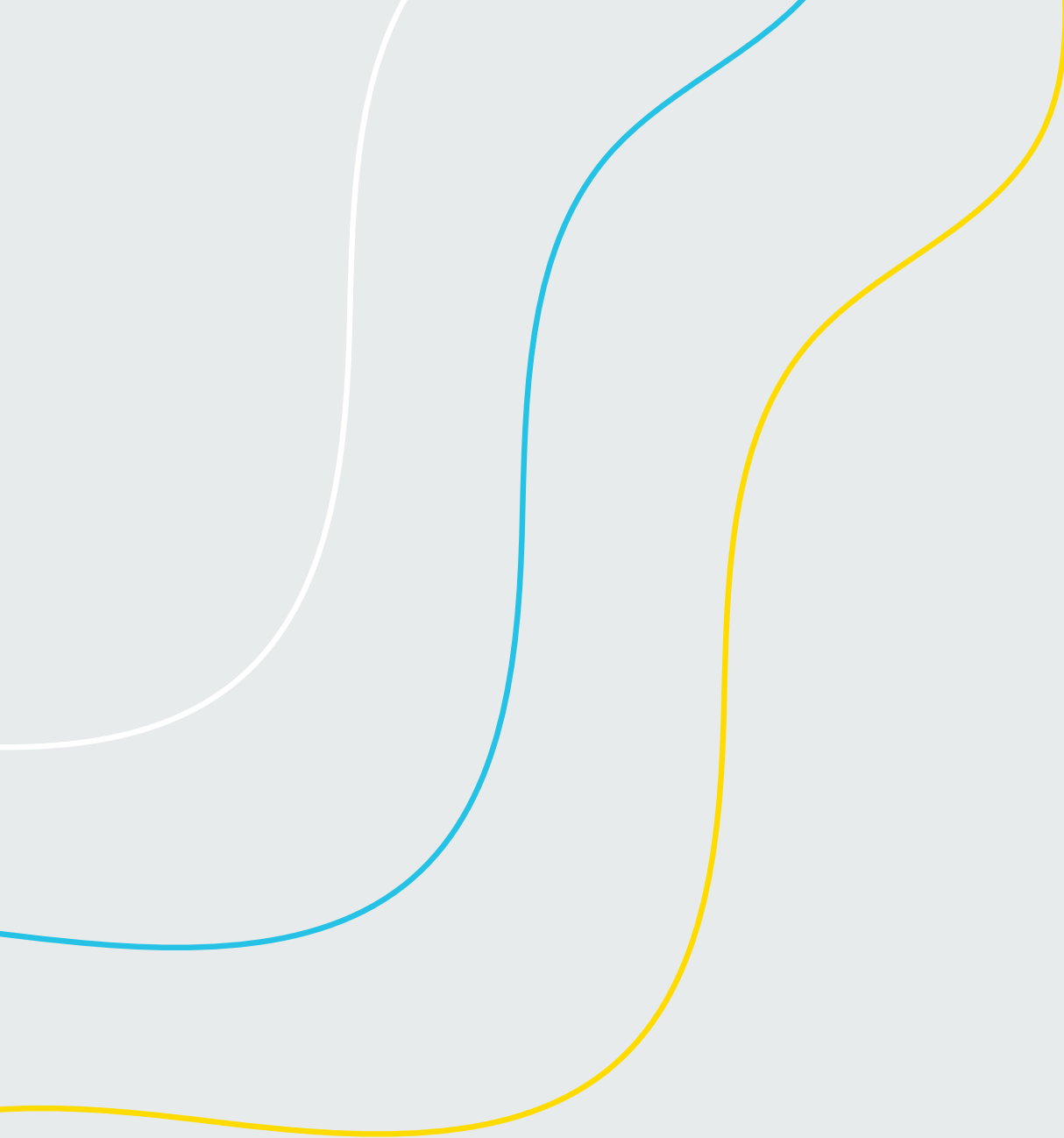
Presidential address, by Michele Burman

EUROCRIM 2025, Logos of Crime and Punishment, Athens, 3-6 September, by Effi Lambropoulou

