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Dear colleagues,

I would like to begin by congratulating all the participants in the Annual ESC Conference, held in Florence (Italy) from September 6th to 9th. We reached a milestone with regard to the number of people registered, 2150, far above the figure achieved in 2022 at the Conference in Malaga, with 1850 participants. Notably, we all have to congratulate and be grateful to Barbara Gualco and the local team, who did difficult and excellent work to ensure that everything worked optimally. Beyond the plenary sessions, a total of 1882 panel communications were presented, 163 posters were exposed, and the six ESC Awards were given. In addition, nine fellowships were granted to attend the Conference, but only seven of the criminologists who received them managed to join us in Florence. Three of them were special fellowships for criminologists affected by the war in Ukraine.

I also would like to thank Catrien Bijleveld and Fernando Miró-Lliinares, who have completed their mandate as members of the Board, and to welcome Michele Burman as President-Elect and Anna di Ronco as the new at-large board member. This year, European criminologists will continue to be very much concerned about the war in Ukraine, and I would like to recall the Declaration of the Board against this unjust catastrophe that has devastating consequences for many adults and children. In addition to the loss of human lives and the gross violations of human rights, it also has dramatic consequences on the cultural and economic development of the affected countries, preventing Universities from carrying out their activities and criminologists from joining our conferences. Since October 7th, new concerns have been added to the current ones due to the horrific war in Palestine. The conflict occurs outside European borders but involves populations strongly connected to Europe and European politics. Research on war crimes and atrocity crimes is nowadays even more a matter of interest for criminologists. The emergency of studies and initiatives based on transitional justice will also be challenging.

Among the main achievements of the ESC, I also want to highlight the improvements in the European Journal of Criminology. It is worth mentioning the work conducted by Kyle Treiber as Chief editor, who has made it possible to publish, from January to August 2023, 84 articles (1740 pages) and to reduce the backlog and the time to make decisions on the manuscripts, although it’s not easy to engage with reviewers. The EJC will support a larger special issue, to be published soon, with 12 papers on Crime and War in Ukraine: Criminological, Legal, and Institutional Perspectives.

A new and exciting project will be a relevant element among the activities of the ESC for the next year: the Summer School, with its first edition planned for 2024 in Switzerland. The University of Lausanne has accepted the project submitted by the ESC Board, and the School will take place on the campus of that university by Leman Lake. I hope that the idea to involve the winners of the ESC Awards as teachers and trainers in various criminological fields will be
stimulating for students and target participants, who will have the opportunity to develop theoretical knowledge, improve practical skills and network with people from different countries.

Next year, European Criminology will move to the East. The 24th Annual Conference will take place in Bucharest, Romania, from September 10th to 14th. This will be an excellent opportunity to compensate for the existing imbalance between Eastern and Western countries regarding the number of participants in previous annual conferences. A local team led by Andra Roxana Trandafir is working with the Board to prepare the program.

Finally, let me introduce in this presidential message some words about my recent experience as a member and coordinator of the Commission on Sexual Abuses in the Catholic Church, created by the Spanish Ombudsman to fulfil an order of the State’s Parliament. A final Report was presented to the President of the Chamber of Deputies on October 28th, which can be found on the Ombudsman’s website. This is an achievement of international interest, since this report has been preceded by others in different European countries, such as Ireland, Belgium, Netherlands, Austria, Germany, United Kingdom, France and Portugal. It invites an international comparison, even though the studies and methods have not been based on a standard model.

The Spanish Report has been based on data collected in a 2023 survey covering a sample of the Spanish adult population (8,013 people). The survey showed that 12.6% of interviewees were victims of sexual abuse during their childhood (before 18 years old). Child sexual abuse in religious environments has affected 1.13% of adults, and the percentage of adults who were victims of abuse perpetrated by a Catholic priest or a member of a religious order is 0.6%. This figure is similar to the survey results in France (Report Sauvé, 2021). Prevalence is greater among men than among women, similar to all other countries where different studies have been conducted. It is also lower among young people, indicating the decrease in the trend after the 1960s and 1970s when most of the abuses occurred.

Beyond the apparent main responsibility of the Catholic Church, the Spanish Report has focused its recommendations on the duties of public institutions.
In 1817, during his visit to Florence, Stendhal described an experience of intense heartbeat, confusion, fainting, and even hallucinations. These are documented psychosomatic reactions of tourists and visitors of Florence when beholding the fantastic architecture and artworks or when witnessing the extraordinary beauty of the place. This medical condition became known as Stendhal’s syndrome. The French author seems to have described his reaction to frescoes and paintings as a sublime ecstasy, and, since that date, the syndrome has been registered by Italian doctors (Bamforth, 2010).

While I had no notice of any of the participants at this year’s conference in Firenze, having felt such strong reactions to the city, it was clear, from looking into social media or chatting with people in the conference venues, that there was a general sense of awe.

The location at the heart of the city centre, with venues perfectly mixing Renaissance and modernity, helped everyone feel welcomed and at ease, strolling between gelato and the next panel. With temperatures around 30º and a new record in the number of participants, some rooms were a bit too crowded and warm, reflecting the topics’ high relevance and the attendees’ commitment to be present in the various sessions. The program of the 2023 annual conference was packed with a total of 473 sessions, including pre-arranged and regular sessions and book launches. The ESC Working Group meetings were also intense and very participated. The sheer number of activities made it necessary to start earlier on Wednesday and include sessions during lunch hours. But the buzz and speed of such a vast conference could always halt if one decided to enjoy the shade in the gardens of Fuligno and Congressi/Affari.

