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Criminology in Europe

02.

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Josep M. Tamarit-Sumalla

European Criminology needs a European victimisation survey



The European Society of Criminology (ESC) is now a consolidated and exciting project. The annual conferences, with an increasing number of participants, and the European Journal of Criminology, are probably its most visible facets. 2024 brings a new stimulating achievement: the ESC Summer School. However, this project advances while the European criminological community still faces a significant challenge: the need for a pan-European crime victimisation survey that provides researchers with baseline data to study crime trends across the continent and to identify differences between countries and geographical and political areas. As Catrien Bijleveld reminded us one year ago (2023), this is a significant gap regarding the availability of European data for criminological research.

It is not the first time I argued that filling this gap must be a priority for the ESC. But it is worth remembering that this is, first of all, an obligation of the institutions. The Recommendation CM 2023/2 of the Committee of Ministers to the Member States on rights, services, and support for victims of crime, mandates States to “promote, support and, to the extent possible, fund or facilitate fund-raising for victimological research, including comparative research by researchers from within or outside their territory” (art. 25). This regulation goes further and includes more concrete recommendations. Art. 25-2 explicitly refers to certain areas of research: criminal victimisation and its impact on victims; prevalence and risks of criminal victimisation including factors affecting risk; the effectiveness of legislative and other measures for the support, compensation and protection of

victims of crime; and the effectiveness of available interventions by criminal justice authorities, victim services and restorative justice programmes. The Council of Europe also recommends public and private agencies cooperate in sharing expertise, nationally and internationally (art. 25-4). These provisions require a commitment from national authorities and we, as researchers, should do our part to make things happen.

After the Survey published in 2005 (*The Burden of Crime, 2005*), a further initiative was carried out by a consortium formed by the University of Tilburg and the University of Lausanne, with Jan Van Dijk, Marcelo Aebi, John van Kesteren, and Antonia Linde as active members. Several interim reports were discussed by the Eurostat Working Group on Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics, the Task Force on Victimisation Surveys, and the DG JLS Expert Group on the Policy Needs of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics. The final report (2010) assessed the current situation regarding the collection of survey data on victimisation in Europe, described the results of pilot surveys in 17 countries undertaken to develop a victimisation module for Member States, produced a suitable questionnaire for a survey, and an overall review of the options for a final victimisation study in the EU.

These precedents, together with experiences from national and local surveys in various European States, regions or cities, and the UN Manual on victimisation surveys (2010) should assist the tasks of an international team of experts, with the necessary support and funding by institutions in various countries. As it is well known,

the contributions of a victimisation survey go beyond the interests of victimological research related to understanding the factors associated with victimisation and its effects. An international standardised survey provides valuable information to compare crime data without the obstacles derived from divergent legal rules, criminal justice practices and national statistics. It also helps researchers to find out crime trends at the European level and to make recommendations to Member States, based on a better comprehension of the local peculiarities.

In addition, a victimisation survey is also an opportunity to collect information on aspects that are increasingly relevant for the policies of national and supranational institutions: those related to victims' rights. It is paradoxical that since 2005 no victimisation survey has been conducted at the European level, while in this nearly twenty-year period, several recommendations from the Council of Europe and various European Union Directives have been approved, setting higher standards regarding victims' rights. Among these, a highlight of the mentioned Recommendation CM 2/2023 and the Directive 2012/29/EU establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime. It is worth mentioning the exceptions to the lack of initiatives, namely the 2021 survey carried out by the FRA (EU Agency for Fundamental Rights) within the scope of EU countries (despite being constrained by certain shortcomings), and sectorial surveys regarding certain forms of victimisation.

The survey required in the current context should be conceived based on a vocation for continuity and needs to be robust enough to have a representative sample of the population from a significant number of countries. It should also obtain a sufficiently large subsample of victimised individuals. This would allow researchers not only to get to know the reporting rate, but also relevant aspects regarding how their rights have been fulfilled: whether victims have accessed specialised support services, the victims' satisfaction with the attention received, and how various agents of the criminal justice system (primarily police and courts) have met their obligations to provide information and ensure the victims' participation in the criminal process, as well as protection against secondary victimisation.

Another paradox lies in the fact that the absence of a European victimisation survey has persisted during the

growth of the ESC, especially considering that issues related to victims have had an increasing presence in the research carried out in the criminological community, as shown by Vander Bekken's study (2021). This has been confirmed with data from the abstracts presented in the ESC Conferences until 2023 through a recent study I will have the opportunity to present at the inaugural session of the next ESC Annual Conference, in Bucharest.

I look forward to discussing these issues with colleagues from many countries in Bucharest. Let us do it with the inspiration provided by the memory of Benjamin Mendelsohn's work. For months, a group of people have been working on translating part of his work to English, bringing valuable pieces of his legacy to our Conference and I am pleased that these efforts will soon be rewarded by the applause of the entire criminological community.

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Marcelo F. Aebi and Grace Kronicz



In brief

The 23rd Annual European Society of Criminology (ESC) meeting, held in Florence, Italy, in September 2023, marked a year of unprecedented growth and success for the society. Key highlights include:

- Record-breaking membership: ESC membership reached an all-time high of 2,175 members, a 26.7% increase from the previous year.
- Global representation: Members from 59 countries across five continents, with 79.5% from European countries and 20.6% from non-European countries.
- Exceptional conference attendance: Eurocrim 2023 in Florence drew 2,484 participants, a 32.5% increase from the previous year's conference in Malaga.
- Awards recognition: Five prestigious awards were presented, including the ESC European Criminology

Award to Professor Uberto Gatti, and two recipients for the EJC Best Article of the Year 2022 Award.

- Growth of student membership: Student members accounted for 24% of the total membership, highlighting the ESC's commitment to nurturing the next generation of criminologists.
- New initiatives: Plans for the first ESC Summer School in 2024 were announced, to be held at the University of Lausanne.
- Ongoing projects: The European Criminology Oral History Project (ECOHO) conducted several interviews with prominent criminologists.
- Elections: Michele Burman was elected as President-Elect, Anna Di Ronco as an At-large Board member, and Uberto Gatti as Auditor.

This year's achievements demonstrate the ESC's resilience post-pandemic, its expanding global influence and its continued commitment to advancing criminological research and dialogue across Europe and beyond.

Trends in ESC membership from 2001 to 2023

The year 2023 marked a significant milestone in the history of the European Society of Criminology (ESC), with membership reaching an unprecedented high of 2,175 members (see Figure 1). This represents a remarkable increase of 26.7% from the previous year's 1,717 members, which was itself a record at the time. The substantial growth in 2023 further solidifies the upward trajectory that the ESC has maintained since its inception in 2001, despite occasional fluctuations.