Working group reports:

- European Working Group on Radicalization, Extremism, and Terrorism, by Elanie Rodermond and Mark Littler
- Narrative Criminology Working Group, by Jennifer Fleetwood, Fabio Poppi, Sveinung Sandberg and Alfredo Verde
- European Society of Criminology Postgraduate and Early-Stage Researchers (EPER), by Giulia Lausi and Mariana Sebastião Machado

Editorial notes, by Rita Faria



**2025/01.  
VOL. 23**

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ISSN 1729-8164

Criminology in Europe, published by the European Society of  
Criminology

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## → MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Michele Burman

# Presidential address



I am writing this presidential message at the time that many European leaders have come out to stand by Ukraine in the wake of the recent meeting between Volodymyr Zelensky and Donald Trump in the White House. At a time when Europe faces domestic unrest, budgetary constraints and political divisiveness over critical issues, it is heartening to see glimpses of unity and coalition-building in the face of the fracturing of a long-standing alliance with the US.

At the same time, the emerging socio-political realities across Europe and beyond – and the powerfully mediated public discourses about them – are playing out in an increasingly tense global context.

The up-swing of right-wing allegiances, political polarisation, the continued decline of participatory democracy, the mobilising of notions of crime and criminality to justify increased punitiveness and repressive border control regimes, rising security threats, ongoing conflicts, and the erosion of the rights of women all alongside the rising of right-wing rhetoric surrounding these realities summon themes of deteriorating democracy, power, security, marginalisation, (in)equalities and (in)justice. All the while raising questions about whether and how these issues might be addressed rather than be allowed to worsen. These are all themes with which many criminologists are deeply familiar, indeed have pursued in their scholarship.

Though a daunting task, criminological knowledge should be particularly suited to making some sense of

the current socio-political situation, of its challenges, of the possible courses and directions that may be taken and of their consequences. Sensitivity to political, spatial and temporal context is demanded in criminological scholarship and this attentiveness has served us well in the past; it has allowed criminologists to develop capacity of insight into the dynamics at play in the societies and environments within which we work and enabled us to trace the implications for both conceptualising and responding to crime. As Nils Christie (1971) wrote many years ago, changing times create new situations. They also provide opportunities. For example, in my own area of research interest, feminist criminologists have long had to exercise a keen attentiveness to underlying and changing societal forces and possibilities in order to challenge entrenched views, expand definitions of crime, victimisation and justice and widen methods and theory to enrich our (mutual) knowledge base.

In the recognition that the credibility of evidence and social science academic research is viewed at best sceptically by many, and without massively overplaying the transformative power of criminological work, how might we as criminologists be positioned to make sense of these contemporary socio-political realities and their implications for crime and justice. Of course, a fundamental question here (once again) is how can (or should) criminology as a reflexive discipline engage with politics, policies and public discourses? What are the possibilities?

**Though a daunting task, criminological knowledge should be particularly suited to making some sense of the current socio-political situation, of its challenges, of the possible courses and directions that may be taken and of their consequences.**

Whilst public criminology is, for some, highly contested both as a term and a concept, it does offer a way of thinking about possible or suitable interactions between criminological knowledge and different kinds of public engagement. Loader and Sparks (2010) in their seminal work *Public Criminology?* outlined how criminologists have variously responded to the increasing politicisation of crime and criminal justice by either seeking to 'insulate' criminological research from public discourse or by embracing the 'hot topics' of crime and justice to engage with public discourse and challenge existing structures of power and control.

As they and others have recognised, criminology is not homogenous; it spans a range of topic areas and theoretical, methodological and empirical perspectives producing different kinds of criminological knowledge that may or may not lend itself to civic engagement or purposeful action. But just as there are many kinds of criminologies, there are many different kinds of criminologists. Some of us are more attuned to critically engaging with policy, practice or public discourse than others and have crafted ways to do this. For many of us, faced with successive work deadlines and pressures, and the demands of family life, there is rarely sufficient time to reflect in any profound way on how society is changing, or the implications this may have on our work and scholarship or how we might challenge contemporary forces. Others try to make a difference through their teaching, aiming to impart a strong sense of social justice to their students. Some of us live and work in places where there are significant constraints placed on possibilities for critical interactions of academic knowledge and public engagement. For some of us, however, marshalling criminological knowledge to combat and disrupt injustice and inequality is a *raison d'être* of our scholarship; the link between academia and activism has a long history.