The plenaries were well attended, and the topics were diverse and engaging. Being in Italy, an incursion into the historical origins of Criminology was expected, and we had that by Barbara Gualco at the opening ceremony and by Paul Knepper in his amazing plenary about the life and work of Lombroso. However, current times, with their speed and “liquidity”, creating new conditions and
phenomena that need new explanations, should not hinder criminologists from analysing novelty while it is happening, as Fernando Miró-Llinares defended by asking criminologists to continue studying even “during the earthquake”. Klaus Boers had already offered a comprehensive approach to life-course Criminology, an absolute masterclass on the topic that summarised the most important developments in the approach and its relevance in the study of youth delinquency; and Georgia Zara argued on the need to address ‘emotional topics’ such as sex offending based on scientific evidence and professional ethics. The plenaries also included an original perspective of Asian criminology by Jianhong Liu, who helped European scholars know more about how Criminology is developing in the continent while providing examples of concrete and relevant research. Finally, the plenaries of Saturday were dedicated to discussing two very different forms of violence or offences in two very different contexts. While Witold Klaus referred to the forms of violence deployed at Eastern borders and directed towards people of colour, Giovanna Laura De Fazio provided an overview of the phenomenon of gender-based violence and sexual harassment in Academia. The diversity of topics and perspectives was organised in plenaries according to the geographic affiliation of the speakers but also revealed the amplitude of research subjects and approaches to criminology.

Florence also testified to the recomposition of the board, with a new President-Elect, Michele Burman, and a new at-large board member, Anna Di Ronco, while Josep Tamarit-Sumalla addressed for the first time the ESC members in his new role of President. In his first speech, Josep stressed how openness is a feature of Europe and Criminology.

2023 was not only a record-breaking year in the number of participants at the annual conference, but it also witnessed an impressive number of submissions to the ESC awards. The juries had their work cut out as they analysed high-quality papers, books and CVs to select the 2023 awardees. The European Criminology Award went to Uberto Gatti, and the acceptance speech and laudation are published in this newsletter, revealing his vibrant contribution to Criminology worldwide. The jury considered that “Professor Gatti has had a stellar academic career over four decades, making him one of the most impactful and respected criminologists in Europe and, indeed, globally”. The ESC Young Criminologist Award was awarded to Jakub Drápal for his original and critical work on the sentencing of ‘multiple conviction offenders’ (those who re-offend in the phase prior to serving their previously imposed sentences), offering an “exploration of normative questions regarding the principles of sentencing, including proportionality, retributivism, censure, and consequentialist approaches”. A summary of his research interest is offered in this issue.

The European Journal of Criminology Best Article of the Year Award was offered ex-aequo to Alberto P. Chryssoulakis in recognition of his article “Morality, delinquent peer association, and criminogenic exposure: (How) does change predict change?”, published in issue 19/5 (pp 623–642) of EJC and to Leonidas Cheliotis for his article “Depression and repression: Global capitalism, economic crisis and penal politics in interwar Greece?”, published in issue 19/3 (pp 419–441) of the same journal. The jury considered that Alberto’s paper offered a comprehensive empirical study providing “a strong example of theory-driven research applying an innovative theoretical framework to a rich longitudinal dataset to test an important and fundamental relationship at the heart of the explanation of criminal behaviour, applying an insightful and multifaceted analytical approach to studying the key relationships and how those relationships change interactively over time”. And Leonidas’ article stood out because it provides “an in-depth analysis of historic events and machinations that while analysed within a particular sociohistoric context – Greece from 1928–1932 – have particular relevance in contemporary European contexts regarding links between economic affairs and government-driven discourse and policies relating to punishment.”

The ESC Early Career Award recognises the outstanding scientific achievement of an early-career European criminologist, and this year was granted to Anna Sergi, with the jury considering that “the impressive body of work as a researcher in her early career clearly meets and exceeds the standard of ‘outstanding scientific achievement’. Aside from a large number of high-quality publications, the originality of her research is also attested to by the number of external research grants and awards received”.

Finally, the ESC Book Award went to Assessing the Harms of Crime: A New Framework for Criminal Policy
(Oxford University Press, 2022) authored by Victoria A. Greenfield and Letizia Paoli, and considered by the jury as a groundbreaking contribution to the development of criminological research in a field that has received little attention both at a theoretical and empirical level, offering solid elements to place harm as a conceptual framework for empirical research, criminal policy and normative decisions.

Florence was the perfect balance between hard work and the informal coming together of criminologists from all over Europe and other continents. In “X” (former Twitter), people were challenged to find the most perfect terraza in the city. Offline, in the evening and after the conference ended, EUROCRIM participants congregated to enjoy the amazing Italian cuisine, architecture and art.

The annual conference of the ESC in Florence was the materialization of what Italo Calvino once wrote in his book *The Invisible Cities*: “You take delight not in a city’s seven or seventy wonders, but in the answer it gives to a question of yours.” Florence has more than seven or seventy wonders; and work presented during EUROCRIM2023 certainly helped answer a series of questions about all sorts of criminological topics. Future paths of research now lay ahead in preparation to EUROCRIM2024 in Bucharest.

**References**

Uberto Gatti
Acceptance Speech

From a general perspective, I believe that the construction of a European Union must not only be political and economic; it must also be based on bonds and relationships that involve universities, scientific institutions and the world of culture. In this sense, the ESC has represented a formidable tool for integration, for building relationships and for sharing knowledge that is extremely useful not only for the advancement of science but also for the construction of true European unity.

I thank the jury for awarding me this prize and, in particular, for having come up with a wonderful and generous motivation which describes me in such a way that, if I were wiser, would induce me to remain silent: by speaking I can only tarnish my image!

I am grateful to you all for granting me the opportunity, in this prestigious venue, to remember and to thank those people who have played a fundamental role in my career and my scientific pathway.

The first of these is Giacomo Canepa, Director of the Institute of Criminology of Genoa University who appointed me as a collaborator in 1967. Canepa was particularly interested in international relations: he was President of the International Society of Criminology and founded the International Center for Comparative Clinical Criminology, in collaboration with the School of Criminology of Montreal University which was, back then, directed by Denis Szabo. Thanks to this collaboration, I obtained a research grant, from the Ford Foundation, at the University of Montreal. This brought me into contact, in 1968-69, with my Canadian colleagues, with whom I still collaborate after more than 50 years. In those years, people of great interest to a criminologist were working in Montreal.