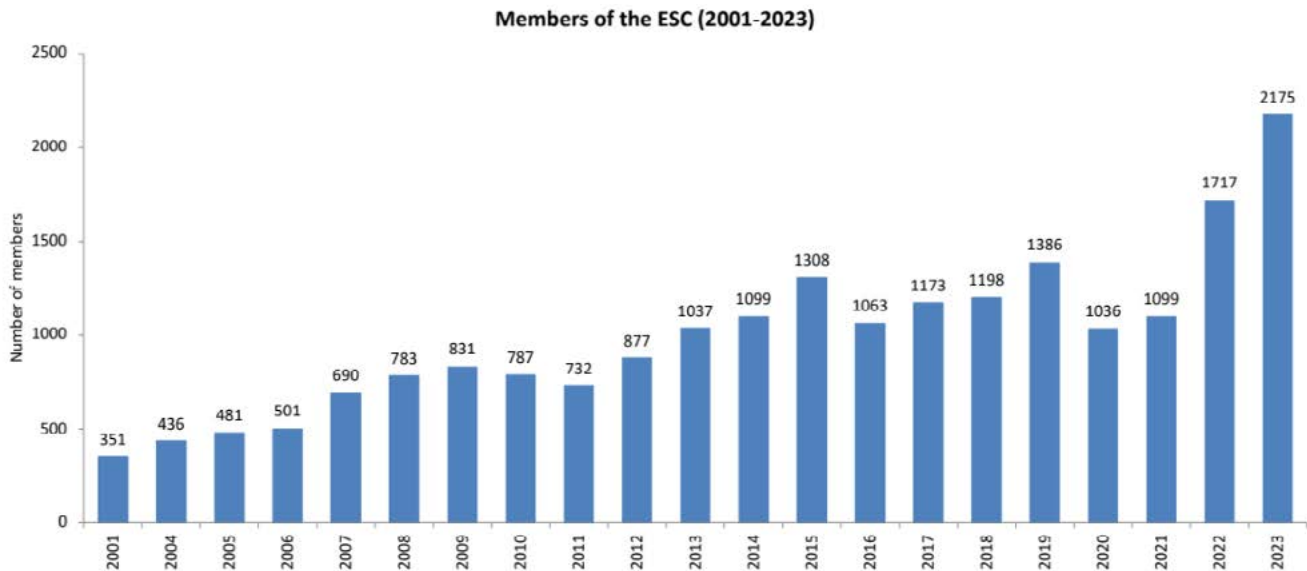


Figure 1

The resilience and appeal of the ESC are evident in its membership trends over the past few years. Following a dip in membership during the COVID-19 pandemic years of 2020 (1,036 members) and 2021 (1,099 members), the Society has not only rebounded but has surpassed all previous records. This growth trajectory demonstrates the ESC's ability to adapt to challenging circumstances and its continued relevance in the field of criminology.

It is noteworthy that the proportion of student members has remained relatively stable, accounting for 24% of the total membership in 2023. This consistency in student representation (516 out of 2,175 members) underscores the ESC's ongoing commitment to

nurturing the next generation of criminologists and maintaining a balanced demographic within its ranks

Geographical distribution of ESC members in 2023

The year 2023 saw a remarkable diversity in the geographical distribution of ESC members, reflecting the Society's growing international reach and influence. With a total of 2,175 members from 59 countries (62 if figures for the United Kingdom are broken down by nations) across the five continents, the ESC truly exemplifies a global community of criminologists (see Figure 2).

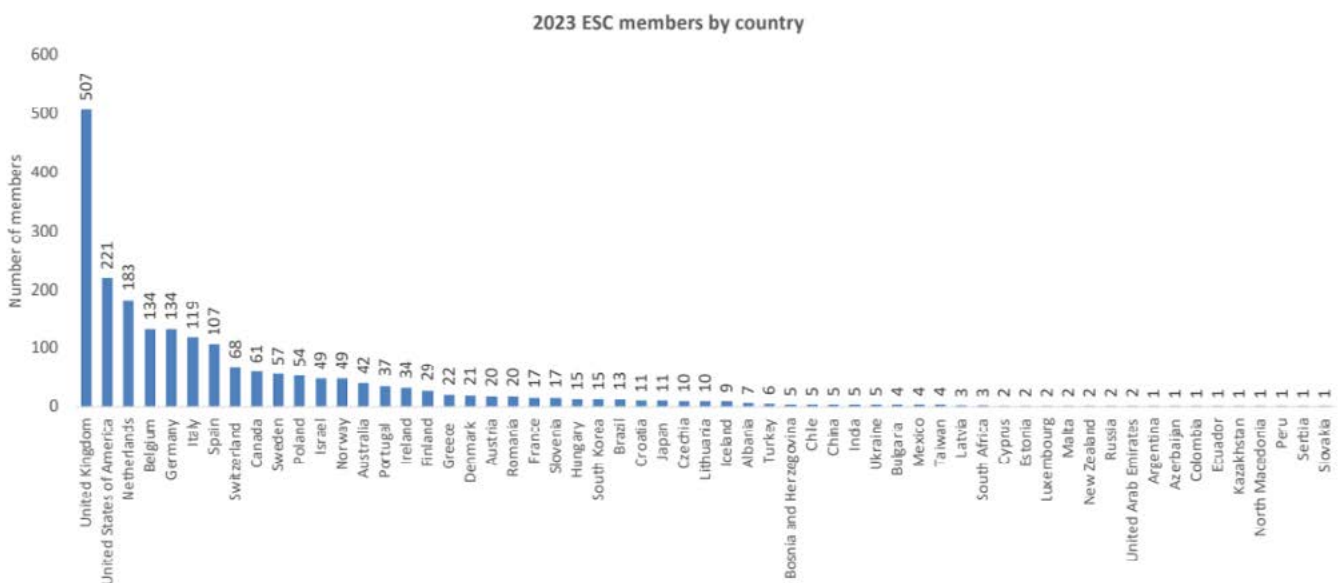


Figure 2



European countries continued to form the backbone of the Society, accounting for 79.5% of the total membership. However, the significant representation from non-European countries (20.6% or 447 members) underscores the ESC's expanding global appeal.

The United Kingdom maintained its position as the country with the highest number of members, contributing 507 individuals or 23% of the total membership. This was followed by the United States of America with 221 members (10%), highlighting the strong transatlantic ties within the criminological community.

The Netherlands, Belgium, and Germany rounded out the top five, each contributing over 130 members and collectively accounting for about 21% of the total membership. This strong representation from Western European countries reflects the historical roots and ongoing strength of criminological research in these nations.

Southern European countries also showed a robust presence, with Italy and Spain each contributing over 100 members. The Nordic countries collectively accounted for about 7% of the membership, with Sweden leading at 57 members, followed closely by Norway and Finland. This reflects the continued importance of the Nordic criminological tradition within the ESC. Switzerland, despite its smaller population, had a notable representation with 68 members, indicative of its strong tradition in criminological research. Central and Eastern European countries showed growing representation, with Poland

leading at 54 members, followed by Romania, Slovenia, and Hungary. This increasing participation from Central and Eastern Europe demonstrates the ESC's success in fostering pan-European criminological dialogue.