This is not intended to be a call to action. Rather, it is a call for critical reflection. 2025 is already a year of disruption and seismic change. The dramas of the moment are becoming increasingly consequential and signal a need for reflexivity along with some clear criminological thinking if we are to fully understand their implications for crime, punishment and justice and, in turn, for our own work. What are the challenges and the possibilities? European criminology, in its broadest sense, is vibrant and insightful and driven by intellectual energy. It is also based on rigorous scientific standards and methods. It seems timely to apply these standards in critical reflection on the current context of matters of concern, as a means of imagining and working towards fairer and socially just societies.

## Update on Eurocrim 2025

Preparations are now far advanced for our most anticipated annual event, Eurocrim 2025, to be held in Athens in September 3–6. The deadline for abstract submissions has now passed and we have received an abundance of abstracts speaking to a diverse range of criminological topics and themes. The 2025 conference, which also marks the ESC's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, will be crammed with fantastic panels, round tables, author-meets-critics and, of course, plenary sessions, all of which touch upon crucial issues of our time.



EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY





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Eurocrim 2025 promises to encompass a diverse range of theoretical, conceptual and methodological approaches, including on the dynamics and consequences of crime, violence and harm, assessments of major crime and security risks, and critiques of state and justice responses. As well as papers on the furtherance of human rights, equality and fair treatment within criminal justice systems, and on the promotion of the interests of disadvantaged communities and groups. All very pertinent to the contemporary situation, giving much scope for reflection.

With inclusivity at its core, the ESC conference will continue to provide a forum for dialogue and knowledge exchange between all criminologists on all criminological topics. It is a celebration of the diversity of our discipline. It is also an opportunity for open and scholarly discussion and debate in the spirit of collegiality and, I hope, kindness. I look forward to seeing you there.

## References

- Christie N. (1971). Scandinavian Criminology Facing the 1970s. *Scandinavian Studies in Criminology*, Vol. 43, 121-149
- Loader, I. and Sparks, R. (2010). *Public Criminology?* (Key Ideas in Criminology Series). London: Routledge.

→ EUROCRIM 2025

By Effi Lambropoulou

# Logos of Crime and Punishment, Athens, 3-6 September



In ancient Greek philosophy, *Logos* refers to universal reason, and is a foundational concept in the development of human law and morality. It involves drawing logical inferences and synthesising information into unity. Philosophy has long sought to make sense of the world through reason, and in criminology, *logos* is closely tied to the study of criminal causation and the rationale behind punishment. Generations of criminologists – whether positivists, interactionists, or critical scholars – have explored these themes.

Eurocrim 2025 offers criminologists affiliated with the ESC, along with historians, sociologists, philosophers, jurists, and psychologists, an invaluable opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions and share their work.

Athens, one of the world's oldest cities, boasts a recorded history of over 3,400 years. Revered as the cradle of Western civilisation and the birthplace of democracy, it was a centre for arts, education, and philosophy, deeply influencing Ancient Rome and the



broader European continent. During the Middle Ages, Athens became part of the Byzantine Empire, enduring frequent raids by various tribes and pirates. Despite these challenges, the 11th and 12th centuries saw the Golden Age of Byzantine art in the city, with many important Middle Byzantine churches constructed. Athens was declared the capital of the modern Greek state on September 18, 1834.

Today, Athens is a prime destination, easily accessible to participants from across the globe. The city's rich history and vibrant atmosphere make it an ideal setting for international scientific gatherings, echoing the spirit of the ancient *Agora* as a space for open exchange. According to ICCA statistics (2023), Athens ranks 11th in Europe and 15th worldwide for hosting international scientific meetings. The city is also recognised as one of the top 30 global convention tourism destinations and was ranked in the top 10 best meeting destinations for XL Meetings at the Meetings Star Awards 2022/2023.