Sir Leon Radzinowicz, the founding Director of the Cambridge Institute of Criminology, wrote a hefty scientific autobiography at the age of 92 (1). I am 10 years younger and yet, owing to the emotion of the event, I am worried and uncertain as I write these few pages of thanks. Please be indulgent!

I am greatly honoured and delighted to receive an award from the European Society of Criminology (ESC) which I have considered my home since its foundation, and to which I am particularly attached.
In addition to Szabo, a pioneer of criminology in Quebec and a tireless weaver of international collaborations, I want to mention Bruno Cormier, an intellectual and a psychiatrist who was closely involved in innovative penitentiary treatment programs; Henri Ellenberger, an eminent scholar and psychiatric historian; Ezzat Fattah, one of the founders of victimology; and finally Noel Mailloux, a Dominican friar and psychoanalyst, founder of the Faculty of Psychology of Montreal, who allowed me to attend, for a year, his weekly group of psychotherapy sessions with the young inmates of Boscoville, a rehabilitation institute which was, in those days, revolutionary.

At the end of my fellowship, I went with Henrik Tham, a former President of the ESC and a fellow Ford Scholar, on a month-long Greyhound trip from Montreal to San Francisco and back via Chicago, Las Vegas, San Diego, New Orleans, the Grand Canyon and Washington. We slept on the bus at night and explored the various cities during the day: very tiring but a wonderful experience!

If I have dwelt so long on that year spent in Montreal, it is because it was certainly the most important period in my training as a criminologist. It brought me into contact with ideas and research that were far from the dominant paradigm in Italian criminology of the time, which were mainly centered around the Faculty of Medicine and still influenced by an entrenched post-Lombrosian positivism. Indeed, only some years later did an important school of critical criminology develop with a sociological orientation, introducing a new vision of crime and social control in Italy.

It should also be remembered that those were the years of youth protest. Back in 1967, we medical students had occupied the Faculty hoping to trigger long-overdue reforms. When I returned to Italy in 1969, after my Canadian experience, I found myself immersed in this wave of protest, which, in my field, swamped psychiatric hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, and prisons. Summarising as much as possible, I could say that I spent about 10 years destroying and the following 10 years rebuilding.

My main field of intervention was that of juvenile justice. With my colleague and friend Tullio Bandini, and many others, I engaged in a harsh critique of the particularly obsolete and repressive structures that dealt with deviant minors. The theoretical tools and research inspired by labeling theory provided us with useful means of demonstrating the deleterious effects of institutions dealing with young deviants in Italy, as did the influential anti-psychiatry movement founded by Franco Basaglia. Then, a major change occurred in 1977: a law transferred many tasks concerning social welfare interventions from the state to the municipalities.

Consequently, the Municipality of Genoa implemented a policy of closing down the so-called total institutions and of reorganising the system of assistance for minors in difficulty. The Municipality invited me to be a consultant to support this change. We initiated a program that involved the progressive closure of rehabilitation centers and the development of a non-sectoral welfare system that would be as decentralised as possible and open to the community. Not everything went as expected, but significant progress was nevertheless made. In working out our ideas regarding juvenile justice, a particularly precious relationship was that with Lode Walgrave (2), who had set up and coordinated an international group of experts in that field.

From a scientific point of view, my participation in the activities of the Criminological Scientific Council of the Council of Europe (3) was extremely valuable to me. There, I worked with such extraordinary people as Louk Hulsman, Donald West, Roger Hood, Friedrich Lösel, Aglaia Tsitsoura and Christian Debuyst, whose ideas and research influenced and inspired me. In particular, Martin Killias (4) favored my inclusion in international research projects and invited me to replace him for a semester as a lecturer at the University of Lausanne. I am particularly attached to this University, not least because of my subsequent collaboration with Marcelo Aebi – for five years, he asked me to teach about the history of criminology, piqued my interest in a field of study that I still maintain to this day. Killias also had the merit of putting me in contact with an extraordinary researcher, Josine Junger-Tas (5), the inspirer and coordinator of the important research project International Self-Report Delinquency Study (ISRD). Now in its fourth edition, the project is currently coordinated with equal commitment and availability by Ineke Marshall. Also in this area, and thanks to the initiative of Majone Steketee (6), I had the opportunity to participate in an important European research project on the relationship between alcohol and juvenile delinquency.
At the first meetings to coordinate the ISRD, I met Malcolm Klein, another extraordinary scholar with great skills in weaving international relationships. One of the leading scholars about youth gangs in the USA, Klein (7) made a study trip to Europe and became convinced of the need to study gangs in our continent too. For this purpose, he founded the Eurogang Network (bringing together researchers from Europe and North America), and invited me to join. I developed new research interests thanks to this participation. I conducted ethnographic research interviewing gang members in my city (8), and later suggested introducing questions concerning gangs into the ISRD questionnaire. This enabled me, with the collaboration of Sandrine Haymoz, a brilliant student of Killias, to carry out several analyses about the presence of gangs in 30 European and non-European countries (9).

This brings us to 1998, when my scientific pathway reached a turning point thanks to my collaboration with Richard Tremblay, a celebrated researcher whom I had met in 1968 at the Boscoville Center in Montreal. Inspired by the work of Robert Putnam, Tremblay asked me to conduct a study on the relationship between civicness and juvenile delinquency in the various Italian regions (10). This first investigation, which, to my surprise, was published in the British Journal of Criminology (my first publication in such a prestigious international journal), was followed by many others: on homicide, suicide, drug addiction, and so on. Tremblay generously granted me access to the databases of his longitudinal research which had been ongoing for decades. This enabled me to empirically verify theories on the iatrogenic effects of juvenile justice (11) and to test the selection, facilitation, and enhancement hypotheses to explain the association between gang membership and delinquency (12). This research was followed by further studies and a systematic collaboration that continues today.

In those years, fundamental support came from an extraordinary Dutch scholar: Hans Schadee, Professor of Statistics at the University of Milan-Bicocca. His role in analysing and interpreting the data I was collecting was essential.