Beyond Europe, Canada (61 members), Australia (42 members), and Israel (49 members) showed strong participation, further emphasizing the global reach of the Society. The presence of members from diverse countries such as South Korea, Brazil, Japan, and South Africa, among others, highlights the ESC's role in facilitating global criminological exchanges.

It's worth noting the participation from countries with emerging criminological communities, such as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and several Latin American nations. This diverse representation not only enriches the ESC's academic discussions but also promotes the global development of criminology as a discipline. In conclusion, the geographical distribution of ESC members in 2023 reflects a truly international community of criminologists. While maintaining its strong European base, the Society continues to attract members from across the globe, fostering a rich environment for cross-cultural and comparative criminological research and dialogue.

Eurocrim 2023 in Florence: The 23rd Annual Meeting of the ESC

The 23rd Annual Meeting of the ESC, Eurocrim 2023, held in Florence, Italy, was an extraordinary success, setting a new record for conference attendance. The event drew an impressive 2,484 participants, marking a substantial increase of 32.5% from the previous year's attendance of 1,875 in Malaga (see Figure 3). This exceptional turnout at Eurocrim 2023 reflects several key factors including the strong rebound of in-person academic gatherings following the constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the growing reputation and influence of the ESC in the field of criminology, the quality and relevance of the conference program, attracting both long-standing members and newcomers to the field, and the enduring appeal of Florence as a destination, combining thus a rich cultural heritage with academic excellence.

Participants in ESC Conferences, 2001-2023

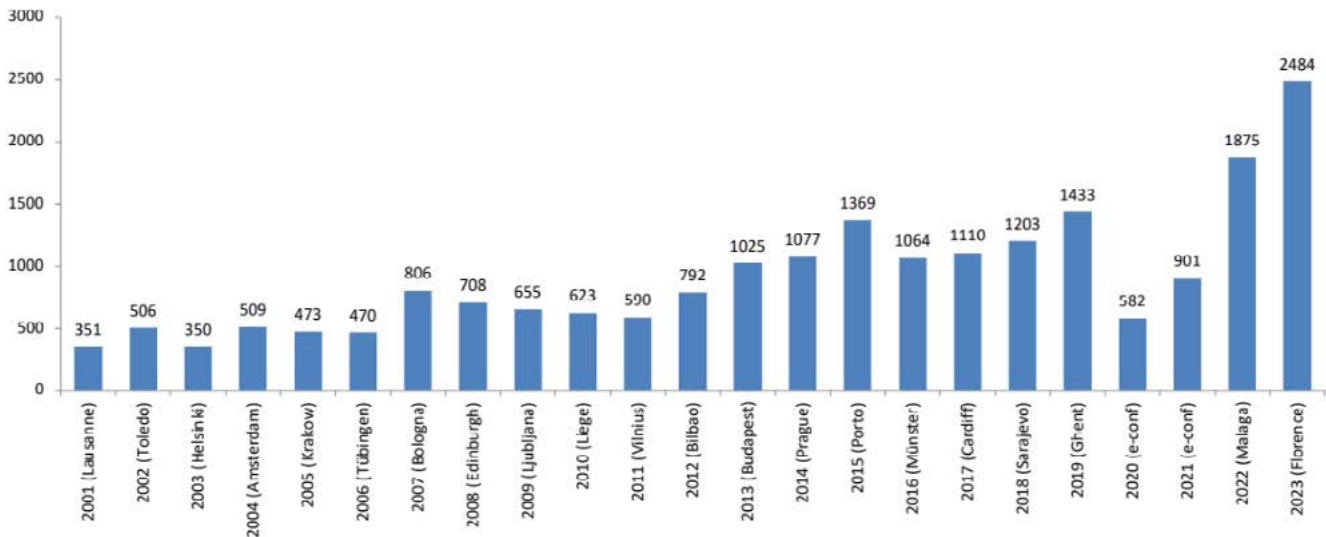


Figure 3

The record-breaking attendance at Eurocrim 2023 aligns closely with the significant increase in ESC membership for the year. This parallel growth underscores the symbiotic relationship between the Society's annual conference and its membership base, with each reinforcing the other's success.

In conclusion, the year 2023 represents a landmark in the ESC's history, characterized by unprecedented growth in both membership and conference attendance. These achievements not only demonstrate the Society's recovery from the challenges posed by the global pandemic but also highlight its expanding influence and appeal within the international criminological community.

ESC Awards

In 2023, the ESC continued its tradition of recognizing excellence in criminology by presenting five awards: The ESC European Criminology Award, the ESC Young Criminologist Award, the European Journal of Criminology (EJC) Best Article of the Year Award, the ESC Early Career Award, and the Book Award. The awardees received their plaques and diplomas during the opening ceremony of the 2023 Eurocrim conference in Florence, Italy.

2023 European Criminology Award

The 2023 ESC European Criminology Award, which recognizes a lifetime contribution to European

criminology, was presented to Professor Uberto Gatti. The award committee, composed of former ESC presidents Lesley McAra (chair, University of Edinburgh), Aleksandras Dobryninas (Vilnius University), and Catrien Bijleveld (NSCR and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands), highlighted Professor Gatti's stellar academic career spanning four decades. They noted his significant impact on European and global criminology, with over 280 heavily cited and prize-winning publications covering a wide array of topics within criminology and criminal justice. The committee also recognized his substantial influence on public policy, particularly his work with the Council of Europe, and his efforts in building criminological research capacity through networks such as EUROGANG and the International Self-Report Delinquency Study. In particular, the award committee 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. With over 280 heavily cited and prize-winning publications, he has researched, written and published on a wide array of topics within criminology and criminal justice – from the impact of community dynamics on crime, to the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency, and the phenomenology of homicide, drug addiction, and victimology.

His impact on public policy has been significant and he has been a member of many important advisory

groups. Of particular note has been his work on behalf of the Council of Europe, bringing his expertise to bear on a myriad of critical policy issues, for example: sexual behaviour; psycho-social interventions; and crime trends. His commitment to bettering systems for those coming into conflict with the law is evidenced through his leadership of training for all staff in three experimental prisons for young adult offenders (a commission from the Ministry of Justice, Argentina); and the consultancy roles he has undertaken on services for the protection of motherhood, childhood and developmental age (Municipality of Genoa), and urban safety (Liguria). Truly an example of knowledge made useful.

Over his career he has helped to build criminological research capacity, with membership of the prestigious EUROGANG network (bringing together researchers from Europe and North America), and the International Self-Report Delinquency Study (ISRD-1, 2 and 3) (a ground-breaking resource for international comparative work on crime trends) in which he also led the Italian group of researchers. The esteem in which he is held is evidenced through appointments to lead significant applied research programmes including funding from the European Union, the National Centre for Prevention and Social Defence, and the International Centre for Clinical Criminology.