Athens blends ancient and modern attractions. The city is home to archaeological sites, classical Greek and Byzantine monuments, Ottoman landmarks, modern art museums, galleries, and a thriving food scene. Visitors can also enjoy sandy beaches, street markets, and nearby picturesque Greek islands, offering the best of both natural beauty and urban life.

The 25<sup>th</sup> ESC Conference, organised by Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences and its Sociology Department, will be held in this vibrant city from 3 to 6 September 2025, marking the 25th anniversary of the European Society of Criminology. The conference will take place at the American College of Greece, a beautiful campus located at the base of Mountain Ymittos, surrounded by lush pines and native flora. The American College offers ample and modern facilities, providing the necessary space to accommodate a large-scale conference of this magnitude. The venue is easily accessible by metro and local buses, with organised transport services available for added convenience.

Participants have been invited to submit their re-



search papers, and accepted submissions must be registered by June 1, 2025, in order to ensure a well-organised conference experience.

Keynote speakers include scholars such as Marc Balcells Magrans (Spain), Emmanuelle Legrand (France), Marc Rotenberg (USA), Christos Tsirogiannis (Greece/Switzerland), Maartje van der Woude (Netherlands), and Lucia Zedner (UK). Their diverse perspectives will contribute to enriching discussions and innovative ideas in criminology and social sciences.

Panteion University and the Organising Committee



are honoured to host the ESC Annual Conference in Athens, the City of Athena – the goddess of wisdom *and logos*, and we look forward to welcoming you! More information about the conference can be found [here](#)!



## Useful information

Conference Venue: American College of Greece (in blue circles are the classrooms and amphitheatres)



Transportation: Blue Metro Line/stations  
P for Buses & Taxis

### Athens Metro Map



## → CALL FOR MEMORIES

For the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ESC, we are asking members to share their thoughts and reflections on what they consider to be their memorable ESC moments over the past 25 years.

Whether you recall a breakthrough in your research over a glass of wine, your first presentation, spending time with friends and colleagues, or fruitful discussions, tell us everything by sending a text no longer than 60 words to the Editor of the Newsletter ([rfaria@direito.up.pt](mailto:rfaria@direito.up.pt)). All contributions will be collated into an online memory book, or a *Livre D'Or* to celebrate the milestone.

by Elanie Rodermond and Mark Littler

## WG-EXTREME

The European Working Group on Radicalization, Extremism, and Terrorism (WG-EXTREME) explores the interaction between the criminal justice system and terrorist and extremist threats and actors broadly defined. In particular, it seeks to promote communication between scholars working in this space and aims to create a forum through which colleagues can foster greater collaborative and cross-national working.

Last year the working group organised several sessions at the ESC conference in Bucharest, in addition to a small social event at Club Bound in the Old Town. This was in addition to an online event, the third annual colloquium on Radicalization, Extremism, and Terrorism, which took place in February 2024 and was hosted in partnership with the University of Portsmouth. The event, which was attended by over 50 academics, saw more than 20 papers and roundtables take place, as well as a keynote lecture from Jakob Guhl at the Institute for Strategic Dialogue. Papers from this event, and its 2023 iteration, formed the basis of a proposal for an edited collection with Routledge (*The New Face of Online Extremism: Perspectives from an Interdisciplinary Field*) to be published later in 2025.

Moving forward, the working group is currently organising a fourth iteration of its annual colloquium, which is to be hosted in partnership with the Sapienza University of Rome in April. It is also organising an exciting programme that includes a pre-conference seminar, social events and talks around the 2025 ESC annual conference in Athens.

The working group is always happy to add new members, so for colleagues interested in joining or in case of any questions, please contact the co-chairs Elanie Rodermond ([e.rodermond@vu.nl](mailto:e.rodermond@vu.nl)) and Mark Littler ([m.a.littler@gre.ac.uk](mailto:m.a.littler@gre.ac.uk)).