So far, I have mostly mentioned foreign colleagues but there are, of course, very many Italian colleagues who have collaborated with me and to whom I owe a lot. I cannot list them all here, so I will limit myself to mentioning those from the Genoese school: Tullio Bandini, with whom I shared an extraordinary story of collaboration and friendship, Adolfo Francia, Giovanni Battista Traverso, Gianni Fossa, Gabriele Rocca, and my current successor Alfredo Verde who has brilliantly continued the tradition of involvement in international research, contributing to the development of the ESC Working Group on Narrative Criminology.

Last but not least: it is my great pleasure to thank my dear student Barbara Gualco and to congratulate her for having held high the flag of Italian criminology by organising this marvelous congress.

References


(7) Klein M.W., Kerner H.J., Maxson C.L. & Weitek,


Professor Gatti graduated in Medicine and Surgery, specialising in Developmental Psychology and Clinical Criminology. Professor Gatti has been at the forefront of academic and clinical Criminology in Europe and around the world for more than 40 years now. He is a leading world figure in the field and has made a singular and sustained contribution to the study and practice of Criminology in Europe. He has authored and co-authored 282 publications over the past 40 years. In 2011 he won the Richard J. Terrill Paper of the Year Award for the best scientific article of the year published in the journal *International Criminal Justice Review*.

Gatti's work encompasses quantitative and qualitative research in a wide variety of areas of Criminology. In addition, he also writes widely for non-scholarly audiences, thereby bringing research findings from Criminology to a much wider audience.

With regards to his scientific research activity, Prof. Gatti has dealt in particular with problems relating to the relationship between the characteristics of the community and delinquency, the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency, the phenomenology of homicide, drug addiction, and Victimology.

He carried out research activities at the Criminology Department of the Université de Montréal (1968–1969, Ford Foundation Fellowship) and at the Institute of Criminology of the University of Cambridge (1983, Council of Europe Fellowship). From 1978 to 1986 he worked as a consultant at the Services for the Protection of Motherhood, Childhood and Developmental Age of the Municipality of Genoa, participating in the organisation of the network of structures aimed at the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency.

In 1982 he was appointed expert of the Council of Europe within the Committee on "Sexual behaviour and attitudes and their implications for criminal law", with the task of organising the “Fifteenth Criminological Research Conference” which took place in Strasbourg, October 8th of 1982. From 1988 to 1993 he was a member of the Conseil Scientifique Criminologique of the Council of Europe, and as Chairman he organised and directed, in November of 1993, the “Twentieth Criminological Research Conference of the Council of Europe: Psychosocial interventions in the criminal justice system”. His work in the Council of Europe continued and, from 1996 to 1999, he was a member of the Council’s Committee of Experts on Crime Trends.

In 1990 he taught for one semester at the Criminology Department of the University of Ottawa (Canada) and for one semester at the School of Criminology of the Université de Montréal (Quebec, Canada). In 1992–93 he lectured for one semester at the Faculty of Law of the University of Lausanne (Switzerland), where he then held, from 2005 to 2010, the official course on the History of Criminology.

From 1995 to 2011 he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Centre International de Criminologie Comparée (Montréal, Canada). In 1996 he was a
foundining member of the International Network for Research on Restorative Justice for Juveniles. In 1997, on behalf of the Ministry of Justice of the Argentine Republic, he held a training course in Buenos Aires for all the staff of three new experimental prisons for young adult prisoners. Since 1998 he has been a Research Collaborator of the Research Unit on Children’s Psycho-Social Maladjustment (GRIP) of the Université de Montréal.

In 2000 he collaborated as a founding member in the establishment of the European Society of Criminology, of which he was elected member of the Executive Board in 2005. From 2002 to 2008 he was President of the Italian Society of Criminology. In 2002 he collaborated as a scientific consultant in an ISTAT (National Institute of Statistics) working group for the review of judicial statistics. Since 2006 he has been a member, as an expert, of the Regional Council for Urban Safety at the Ligurian territory.

He has organised, coordinated, and conducted numerous research projects funded by the National Research Council, the Ministry of Justice, the National Centre for Prevention and Social Defence, the International Centre for Clinical Criminology, the MIUR (PRIN 2005 as National Coordinator; MURST 2001 as Local manager), the European Union (for AAA Prevent and the 7th Framework Program – Health Theme – as National Manager), by the Municipality of Genoa, and by the Liguria Region.

He is part of EUROGANG, which brings together European and American experts on the study of gangs and has participated in the organisation of the three editions of the International Self-Report Delinquency Study, also coordinating the Italian group of researchers.

He is a member of numerous Editorial and Advisory Boards of scientific journals, including the European Journal of Criminology, the European Journal of Criminal Policy and Research, the Italian Journal of Criminology, Criminologie, Revue Internationale de Criminologie et de Police Technique et Scientifique.

In 2012, under the unanimous proposal of the Council of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery of the University of Genoa, he was awarded the title of Emeritus Professor.
Jakub Drápal

Why it took so long to identify principles of sentencing multiple conviction offenders

In Florence, I received the ESC Young Criminologist Award for my article ‘Sentencing Multiple Conviction Offenders’ (Drápal, 2023). I would like to share with you the story of its origin.

When I was little, I loved stories about explorers discovering new lands. In criminology, I am especially excited when I search for new avenues of research. (Un)fortunately, many questions still remain unanswered – or even unasked – in sentencing research. One of the unasked questions was that of how to sentence multiple conviction offenders: offenders who are being imposed a new sentence for an offence committed after they have been imposed a previous sentence, but before they have served the previous sentence. Such a situation would arise most commonly when an offender re-offends during an operational period of a suspended prison sentence. Upon discussing with judges how they sentence these offenders, some judges vehemently defended a position that these offenders should be treated more harshly than single-offence defendants, while others asserted these offenders should be treated more leniently. Such mixed reactions suggest I had found a jackpot.

Surprisingly, I did not find any scholarship on this issue. As a PhD student, I was a bit hesitant to claim that nobody had studied the topic in detail: maybe I had just conducted the literature review poorly? I made peace with the claim only after understanding why the issue was not discussed. To understand why, it is necessary to go back to the 19th century when only multiple offending and repeat offending were considered.