Professor Gatti is a consummate academic citizen and has taken on a number of editorial roles in journals such as the European Journal of Criminology and the European Journal of Criminal Policy and Research."

2023 ESC Young Criminologist Award

Jakub Drápal received the 2023 ESC Young Criminologist Award for his article "Sentencing Multiple Conviction Offenders," published in the European Journal of Criminology. The award committee, consisting of Lesley McAra (Chair, University of Edinburgh), Olga Petintseva (Ghent University, Belgium), and Rita Faria (University of Porto), praised Drápal's focus on the under-researched area of sentencing multiple conviction offenders. They commended his comparative approach, theoretical contribution to sentencing principles, and the clear policy and research implications drawn from his work. In particular, the award committee considered that:

"Drápal's article focuses on the under-researched area of the sentencing of (what he terms) 'multiple conviction offenders' (those who re-offend in the phase prior to serving their previously imposed sentences). Taking a comparative approach, with examples from a range of jurisdictions (including the Czech Republic, Germany and the US), as well as 43 European penal codes, its theoretical contribution stems from his exploration of normative questions regarding the principles of sentencing, including proportionality, retributivism, censure, and consequentialist approaches. The article draws out carefully the policy and research implications, concluding that there is a need to develop a novel set of guidance for sentencers. The article has been carefully researched, the argument driven with precision and is clearly evidenced. The Committee was especially impressed by the scope of the paper and the policy and research implications."

EJC Best Article of the Year 2022 Award

The ESC European Journal of Criminology Best 2022 Article award was presented to two outstanding articles, reflecting the exceptionally large pool of potential papers due to efforts to reduce the journal's backlog. The award was shared ex-aequo between Alberto P. Chrysoulakis and Leonidas Cheliotis.

Alberto P. Chrysoulakis was recognized for his article "Morality, delinquent peer association, and criminogenic exposure: (How) does change predict change?", published in issue 19/5 (pp 623-642) of the *European Journal of Criminology*. The award committee, composed of Klaus Boers (ESC President), Aleš Zavrník (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, and winner of the Award in 2022), and Kyle Treiber (University of Cambridge and EJC Editor-in-Chief), praised the article for its strong empirical essence and original theory-driven research. They highlighted its exploration of moral development in late adolescence and its application of the Situational Action Theory's Developmental Ecological Action model to a rich longitudinal dataset from Sweden.

Leonidas Cheliotis received the award 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 *European Journal of Criminology*. The committee commended

this paper for its in-depth analysis of historical events in Greece from 1928-1932, noting its particular relevance to contemporary European contexts regarding links between economic affairs and government-driven discourse and policies relating to punishment. They appreciated the richness of contextualization, narrative, and critique that set this paper apart.

Both papers were recognized for their significant contributions to criminological knowledge and their potential to stimulate further reflection and research in their respective areas. In their recommendation of Alberto P. Chrysoulakis' article to the ESC Executive Board, the award committee, composed of Klaus Boers (ESC President), Aleš Završnik (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, and winner of the Award in 2022) and Kyle Treiber (University of Cambridge and EJC Editor-in-Chief). Their recommendation to the ESC Executive Board stated:

"A nominating Board Member wrote that this paper's 'combination of a theory-driven research question from the (under-researched) DEA model and statistical approach makes a very good contribution to developmental research.'

The jury agreed that this article reflects the strong empirical essence of the EJC, presenting original theory-driven research that cuts across levels of analysis – individual and environmental, situational and developmental, direct relationships and change over time. The theory tested (Situational Action Theory: SAT) was developed in Europe, the data (Malmö Individual and Neighbourhood Study: MINDS) was collected in Europe, and the analyses showcase a multi-layered analytical approach developed by European scholars.

The study explores moral development in late adolescence and finds a relationship between reductions in morality and increases in association with delinquent peers. It represents one of the first tests of SAT's Developmental Ecological Action (DEA) model, a novel framework for explaining criminal careers within the domain of developmental and life-course criminology. It applies this framework to a seminal issue in developmental and life-course criminology: the influence of peer associations on the acquisition of crime propensities. It also considers the role of self-selection in young people into criminogenic contexts.

The data is drawn from a rich longitudinal dataset spanning five waves with a random population sample of young people in Malmö, Sweden, from ages 12 to 19. Data from ages 16 to 19 (three waves) are used for this paper. Morality was measured through six items indicating how wrong participants rated various acts of criminal rule-breaking. Delinquent peer associations were measured using self-reported indicators of peers' involvement in similar acts of criminal rule-breaking. Criminogenic exposure was measured using an innovative space-time budget method that tracked participants' activities and locations spatiotemporally.

The analyses involve linear growth models to explore changes in the key variables over time, and path analyses to model the relationships between parameters of these models. These advanced methods are clearly presented and appropriately matched to the hypotheses being tested. The findings indicate both within and between individual differences. Patterns of delinquent peer association, in particular, differed between participants. Morality followed a more general trend and little change was observed in criminogenic exposure.

Path analyses indicate that changes in peer association were associated with subsequent changes in personal morality (increases in delinquent peer association were associated with subsequent decreases in personal morality). The finding that changes in peer association predicted changes in morality, independent of initial and concurrent levels, provides important support for the contention that the two may be causally interrelated.

All in all, we felt this paper represents a comprehensive empirical study that provides 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."

Similarly, in their recommendation of Leonidas Cheliotis' article to the ESC Executive Board, the award committee stated:

"Nominating Board Members wrote that this paper's

'relevance extends across both space and time, given the recurring manifestation of global economic crises', that 'it provides a compelling narrative the lessons of which apply to a number of jurisdictions', and that it is 'is likely to stimulate further reflection and research.'

The jury agreed that this paper provides an in-depth analysis of historic events and machinations that while analysed within a particular sociohistorical 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. It also does so with a richness of contextualization, narrative, and critique that sets it apart.

This paper sets out the importance of the topic effectively in the context of 'ways in which state punishment is influenced by economic and political forces' (p. 420) and proposes to address gaps in knowledge through an exploration of the situation in Greece when it experienced an economic crisis concurrent to a shift in government political orientation with the Liberal Party returning to power. The paper examines the impact of the Wall Street crash in the context of Greece's economic history and the Liberal government's response in relation to discourse and policy on punishment.

The paper details the repression of dissent, using anti-communist rhetoric. The idiom is highlighted as providing the state with far-reaching powers of suppression. The paper provides an analysis of custodial sentences generally and specifically for offences 'against the security of the state' during this period, drawing on data reported by Rizopastis and the National Statistical Service of Greece; the scope and quality of this data could have been discussed. The role of one-membered tribunals is also highlighted.