## → WORKING GROUP REPORTS

by Jennifer Fleetwood, Fabio Poppi, Sveinung Sandberg and Alfredo Verde

# Narrative Criminology Working Group

The European Society of Criminology working group was established in 2016 with the aim of stimulating research and sharing knowledge in the field of Narrative Criminology. Broadly conceived, narrative criminology theorises the relationship between narrative, harm, crime, and victimisation, emphasising how stories shape individuals' actions, identities, and moral justifications. It examines how people construct, maintain, and transform their sense of self through storytelling, exploring the ways in which narratives contribute to harmful behaviour, desistance, and experiences of victimisation. In addition, narrative criminology has also expanded its scope to examine how harms can be resisted in and through narrative. This includes analysing how individuals and communities use storytelling to challenge dominant discourses, reclaim agency, and construct counter-narratives that foster resilience, justice, and social change. By focusing on narrative resistance, scholars seek to understand how storytelling can disrupt cycles of victimisation and criminalisation, offering new insights into agency, transformation, and collective action.

The aims of the network include fostering and building international research networks to support scholarship and collaboration. Since the network was established, we have organised thematic panels annually at the European Society of Criminology, bringing together colleagues from across Europe (and from further afield!) as well as organising panels and events at international conferences, including the British Society of Criminology and the American Society of Criminology.

At this year's annual conference in Athens, we will host a pre-conference workshop on narrative research methods. This session will provide a forum for scholars to exchange ideas and discuss diverse approaches to narrative analysis, fostering dialogue on methodological innovations and challenges in the field. It will also be useful for junior scholars who want a quick introduction to varieties of narrative methods. As narrative criminology continues to expand, contributions from researchers with different perspectives and expertise will be invaluable in shaping the discussion. We invite scholars to join us as we engage in critical reflections, share methodological insights, and explore the potential of narrative analysis in social research. Everyone is welcome, so please look out for us in the conference schedule when it's published.

The narrative criminology network has also been involved in hosting regular conferences, including in Genoa (2022) and Antwerp (2023), in collaboration with the COST ACTION network on 'Cultures of Victimology: Understanding processes of victimisation across Europe'.

As network chairs, we are pleased to share that an array of publications connected to the network, including the edited volume [Narrating Justice and Hope: How good stories counter crime and harm \(2025, NYU Press\)](#). We are also currently working on a special issue "Truth, Lies and Jokes: The Futures of Narrative Criminology" in the journal [International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology](#) that will be published next year.

This year, the University of Swansea will host the 5th Narrative Criminology Symposium on the theme of Narrating Harm, Narrating Hope in June. Information can be found [here](#).

ESC members can read about narrative criminology and sign up to our mailing list here on the [Narrative Criminology Research Network website](#).





## → WORKING GROUP REPORTS

by Giulia Lausi and Mariana Sebastião Machado

# The European Society of Criminology Postgraduate and Early-Stage Researchers (EPER)

As the new co-chairs of the European Postgraduate Researchers Group (EPER), we are honoured to take on this role and to contribute to the strengthening of the network of early-stage researchers in criminology. We are researchers with complementary expertise in law, criminology, psychology, and cognitive science. Giulia Lausi is a senior researcher at Vilnius University, holding a PhD in Psychology and Cognitive Science, with specialised training in gender-based violence. Her research explores gender discrimination and violence through a socio-ecological lens. Mariana Sebastião Machado is a doctoral student in Criminology at the University of Porto, where she is also a lecturer on the bachelor's degree, specialising in aggressive behaviours across different contexts and populations, with a focus on the cognitive and social processes underlying these phenomena.

Our commitment is to expand and revitalise EPER, creating a more dynamic and engaging platform for early-stage researchers. We aim to foster networking, knowledge exchange, and professional growth. Below, we outline our key objectives and actions. We count on you to help us achieve them!

**Expanding Membership and Outreach.** A key first step in our plan is to gather new members for our Working Group; we will do this through this newsletter, in which we will share our vision of the Working Group and proposed activities through reports. We will endeavour to make contact with other groups of researchers, national and international, to create connections at the European level. When our member-

ship grows, we intend to propose initiatives that can offer young researchers the opportunities to present their work and gain research autonomy.