The moment when a court imposed a sentence and communicated it to the offender delineated multiple offending from repeat offending. Typically it did not cause any problems as sentences were served right after they were imposed.

By the end of the 19th century suspended prison sentences were conceived, by which a prison sentence is imposed but its execution is suspended for an operational period. Suddenly, offenders were re-offending before they had started to serve a previously imposed sentence. What to do with these offenders?

It is only natural for systems to retain the original conception unless pushed towards a change. Criminal justice systems were no different. As a result, any offence committed during an operational period of a suspended prison sentence was treated as repeat offending. Such an approach was also in line with the original conception of suspended prison sentences: the necessity to impose harsher sentences to offenders who re-offend during an operational period was even mentioned in the name of the 1880s French bill that invented the suspended prison sentence (Ancel, 1971).

A different discussion became possible only when late 20th century lawyers, criminologists, and philosophers started to properly develop the notion of censure. Should the moment distinguishing multiple from repeat offending be located during imposition of the sentence; or should the execution of a sentence also play a role? In other words: is a censure communicated via words or via hard treatment (expressed in different ways, not...
necessarily via imprisonment)? Censure scholarship concluded that hard treatment was important (du Bois-Pedain & Bottoms, 2019). Curiously, offenders are describing a similar thing, unaware of theoretical discussions. Prison psychologists and judges often mention that, upon asking offenders about their criminal history, they say they have never been sentenced prior to the conviction. After being confronted with being imposed suspended prison sentences, they surprisingly retort that it was just a ‘suspension’. Evidently, hard treatment matters. And for this reason, the criminal justice system needs to define a new category of offending: multiple conviction offenders.

The need to define principles for sentencing multiple conviction offenders came from the Czech Republic. It was only natural as this central European country imposes suspended prison sentences to two-thirds of all offenders and, as a result, sentencing of multiple conviction offenders is very frequent. This is evidenced by the fact that after prisoners serve their sentence, they most commonly start serving another prison sentence (release and parole are less frequent, see Drápal, 2023).

Somehow this story has a positive ending. After describing this group of offenders and the principles according to which they should be sentenced, a year later the Czech Criminal Code was amended. Judges are now directed to consider previous not-yet executed sentences so that the overall sentence would not be detrimental to the offender. Not as principled a solution as I suggested – I hoped for a more detailed provision and for a possibility to impose prison sentences below the sentencing range minimums – but tomorrow is another day.

References


Nominations sought! The deadline is 31 March.

ESC European Criminology Award

The ESC European Criminology Award is given every year to a European criminologist with a significant life-time contribution to European criminology. Nominations should be forwarded to the Executive Secretary (marcelo.aebi@unil.ch) of the ESC and to the president of the jury (aleksandras.dobryninas@fsf.vu.lt) by 31 March 2024. They must include: (1) a letter of nomination explaining why the nominee’s work warrants recognition, and (2) the nominee’s curriculum vitae. The nominees must not be current members of the ESC Board or have been members of such Board during the 3 years preceding the year of the award.

ESC Young Criminologist Award

The ESC Young Criminologist Award recognises an outstanding article by a European criminologist who was 35-years-old or younger when the article was published. The nominee must be the sole author of an article on a criminological topic published in a peer-reviewed journal in a European language within the three calendar years preceding the year of the proposed award. If the article was published Early Access (for example, as online first), the three-year period begins the year of the online publication.

Nominations should be forwarded to the Executive Secretary (marcelo.aebi@unil.ch) ESC and to the President of the jury (boers@uni-muenster.de) by 31 March of 2024 and include: (1) a letter of nomination explaining why the nominee’s work warrants recognition, (2) the nominee’s curriculum vitae, (3) a copy of the original article (only one article per nominee can be proposed each year), (4) if the article is published in a language other than English, a translation of the article into English, and (5) a description of the journal in which the article was published, including a description of its peer-review process.

ESC Early Career Award

The ESC Early Career Award recognises the outstanding scientific achievement of an early career European criminologist. The term ‘early career’ means less than ten years since the successful PhD’s defence, plus any eligible career breaks (such as maternity or paternity leave or the long-term illness of the candidate or a close family member). To demonstrate eligibility, the specific circumstances of a career break need to be properly documented.

The main criterion for recognizing ‘outstanding scientific achievement’ consists of a series of high-quality publications (such as articles in a peer-reviewed journals or monographs published by an academic publisher), some but not all of which can be co-authored. In addition, the jury can take into consideration the candidate’s proven impact on public debates, laws, policy documents or practices.
The nominees must be members of the ESC. They must not be current members of the ESC Board or have been members of such board during the 3 years preceding the year of an award. Nominations should be forwarded to the Executive Secretary (marcelo.aebi@unil.ch) of the ESC and to the President of the jury (michele.burman@glasgow.ac.uk) and include (1) a letter of nomination explaining why the nominee’s work warrants recognition, and (2) the nominee’s curriculum vitae.

**ESC Book Award**

The ESC Book Award recognises the author(s) of a book that represents an outstanding contribution to the further development of European criminology. To be eligible for the Award, the monograph or book must have been published by an academic publisher within the three calendar years preceding the year of the proposed award. Anthologies and/or edited volumes will not be considered for this Award. Sole or multi-authored monographs or books may be nominated but only one Award will be given to be shared amongst all authors.

Nominations can only be made by individuals who are members of the European Society of Criminology. They should be forwarded to the the Executive Secretary (marcelo.aebi@unil.ch) of the ESC and to President of the jury (michele.burman@glasgow.ac.uk) by 31 March and include: (1) a letter of nomination explaining why the book warrants recognition, (2) the nominee’s curriculum vitae and (3) three hard copies of the book (to be sent to the Executive Secretariat).

**Distinguished Services to the ESC Award**

This award recognises outstanding service contributions to the effective functioning of the European Society of Criminology. The nominees must not be current members of the ESC Board or have been members of such Board during the 3 years preceding the year of the award.