We felt that while the paper discusses in the final sections links between the experiences depicted in Greece and other sociohistorical events in other contexts, this contribution could have been enhanced through a more developed general discussion situating the findings in a broader context. What is the relevance to other jurisdictions, under particular sociohistorical circumstances? What applicable lessons are learned? The two drawn out in the conclusion are that 'economic crisis can outweigh the welfarist outlook of

an incumbent party to prompt malign penal effects' and 'the origins of penally adverse economic pressures are likely to lie at least in good part in the international sphere' (437). These insightful points might have been further developed in the context of other experiences historically and internationally and discussed in light of experiences that have not unfolded in the same way. The final few paragraphs do provide a taste of this and note that developing these points should be a next step, and we agree that the paper provides an opportunity and plenty of food for thought to reflect upon current economics and political developments across Europe (and beyond) and their impact on crime policies and practice, especially in relation to punitiveness."

2023 ESC Early Career Award

The 2023 ESC Early Career Award, recognizing outstanding scientific achievement by an early-career European criminologist, was presented to Professor Anna Sergi. The award committee, consisting of Josep Maria Tamarit-Sumalla (chair, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya/Open University of Catalonia, Spain), Barbora Hola (NSCR and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands), and Ineke Haen-Marshall (Northeastern University, Boston, USA), commended Professor Sergi's contributions to the study of organized crime, particularly the 'Ndrangheta and mafia organizations. They noted her impressive publication record as well as her engagement with the public and rapid career progression. In particular, the award committee considered that:

"Professor Sergi has contributed to the development of European criminology with studies on an important crime problem, namely organized crime, particularly on the 'Ndrangheta' and mafia organizations. Her research has focused on socio-cultural aspects, mobility, transnational intricacies and policing. She has published her research in top academic journals, including the European Journal of Criminology and the British Journal of Criminology, and with top publishers, such as Routledge or Palgrave Macmillan. Her publication list is very impressive and very extensive for an early career scholar. Prof. Sergi has published 35 articles in peer-reviewed journals, 7 other manuscripts and 22 book chapters. She was described in her nomination letter as 'a leading thinker' and 'prolific'. She also very actively engages with the public and disseminates her research findings. She defended her PhD in 2014, became Senior Lecturer in 2018 and

was promoted to full Professor of Criminology at the University of Essex. This in itself is very notable and a testament to her excellence. 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 by Professor Sergi.”

2023 ESC Book Award

Victoria A. Greenfield and Letizia Paoli received the 2023 ESC Book Award for their work “Assessing the Harms of Crime: A New Framework for Criminal Policy,” published by Oxford University Press. The award committee, composed of Andra-Roxana Trandafir (Chair, University of Bucharest, Romania), Josep Maria Tamarit Sumalla, (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya/ Open University of Catalonia, Spain) and Fernando Miró-Llinares (Miguel Hernández University of Elche, Spain), praised the book as a groundbreaking contribution to criminological research. They highlighted its solid theoretical foundation, empirical applications, and potential impact on criminal policy and the governance of security. In particular, the award committee considered that:

“Assessing the Harms of Crime: A New Framework for Criminal Policy is a groundbreaking contribution to the development of criminological research in a field that has received little attention both at a theoretical and empirical level. The authors present solid elements to place harm as a conceptual framework for empirical research, criminal policy and normative decisions. The book is very well structured. The introduction clearly presents the purpose (intent) of the book: to provide policy-makers with a firm analytical foundation for making those decisions and promote its use. This idea is followed by the authors throughout the whole book. The first chapter is dedicated to the Centrality of Harm and Its Reduction to Crime and Societal Responses to Crime, in which the authors also address the idea of the ambiguity of “crime,” which lacks clear meaning. After analyzing the prior attempts to assess harm and the challenges they have encountered, the authors try to establish a framework to assess the harms of crime, which is then applied to cocaine trafficking in Belgium (with comparisons to other applications to drug and human trafficking in Europe) and to coca cultivation

and processing in Colombia. In the last chapter (The Case for Harm and Harm Assessment), the authors also show how their harm-based approach, with its emphasis on systematic, empirical assessment, can benefit criminal policy and the governance of security and contribute to deliberations in other policy and regulatory fields, strengthening in this manner the necessary link with the criminal justice system.

Thus, the presentation of the authors’ harm assessment framework is based on an exploration of the theorisation on harm and harm reduction in the legal doctrine and in criminological studies and is finally applied to a complex type of crime, related to drug trafficking and in a singular place, Colombia. A great contribution of “Assessing the Harms of Crime” is to include harm reduction at the centre of criminal policy, not just as an argument for making decisions, but as an analytical tool grounded in criminological research. The members of the Jury congratulate the authors for this in-depth analysis which is of great importance for future research and also testifies of theory development.”

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

Briefs

Elections: In 2023, ESC members elected Michele Burman as President-Elect, Anna Di Ronco as an At-large Board member, and Uberto Gatti as Auditor.

ESC Summer School: The ESC Executive Board informed the General Assembly that the first ESC Summer School will take place in 2024 with the support of and at the premises of the University of Lausanne.

European Criminology Oral History Project (ECOH): Under the supervision of José Angel Brandariz (University of A Coruna, Spain), a series of interviews were conducted in Florence and are now being made available on the ESC’s YouTube channel. The interviews include Jan van Dijk interviewed by Catrien Bijleveld, Josep M. Tamarit-Sumalla interviewed by Antonia Linde, Katja Franko interviewed by David Rodríguez-Goyes, Lesley McAra interviewed by Michael Levi, Loraine Gelsthorpe interviewed by Michele Burman, and Richard Sparks interviewed by Eamonn Carrabine.

→ THE ESC EUROPEAN CRIMINOLOGY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT (ECOH)

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Despite many challenges, European Criminology has developed fast in the last decades and is growing unabated. There are now several generations of European criminologists, and many different working groups and networks. One of the conspicuous signs of this momentum is the role played by the ESC since the early 2000s, which has been consolidated as the most important scientific community for scholars working on crime and the criminal justice system. It is therefore time to tell the story of this academic development through the voices of the scholars who played a role in this process, conducting research in different corners of Europe.

For these purposes, the ESC launched the European Criminology Oral History project (ECOH) in 2015. Inspired by the American Society of Criminology's Oral History of Criminology Project, which was initiated in the mid-1990s, the ECOH project is aimed at creating an organised collection of recorded interviews to be used for archiving, dissemination, research and teaching purposes. From 2015 to 2018, the project was led by Rossella Selmini (University of Bologna), assisted by Marco Calaresu (University of Sassari). Since 2019, it has been run by José A. Brandariz (University of A Coruna), initially assisted by Silvia Rodríguez-López

(University of A Coruña) and later, from 2023, by Ignacio González-Sánchez (University of Girona). The new interviews are regularly uploaded on YouTube and announced in the ESC blog.