**Revitalising the Annual EPER Meetings.** Another priority is to revitalise EPER's annual meetings, making them a forum for discussion and exchange for researchers in the different areas of criminology, through thematic sessions to address career paths, post-doctoral opportunities.

**Strengthening the EPER Communication Network.** To further support our members, we plan to develop a newsletter where early-stage researchers can: identify relevant calls for funding; announce calls for papers and publication opportunities; share their research findings; and exchange information on networking and collaboration opportunities. In addition, we intend to organise regular online meetings and dedicated sessions at the annual ESC conference. These will not only provide a platform for presenting one's research but also include workshops and seminars focusing on career development and interdisciplinary collaborations.

**Engaging with Other Working Groups.** In our vision, collaboration is essential for academic growth, and our aim is to foster relations between EPER and the other ESC working groups through webinars and joint meetings that aim to create spaces for novice researchers to engage with top academics, discuss emerging trends and address the challenges of academic life.

**Strengthening EPER's presence on social media.**

We recognise the importance of maintaining an updated and accessible online presence, essential for fostering engagement and expanding researchers' networks. We aim to actively utilise social media platforms to share research opportunities, announce upcoming events and funding possibilities, and disseminate scientific news relevant to young scholars, helping them stay informed about the latest developments in criminology.

Our goal for EPER is to create a dynamic, supportive and collaborative environment in which early-stage researchers can grow. We would like EPER to be a valuable resource for young criminology researchers across Europe. If you are interested in joining the Working Group, we warmly invite you to connect with the working group chairs. Please send an email to [mmachado@direito.up.pt](mailto:mmachado@direito.up.pt) and [giulia.lausi@tf.vu.it](mailto:giulia.lausi@tf.vu.it).

Only together will we be able to strengthen and revitalise EPER. Join us!

## → EDITORIAL NOTES

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

EUROCRIM 2025 is rapidly approaching, and soon many of the ESC members, past presidents, doctoral students, working group chairs, past and present board members, researchers from all ages and provenances will meet in historical Athens to continue the criminological discussion. Soon, the programme will be available, but until then, readers can take a look at the suggestions and recommendations that Effi Lambropoulou has left in this issue on how to get to the conference and how to enjoy the capital of Greece.

The 2025 annual conference will be especially important in the life of the European Society of Criminology because its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be celebrated with some special activities and events. For instance, a special logo was purposefully designed for the occasion, and the [newsletter blog](#) is publishing the past Presidents' best memories and remembrances of their participation in the ESC.

However, so far, 2025 has been a year to remember, eventually for many negative reasons. Michele Burman, in her presidential message, addresses all the risks and harms we have been witnessing, including the populist political rhetoric using crime and criminality "to justify increased punitiveness and repressive border control regimes, rising security threats, ongoing conflicts, and the erosion of the rights of women". In a eloquent and clear text, the President of the ESC suggests that criminologists become more engaged in helping make sense of it all, while

realistically acknowledging many of the limitations we face in our daily routines to critical and reflexive thinking about how societies are changing and how that impacts our core values and research topics.

From my perspective, the 25 years of the ESC should open the occasion for deeper and more systematic reflection on what criminology is in Europe and how it has evolved. There is ever more information about how individual countries have witnessed the development of Criminology throughout the years, but the variable rate of scientific endeavour between European countries needs better delineation and understanding. In many countries criminology is still considered a sub-field of law, which suggests a distrust of empirical sciences and prefers a conservative and normative approach to crime, criminality, the victim and the offender. This, thus, makes the criminal phenomena a preferred battleground for political opposition, with its general inattention to empirical evidence and selective blindness to phenomena such as gender violence or environmental crime. It would be interesting to know more about how criminology is actually being conducted in the various regions of Europe, particularly its institutional contexts, political liaisons, available resources (including training) and symbolic societal (ir)relevance.

Let the next 25 years open the possibility for better knowledge of the existing institutional and political conditions for Criminology, while also allowing for the methodological, conceptual and theoretical development of the field in all its many forms and perspectives.



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