Nominations should be forwarded to the Executive Secretary (marcelo.aebi@unil.ch) of the ESC and to the President of the jury (jtamarit@uoc.edu) by 31 March and include: (1) a letter of nomination explaining why the nominee’s work warrants recognition, and (2) the nominee’s curriculum vitae.

For all situations, the term ‘criminologist’ refers to persons currently or formerly ‘engaged in research, teaching and/or practice in the field of criminology’ and Criminology refers to all scholarly, scientific and professional knowledge concerning the explanation, prevention, control and treatment of crime and delinquency, offenders and victims, including the measurement and detection of crime, legislation and the practice of criminal law, and law enforcement, judicial, and correctional systems’. Deadline for all nominations: 31 March 2024. More information [here](#).
Malcolm Ward Klein (1930-2023)

Criminology lost an influential scholar with the passing of Malcolm “Mac” Klein on August 1, 2023, in Los Angeles, just short of his 93rd birthday. His legacy includes a distinguished record of scholarship, institutions he fostered, and generations of scholars he influenced.

Mac made noteworthy contributions to knowledge about patterns of delinquent offending, self-report methods of crime measurement, juvenile diversion, deinstitutionalization of status offenders, community policing, program evaluation, and cross-national comparisons of these issues. Most recognized for his scholarship on street gangs, the first of several books, *Street Gangs and Street Workers* (1971), derived from two gang programs he evaluated in the 1960s.

Trained as a social psychologist, Mac studied group cohesiveness, leadership patterns, organization, and structure and how these processes influence individual and group behavior, including – but not limited to – crime and violence. He insisted that a science of gangs was predicated on common definitions and comparable research methods and did much to advance the field in these areas. Accordingly, he was recognized as a fellow by the American Society of Criminology, the American Psychological Association, and the American Psychological Society and was awarded the ASC’s Sutherland and Vollmer Awards as well as the Marvin Wolfgang Award for Distinguished Achievement in Criminology.

In the first sentence of his 1971 book, he declares, “I’ve had it with gangs.” The two of us, and generations of gang scholars, are grateful he changed his mind. Our thoughts are with his fellow traveler and wife, Margy Gatz, daughter Laurie Klein and three grandsons. We are glad he was in our lives.

Mac was an institution-builder. He chaired the Department of Sociology at the University of Southern California for 13 years and established the Social Science Research Institute there. Together with Josine Junger-Tas, he convened the first gathering of researchers that would go on to develop the *International Self Report Delinquency Study*, currently in its 4th sweep. One of his proudest achievements was the formation of the *Eurogang Research Program*. This group of international researchers encourages the use of multi-site, multi-method research to study gang activity. Over the course of 21 workshops beginning in 1998, the group has agreed upon a consensus definition of street gangs, developed common instruments, and edited six volumes reporting original research on gangs and gang-like groups throughout the world.

By Cheryl Maxson and Finn Esbensen
Over the past fifteen years, the social and behavioural sciences have navigated a crisis of replicability. Many landmark studies cannot be reproduced, and their findings cannot be replicated, leaving the credibility of many established research areas in doubt. This crisis has many causes, but much can be attributed to the way in which research is incentivised and practised within universities. The pressure to ‘publish or perish’, gain citations, or attract media attention has resulted in researchers deploying a range of questionable strategies that yield attractive results but may not accurately reflect the phenomena they studied. Criminology faced a large-scale crisis of replicability in 2020, when Justin Pickett reported significant anomalies in a set of publications from Eric Stewart, formerly a Professor at Florida State University. As a result, six articles were retracted, and one was corrected. Some of these articles had been published in flagship journals such as ‘Criminology’, ‘Justice Quarterly’, ‘Social Problems’, and ‘Law & Society Review’.

An ever-growing group of researchers concerned with the crisis of replicability argue for the creation and development of new ways of working and new infrastructures that can, in part, restore the integrity of the social and behavioural sciences. These new ways of working affect every part of the research process - from the conception of ideas through to planning, data collection, analysis, and dissemination - but all have transparency and openness as guiding principles. Accordingly, this movement is known as ‘open research’, and it is increasingly an essential feature of high-quality research. If we are to ensure the future integrity of criminology, it is crucial that we accept the responsibility to embrace open research principles and practices.

In response to this challenge, 46 criminologists, based in 13 different countries, have founded the European Network for Open Criminology (ENOC). ENOC was launched as a working group of the European Society of Criminology in September 2023, in Florence, Italy. The newly created network will bring together European criminologists interested in Open Research, aiming to become one of the driving forces for the promotion, training, application, and rewarding of Open Research practices in criminology. ENOC fosters and encourages practices that embrace openness, integrity, and reproducibility throughout the research cycle. This includes the collaborative working and transparent sharing of research methodology (e.g., pre-registration), use and development of open access software, making analytic code and data freely available online, and publishing research outputs in open access – so anyone, from any part of the world, can view and download them.
The primary goals of ENOC include sharing good practices in open research, raising awareness about the need for open criminology practices and development/training opportunities, and encouraging and promoting the use of open access repositories for academic publishing. ENOC also encourages and supports criminology journals to promote and reward open research practices and advocates for open research with funders, stakeholders, and research users. Anyone interested in joining the network can send an email to david.builgi@manchester.ac.uk.

ESC Fellowships

The European Society of Criminology (ESC) invites researchers in criminology who are involved in criminological research to apply for a fellowship to attend the annual conference of the ESC. Applicants must be based in one of the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Russia, Serbia, Turkey, and Ukraine. Priority will be given to postgraduate or early stage researchers from these countries. Up to five fellowships will be awarded each year.

Applicants must forward their applications to the Executive Secretariat (marcelo.aebi@unil.ch) of the ESC and to the president of the jury (boers@uni-muenster.de) by midnight 31 March 2024. The application must include:

1. A letter explaining why financial support is needed.
2. A short letter of support from a professor or research supervisor.
3. A detailed proposal (of approximately 1,000 words) of a paper to be presented in the next ESC conference by the candidate as sole author of the presentation.
4. A curriculum vitae.
5. Successful candidates will be notified by e-mail by 15 June of each year.