Narrating the story of the gradual consolidation of European criminology is arguably not an easy task. Institutional conditions differ significantly cross-nationally and there are notable differences in methodologies, theories, and even forms of engagement with non-academic and policymaking actors. This remarkable diversity creates specific challenges for the inclusion of underrepresented academic communities. To overcome this potential shortcoming, the ECOH project has put significant effort into defining the criteria for selecting interviewees. Specifically, and up to this moment, three main groups of academics have been given preference:

- the founders of the ESC: Bijleveld, Bruinsma, Killias, Levi, Savona, Snacken, Tonry, Wikstrom;
- former ESC presidents: Dobryninas, Dünkel, Krajewski, Larrauri, Lévy, McAra, Meško, Selmini, Tamarit, van der Beken; and
- recipients of the ESC European Criminology Award: Gelsthorpe, Hough, Karstedt, Melossi, van Dijk, Walgrave.

Beyond these three main groups, the ECOH project also interviewed other scholars who have played a pivotal role in the development of criminology in Europe: Birkbeck, Burianek, Díez-Ripollés, Fijnaut, Gilinsky, Hope, Lösel, Marshall, Nelken, Ponsaers, Roché, Shapland, Sparks. To avoid potential gaps, the project is recently putting the spotlight as well on top scholars based in countries in which criminology is garnering increasing traction despite its recent development as a proper academic field: Franko; and Kivivuori, O'Donnell and Svensson in 2024. The comments of these critical scholars cast light on how European criminology has evolved to become what it is today, a thriving and vibrant academic field that is increasingly spreading continent-wide.

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- YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/@esc-europeansocietycriminology>

Effi Lambropoulou and Georgios Papanicolaou

Calliope Spinellis



Calliope Spinellis, a pioneering figure in modern Criminology in Greece, passed away on Sunday, June 30, 2024.

Professor Spinellis's work has had a strong impact on the field for more than 40 years. She leaves a significant legacy in the research and reform of Greek criminal justice institutions, particularly juvenile justice, as well as teaching and mentoring in Criminology at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral research levels.

Her academic journey began with a Law degree from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. She then obtained her Master's in Comparative Law and a PhD from the University of Chicago, focusing her research on probation.

Prof. Spinellis's career was distinguished by significant contributions, both in the United States and in Greece. In the U.S., she served as a researcher and later as the head of the Office for Juvenile Justice Information for the

American Bar Association's National Council of Juvenile Judges. Her work involved providing legal answers regarding legislation and case law on juvenile offenders.

In Greece, she began her career as a research assistant at the Law School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and a counsellor at the training school for juvenile female offenders. Then a professor at the University of Athens, Spinellis was instrumental in establishing and directing the Laboratory of Penal and Criminological Research at the University of Athens Law School, where she served for 35 years.

She also served as an ad hoc judge at the European Court of Human Rights, President of the EU Network for the Prevention of Crime, and participated in various international meetings on crime prevention and child victimisation organised by the UN and the EU.

She was an enthusiastic supporter of the creation of the European Society of Criminology and actively participated in the first ESC conferences. Her dedication to Criminology extended beyond research: she was a passionate advocate for human rights and integrated sociological approaches into legal education. Her legacy includes significant advancements in the teaching and application of Criminology in Greece.

Her influence on her students and the broader criminological community has been profound, distinguished by her friendly demeanour and commitment to sharing her extensive knowledge and experience. We will remember her smiling kindly and friendly at us.

→ CRIMINOLOGY IN EUROPE

Andra-Roxana Trandafir, George-Cristian Ioan

Romanian Criminology – what the past and present struggles tell us about the future

As shown in the previous paper published in the ESC newsletter (Trandafir, 2024) criminological research has started to emerge in Romania in recent years. Looking closer at the history of this country, throughout its tumultuous past, Romanian Criminology has persisted in producing important figures that delivered significant ideas which influenced both the development of national and international Criminology.

Past Concerns

The most renowned figure associated with Romanian research in the field of crime and criminal justice is probably Benjamin Mendelsohn who coined the term Victimology. A project initiated by the late Professor Leslie Sebba and by Professor Simha Landau, focusing on rescuing and digitising hundreds of documents at risk of being discarded, part of his great archive of papers, is being developed under the ESC Victimology Working Group, headed by Beatrice Coscas Williams, and will be presented during the next ESC Conference in Bucharest, hometown of Mendelsohn.



Figure 4

Benjamin Mendelsohn. Source: Prof. Simha Landau (picture received from Mendelsohn's nephew)

However, several other important figures laid the groundwork for the study of Criminology in Romania. The most notable figure is Professor Traian Pop (Cluj), who delivered an extensive university course on Criminology in 1928. To this day his work is still considered fundamental to understanding the evolution of the field from a national perspective. Professor Pop greatly focused on unifying conflicting views on crime and penal policy that existed between the different regions of Romania, which only unified in 1918.

During the twentieth century, from 1938 to 1989, Romania was subjected to two different dictatorial regimes (both fascist and communist). However, independently of the inherent limitations to free thought and scientific analysis of social issues, several important authors still managed to extensively publish studies and treatises on the field of Criminology. However, often their contributions to analysing penal

policy are incorporated in their works on Criminal Law in general, thus, sometimes, their standing as great criminologists is overshadowed by their achievements in the field of Criminal Law. Some notable names include Professor Nicolae T. Buzea (Iași) and Professor Vintilă Dongoroz (Bucharest), both writing extensively on questions regarding the nature of crime, criminal policy and the factors that determine criminal activity, taking into account the specifics of the political regimes that were in power at the time.

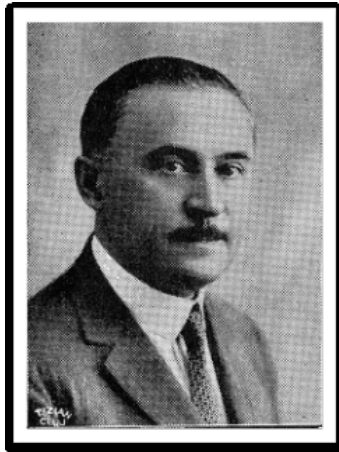


Figure 5

Traian Pop. Picture from Wikipedia, Source: unknown, *Gazeta ilustrată*, Cluj, anul III, nr. 6-7, iunie-iulie 1934, p. 94

After 1989, Criminology re-emerged as an autonomous field, alongside the newfound academic freedom to analyse any issues, independent of political agendas. The struggle of transitioning from a closed-border country with a centralised economy to an open country, with a free market, initially caused a spike in criminality in the nineties. This was juxtaposed with a court system that still applied a (quite) punitive approach, even on petty crime, which proved ineffective in fighting criminal activity, as it did not consider the underlying issues that fuelled it. Moreover, Criminal Law was still paying tribute to the centralised economy (as most thefts were against public property), providing, for instance, a penalty as high as 20 years of imprisonment for aggravated theft, even if, after 1989, such theft was punished irrespective of the ownership.