More information here.
The WG is composed by the following team:

- Chair of the ESC Victimology Working Group: Dr. Beatrice Coscas-Williams (researcher and lecturer at the Western Galilee Academic College, Israel) (since September 2019)

- Executive secretary of the ESC Victimology Working Group: Dr. Polina Smirigina-Ingelström (researcher and lecturer at DIS Stockholm and affiliated researcher at Lund University, Sweden) (since September 2022)

- Postgraduate representative of the ESC Victimology Working Group: Victoria Wozniak-Cole (Ph.D. researcher at KU Leuven, Belgium) (since March 2023)

About 50 participants attended our last annual meeting in Florence. We are in the process of updating the list of participants.

The working group’s objectives encompass promoting networking, facilitating the exchange of ideas, and encouraging research cooperation while advancing theoretical knowledge about victims and victimology and engaging in critical analyses of victim-related issues. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the group has remained highly active.
Quarterly Meetings

Since the onset of the COVID pandemic, our group has been meeting online twice yearly, in February and June. These meetings, led by the chair, are intended to share updates and discuss topics of victimology and victims’ rights. Additionally, our meetings foster discussions about the challenges researchers encounter in their research. Our meetings follow this structure: (1) Introduction of participants and their research, (2) two presentations (one presenter is a postgraduate member) and Q&A, (3) concluding remarks and a brief discussion of upcoming meetings. (the list of presentations is available upon request).

Annual Meetings

Since 2019, two annual meetings, led by the chair, were held during the ESC conferences in Malaga (2022) and Florence (2023). Previously, two others had to be conducted online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These meetings facilitate in-person exchanges, seek feedback, and invite researchers to join our group.

Newsletter

Our group issues three newsletters annually. The aim is to share information and knowledge within the ESC victimology research community. We disseminate information on upcoming events, the latest research findings and publications, insights, and developments in the field, fostering collaboration, awareness, and the exchange of ideas among the members. We also aim to promote victim-centered research, elevate awareness of victimology issues, and foster a sense of community and support among researchers, scholars, and practitioners dedicated to advancing the field of victimology in Europe (and beyond). The newsletter is a collaborative effort curated by Dr. Smiragina-Ingelström, with valuable contributions from our team and the working group members.

Promotion of Postgraduate Work

The aim is to actively involve junior scholars in the working group and seek to present, publish, and collaborate. We have successfully integrated junior scholars into the working group, actively promoting participation during the meetings and allowing them to present their work. In addition, junior scholars are encouraged to join panels/roundtables at the ESC and to publish what has been presented. The organization of panels and roundtables at the ESC 2023 included a Panel on Victim Vulnerability from a Comparative Perspective and a roundtable on The Universality of Victims’ Need for Recognition. Victoria Wozniak-Cole is responsible for curating the postgraduate representation within the working group.

Cooperation

Our group actively promotes collaboration with other research working groups and academic societies. In February 2024, we will host a quarterly meeting in collaboration with the COST program to advance research in conflict victimology. Another example is the preparation of a presentation on the archive of the father of victimology, L. Benjamin Mendelsohn, in September 2024 during the ESC Conference of Criminology in Bucharest.

Social media presence

The group maintains a presence on social media platforms, including LinkedIn and X (formerly Twitter), where we share updates about our meetings and ongoing work.
Over the years, scholars from diverse academic disciplines, geographical locations, and research traditions have studied migration, citizenship, and crime globally, considering their disciplines’ contextual peculiarities and epistemological perspectives. However, a comprehensive understanding of these domains necessitates collaboration among scholars with diverse backgrounds. Such enriching discussions and collaborations are fostered within the ESC Working Group Immigration, Crime, and Citizenship.

From 22 to 24 March 2023, the Working Group Immigration, Citizenship and Crime of the European Society of Criminology and Erasmus School of Law hosted the midterm conference “Migration, Crime and Citizenship: Interdisciplinary and Multi-Sited Research Approaches”. The conference focused on uniting migration, crime and citizenship scholars from different disciplines, geographical locations, and research traditions across Europe. Moreover, it aimed to build bridges between different insights and scholars in the migration domain. Drago Župarić-Ilijić (University of Zagreb), Giulia Fabini (University of Bologna), Amalia Campos-Delgado (Leiden Law School), and Richard Staring (Erasmus University Rotterdam) held very interesting keynote lectures in which they highlighted different approaches in migration research. About 60 scholars from various European regions attended the conference and discussed their research during interactive presentation sessions. After two days of presentations, a small group of about 20 participants gathered for a field visit to the Pauluskerk and the Royal Dutch Marechaussee to learn more about the everyday immigration practices in the Netherlands.

The organisers and participants considered it an inspiring conference that contributed to building bridges between its members, research traditions and geographical regions.

The annual conference of the European Society of Criminology held in Florence in September 2023 once again saw record-breaking participation, featuring six pre-arranged panels and seven sessions organised by the WG, covering topics such as border control and smuggling, criminality and migration, criminalisation and lack of protection of migrant children and youth, immigration detention and deportability, security and structural violence against migrants and refugees, experiences, sentiments and perceptions of migrants and against migrants, and victims and survivors of human trafficking.

During the Florence conference, a face-to-face meeting provided attending members with updates on WG participation possibilities, activities, and future plans. Specifically, it was announced that the aftermath of the mid-term conference will be a special issue collecting selected papers presented in Rotterdam. The issue, where the WG leaders serve as guest editors, will be published in Archiwum Kryminologii (“Archives of Criminology”). This is the oldest Polish criminological journal which publishes papers in Open Access, thus making them available to everyone interested. The special issue is expected to be out in the Spring of 2024.

Continuing our commitment to fostering collaboration...
and knowledge exchange, plans for the next mid-term conference are already in place. The next meeting will be held in Warsaw in Spring 2024. The conference will be hosted by the Institute of Law Studies – Polish Academy of Sciences, and a call for papers will be distributed at the beginning of the year. Mid-term conferences have slowly become a tradition of our WG, which we are determined to preserve and promote.

Last but not least, an important agreement reached at the assembly will mark the next era of the WG. In the coming months, the working group will undergo a renaming process involving proposals and voting among members. The aim is to choose a name that better captures the research concerns of this vibrant academic community. Stay tuned for updates!
By Mònica Pons Hernández and Avi Brismanx

Researching Green Criminology in Europe (3)
The number of Southern European researchers studying issues in green criminology is soaring

Green criminology refers to the study of environmental crimes and harms affecting human and nonhuman life, ecosystems, and the biosphere. This entails the exploration and analysis of the causes, consequences and pervasiveness of environmental crimes and harms, the responses to and prevention of environmental crimes and harms by legal systems (civil, criminal, regulatory) and by nongovernmental entities and social movements, as well as the way(s) in which environmental crimes and harms are constructed, represented and envisioned by news media (online, print, etc.) and social media and in popular cultural forms (e.g., art, books, films). Although this “sub-field” of or “perspective” within criminology is in (at least) its fourth decade, green criminology is still evolving, and interest in particular environmental problems continues to increase.

For example, at the 15th Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology (ESC) in Porto, Portugal, only a handful Southern European researchers presented work dealing with environmental crimes and harms. By the time the next ESC conference was held at a Southern European venue—Málaga, Spain, in 2022 and, then Florence, Italy, in 2023—the situation had changed dramatically. Today, the number of
Southern European researchers studying issues in green criminology is soaring, which reflects heightened awareness regarding threats to Earth’s ecosystems and species, and growing recognition that criminology has much to contribute to our understanding of these crises and to ways of addressing them.

Previous issues of this newsletter have highlighted the emergence and development of green criminology at the Criminology Department of the Erasmus University Rotterdam (Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam) and in Scandinavia. Here, we note just some of the recent research on environmental crimes and harms in three Southern European countries—Italy, Portugal, and Spain.

In Italy, Phillip William Screen, Serena Favarin, and Cosimo Sidoti of Transcrime (the Joint Research Centre on Innovation and Crime of the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, the Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna, and the Università degli Studi di Perugia) have undertaken empirical research on the investigation procedures of law enforcement agencies for waste crimes. Emilia Ziosi of the University of Milan (Università degli Studi di Milano) has turned her gaze skyward, contemplating current and future space-related environmental harms. In addition, we call attention to two books by Lorenzo Natali of the University of Milano-Bicocca (Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca), Green criminology: Prospettive emergenti sui crimini ambientali (2015) and A Visual Approach for Green Criminology: Exploring the Social Perception of Environmental Harm (2016), as well as to the recent monograph, Policing Environmental Protest: Power and Resistance in Pandemic Times, by Anna Di Ronco of the University of Essex.

In Portugal, Rita Faria of the University of Porto (Universidade do Porto), long known for her work on white-collar crime, research ethics, and qualitative methods, has moved into the area of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. At a seminar entitled “Environmental Crime and Gender,” held the day before the ESC conference in Málaga in 2022, Dr. Faria discussed the intersection of IUU fishing and hegemonic masculinities in Southern European societies, bringing an added dimension to our understanding of the nexus of wildlife crime and gender.

Finally, the Green Criminology Working Group (Criminología Verde) of the Spanish Society of Criminological Research (Sociedad Española de Investigación Criminológica or SEIC), founded in 2021, is actively engaged in promoting activities aimed at increasing and making visible the work done for the field by SEIC members. Among other endeavors, the group has organized a special issue on green criminology in the Revista Española de Investigación Criminológica (REIC). This special issue includes, inter alia, articles on the laundering and black-washing of wildlife in Spain and other European countries, by Aitor Ibáñez Alonso of KU Leuven (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven) and Daan van Uhlm of Utrecht University (Universiteit Utrecht); the role of Spain in the global supply-chain of trafficked wildlife by Mònica Pons Hernandez of the University Rovira i Virgili (Universitat Rovira i Virgili); the illegal dumping of solid waste in Mérida (Badajoz) by Lorea Arenas García of the University of Extremadura (Universidad de Extremadura); and restorative justice for crimes against ecosystems and nonhuman animals by Gemma Varona, based in the University of the Basque Country (Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea or Universidad del País Vasco), which drew on interviews of individuals convicted in Catalonia and the Basque Country.

The above-mentioned research and scholarship represent just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. While the polar ice sheets are shrinking at an alarmingly rapid rate, green criminology is tracking in the opposite direction, and there is an increased amount of environmental crime and harm that needs to be investigated, examined, and assessed around the world and, for our purposes, in Europe, in particular. Examples include climate change−induced heat waves, offenses to and against wildlife, habitat loss due to (poor) urban planning, and the role of Europe in exporting harm (e.g., waste) to the Global South. The list continues, but opportunities for criminologists to engage with such issues abound.
Roughly a year ago, I was nominated Editor-in-Chief of “Criminology in Europe”, the European Society of Criminology newsletter. The start of the process was bumpy, and the whole endeavour was, overall, a bit scary. I was following up on the work of remarkable colleagues who managed to put together 20 issues of this outlet intended to communicate some of the most relevant news of the Society to its members.

The newsletter is crucial to communicating awards and news, informing about the work of the growing number of very active working groups, letting ESC members know about the presidents they elected for the Executive Board, seeking nominations, preparing elections and releasing news about the ESC annual conferences and its growing trends. This year, the newsletter also included a dossier on Green Criminology and Environmental Crimes. And the ESC blog has been periodically updated with news, events and job opportunities, as well as new publications and other worthy information.

The newsletter pulses with the ESC activities. It rhythms with the work of hundreds of people dedicated to expanding Criminology in Europe and elsewhere.

The path towards the society’s 25th anniversary is steadily being made, and I feel immensely honoured to have the chance to be in the position of Editor in such a hallmark. For next year, a series of novelties are being prepared, and I hope the newsletter readers find them exciting and representative of their experiences with the ESC.