In this period (and during the beginning of the 2000s), several preeminent Romanian criminologists and Criminal Law professors published various studies that fought this type of approach to crime, showing how it only creates a breeding ground for more criminal activity, failing to properly address the factors leading to it (e.g.

Cioclei, 2009). Examples of such dysfunction include penalties of 22 years of imprisonment for corruption or 30 years for first-time offenders of economic crimes. The work of these authors was “rewarded” by a fundamental change in penal policy in the 2014 Criminal Code, which drastically reduced penalties and introduced several measures focused on the reintegration of the offender.

Lowering penalties, however, was not well received for all types of crimes. The Code was amended more than 35 times in the past years, and 12 of these amendments occurred only in 2023. While some changes were required by the case law of the Constitutional Court, many other changes concerned augmentations of penalties, exempting some other criminal offences (slavery, trafficking in persons, trafficking in minors, incitement to prostitution, rape and other forms of sexual abuse, torture) from the statute of limitation, or expressly forbidding suspended sentences for crimes such as negligent homicide caused by driving a vehicle under the influence of alcohol, drugs or without a driving license, as well as slavery, trafficking in persons or minors.

Current concerns – fighting sexual abuse against minors

As shown, at every stage of its evolution Romanian Criminology faced one or several core concerns, which shaped the field in its whole and future research. At the moment, the major challenge of Romanian criminologists is addressing the question of criminal offences against minors (especially sexual abuse against minors). Over the past few years, this topic has been at the centre of both the judiciary’s agenda and of public discourse; and the examples of other States which changed the legislation in this area, as well as currently existing international rules and regulations also played a role in this respect.

Moreover, the interest in uncovering systemic issues in dealing with such cases has been fuelled by several cases in which the European Court of Human Rights found fundamental deficiencies in dealing with the protection of child victims, such as *M.G.C. v. Romania* (no. 61495/11), *C.A.S and C.S. v Romania* (no. 26692/05) and *I.C. v. Romania* (no. 36934/08).

This led the Judicial Inspection (a structure of the Superior Council of Magistracy which monitors the activity of magistrates and courts) to investigate the leading causes generating inefficiencies in dealing

with this type of cases. This led to the publishing of the 2022 *Report on investigation and prosecution of sexual offences involving child victims* which exposed several important statistics that helped understand the extent of the problem while also offering several potential practical solutions to help in fighting systemic issues.

The Report showed that, between February 2014 and the second semester of 2020, 18.549 cases of sexual abuse (*lato sensu*) have been investigated in Romania. Out of them, 3.634 led to trials with defendants, 2.279 led to dropping the charges based on their less severe nature (*diversion*) and in 12.636 cases charges were dropped on substantial or procedural grounds. Thus, more than two-thirds of the charges were dropped. Although, in itself, a relatively high rate of dropped charges is not concerning, since the obligation of investigating is one of means and must take into account the need to properly protect the rights of the defendant and the presumption of innocence, the *Report* underlines several deficiencies in understanding the reactions of victims, determining the existence or inexistence of consent, questioning the proper techniques of interviewing child victims and witnesses, and of evaluating the credibility of the victim's testimony based on their psychological profile.

During the same period, 2.801 cases of child sexual abuse were brought to court. Out of them, 252 cases debated the issue of determining the existence or inexistence of the victim's consent. The *Report* raised questions regarding the way cases are handled by courts, pointing out that there are serious risks of revictimisation during the hearings, particularly when children are interviewed. And this is mainly due to lacking infrastructure for child-friendly justice procedures and insufficient training of professionals. Furthermore, the *Report* underlined several concerns about the criteria used for determining the consent of minors.

These findings were highly publicised both in academia and in society at large. They raised interest especially in the field of Victimology, leading to studies concerning child victims, to better understand their reactions, their trauma and the underlying factors for higher risk of victimisation. Research in this area is still ongoing and is of immense value, since it not only relies on international studies but also considers the specifics of the social background of the victims, which sometimes can be influenced by factors inherent to the environment in which they are raised, including cultural issues.

Furthermore, there was a strong interest in correlating criminological data with the practical aspect of interviewing children and properly assessing evidence. In this field, understanding the underlying factors for abuse and the societal and psychological consequences is fundamental in minimising revictimisation and properly understanding the mental state of victims. Moreover, properly understanding the effects of the social environment on the victim can prove to be essential in properly establishing the viability of a statement.

Unfortunately, while the Report of the Judicial Inspection focused merely on data and practical solutions to the identified problems, especially on how consent is determined, the response of the State was (again) the modification of the Criminal Code by establishing that any sexual act performed by an adult with a minor under 16 years of age represents a rape. This led, in July of 2023, to numerous changes to the articles regulating sexual offences, meant to enter into force on January 1st, 2024. Reading and applying those regulations were so difficult for the legal professionals that even the legislator, on December 29th, 2023, amended the law again. The final legal provisions still raise several problems, especially in terms of the applicability of the more favourable law. So much so that the legal literature continues to debate on this topic.

Thus, currently, Romanian Criminology is at a stage where the links with the practical aspects of justice are probably the strongest. This poses great challenges, but also a great opportunity for Criminology to make a significant and immediate impact on the functioning of the justice system in its entirety. In this context, we could not be happier that the Eurocrim 2024 conference takes place in Romania, promoting a great occasion for Romanian criminologists and policymakers to discuss important issues such as the ones mentioned above.

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Election of ESC

President: candidate profile

Anna-Maria Getoš Kalac



I am both honoured and grateful to be nominated for the role of ESC President.

The ESC, or to be more exact the European criminological community it represents, has played an utmost important role in my professional and personal development. For the past 15 years the ESC has been my 'criminological home away from home' – the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law in Freiburg, my alma mater. Most European criminologists, particularly those based in countries or at home institutions where Criminology has only more recently, throughout the past decade, gained more scientific momentum and a stronger institutional standing, will be able to relate to my 'home away from home' sentiment towards the ESC. In many instances, the ESC might even have been the only 'criminological home' for some of us. It is this sentiment towards the ESC and its utmost important role as a 'criminological home (away from home)' I would like to safekeep and further develop against the backdrop of Criminology's galloping expansion and growing transdisciplinarity which we have been witnessing in more recent years.

There is a (hard)core European criminological community in need of its 'home (away from home)' where 'criminological tourists' provide indispensable cross-disciplinary inputs and incentives, thus adding to the growth and appeal of the ESC. The challenge currently faced by the ESC, as I see it and intend to address it, is to find the right balance between such an expansion, transdisciplinarity, its inputs and incentives on the one hand and the lasting need for the ESC

to remain a 'criminological home (away from home)' to (hard)core criminologists on the other hand. I am convinced that none of these developments and needs are mutually exclusive, but that a balanced approach is needed in order to safekeep what the ESC is and has been to most of us, while utilising the full potential of what it ought to further develop into for all of us: **a transdisciplinary 'criminological home (away from home)'** for "persons actively engaged in research, teaching and/or practice in the field of criminology", referring 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"*. I would thus like to further strengthen the ongoing efforts of the ESC to more impactfully implement "the dissemination of criminological knowledge at the European level", particularly by reaffirming the **ESC's role of a key stakeholder within the Council of Europe and the European Union** on matters of "the explanation, prevention, control and treatment of crime and delinquency, offenders and victims".

In terms of my own research and criminological profile, relevant to the role of ESC President, I would like to point out the contributions of the [Balkan Criminology Network](#) under my leadership and the patronage of Professor Hans-Jörg Albrecht. Since 2012, the network has been instrumental in detecting, utilising, developing and disseminating criminological research

and scholarship in the Balkans and throughout the ESC. The criminological, victimological and homicidal 'mappings' have brought the Balkans into the focus of the European criminological community and the ESC. This work reflects my commitment to advancing criminological thought and research where it is most needed.

I currently hold a full professorship in Criminal (Procedural) Law, Criminology and Victimology at the University of Zagreb's Faculty of Law (2022-present). I have also served as head of the Department of Criminal Law (2021-2023) and the Institute for Criminal Sciences, Criminology and Victimology (2019-2021). Additionally, I am a Professeur Invité at the Université de Lausanne – École des sciences criminelles (2018-present) and Sciences Po – Paris School of International Affairs (2020-present). I served as a member of the ESC Board (2014-2017) and have attended most ESC conferences since 2009.

At-large board member: candidate profile

Mirza Buljubašić



As a criminologist from Bosnia and Herzegovina, a country at the periphery of Europe, I present my candidacy for the at-large board member of the European Society of Criminology (ESC). I am deeply committed to the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and I believe that the voices from marginal and non-EU countries must be heard and integrated into our collective dialogue. My mission is to weave these values into the fabric of our criminological community, nurturing an environment where creativity thrives, collaboration knows no bounds, and European criminology shines as a beacon of insight and progress.

My academic journey began at the University of Sarajevo, where I earned my degrees, culminating in a Ph.D. in Criminology. The University of Sarajevo recognized my dedication early on with four prestigious awards. Between 2015 and 2016, I conducted a thorough investigation of atrocity camps and detention facilities, interviewing numerous victims to uncover their harrowing experiences. This period also marked my involvement in the project “Vertical (in)consistency of international sentencing: Case Study of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Rwanda” (the Centre for International Criminal Justice, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam). Over the years, my evidence-based research on atrocity crimes, terrorism, and extremism in Southeastern Europe has fueled the efforts of think tanks, guided civil society organizations, and informed policymakers.

Since 2023, I have been affiliated with the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement on the project “Transitional Punishment: Moderating

Legacies of Mass Atrocities? A Case Study of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Czechia.” This experience has provided the opportunity to collaborate with esteemed colleagues, enhancing my expertise in criminology and deepening my understanding of the complex legacies of mass atrocities.

As an early-career scholar, I have been active in producing various publications. Among my notable works are contributions to the *Oxford Handbook of Criminology* (2024), a book on *terrorism criminal justice responses* in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Atlantic Initiative, 2023), a book chapter on *Atrocity Crime Perpetrators* (Oxford University Press, 2019), and scientific articles such as “Sanctioning Perpetrators of International Crimes: A Vignette Study” and “Rehabilitation Programmes for Convicted War Criminals in Domestic Prisons in Bosnia and Herzegovina.” Recently, my research and advocacy have zeroed in on intergenerational criminology, delving into the ripple effects of atrocity crimes across generations. The enduring legacies of conflict and trauma carve deep into familial and communal structures, underscoring the urgent need for effective, evidence-based policies in post-conflict societies to cultivate lasting peace and justice.

Complementing my research, my collaborations across Europe have offered invaluable insights and profoundly enriched my perspectives. Being part of the *Radicalisation Awareness Network* and *Global Atrocity Justice Constellations* has broadened my understanding of global criminological issues. Working

with scholars in the Empirical Research on Sentencing (ERoS) and ESC Working Groups continues to inspire me and drive my unwavering dedication to the field.

The upcoming ESC Conference, “Criminology goes East,” in Bucharest, Romania, holds special significance for me. Deeply connected to the Southeastern region, I am committed to amplifying Eastern European perspectives within our collective dialogue. This conference offers an exciting opportunity to highlight the unique challenges and contributions of this region, showcasing its rich, diverse, and often underrepresented viewpoints. Through this event and my role on the Board, I aim to enrich our collective knowledge and foster greater inclusivity within our Society.

I am committed to fostering a community grounded in equity and unity, one that values diverse perspectives from across Europe. By championing initiatives that enhance our field’s open, educational, and collaborative landscape—including rotating ESC conferences across different regions to ensure scholars from Europe’s peripheries can fully participate—I aim to be the voice for early-career scholars and regions with limited resources. My mission is to ensure that every voice is heard and that our community remains vibrant, inclusive, and forward-thinking.

To advance our European understanding, scholarship, and practice of criminology, I will promote networking and cooperation across European spaces, working groups, and individuals. Serving the ESC with integrity, dedication, and a collaborative spirit is my pledge.

Our shared journey within the European Society of Criminology thrives on the strength of diverse perspectives and inclusive dialogue. I am committed to ensuring that every voice is heard and valued, and I will champion initiatives that elevate underrepresented regions and perspectives. With your support, I will work to enhance collaboration, innovation, and equity within our Society.

Thank you for your trust and belief in this vision.

At-large board member: candidate profile

Marieke Kluin



Marieke Kluin is an Assistant Professor of Criminology at the Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology at the Faculty of Law at Leiden University (the Netherlands). She studied Criminology at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam. During her studies, Marieke worked as a clerk of criminal law at the District Court of Rotterdam and as a probation officer in The Hague. She also conducted research at the Dutch National Police. After her studies, she worked as a researcher at the Safety Science Department of the Delft University of Technology, where she developed several courses and studied various accidents to implement these in faculty education.

In November 2014 she successfully defended her dissertation entitled "Optic Compliance - Enforcement and Compliance in the Dutch Chemical Industry" under the supervision of Ben Ale and Wim Huisman. Her interdisciplinary research currently focuses on white-collar crime, environmental crime, compliance and regulatory enforcement. Marieke has published on these subjects and has presented at international conferences and universities in Europe, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. At present, she is involved in projects which focus on corporate crime by using a life-course criminology perspective and the effectiveness of sanctions of environmental crimes.

Marieke has been a member of the ESC from 2009 (Ljubljana, Slovenia) and she has been attending the annual conferences since then and is active in the life of the European Society of Criminology. Marieke had the

privilege to learn about criminology and criminological research from many colleagues across Europe. She has been a member of the European Working Group on Organizational Crime (EUROC) since its establishment, in 2010. Marieke wrote a chapter in "The Routledge Handbook of White-Collar and Corporate Crime in Europe" (London: Routledge, 2015), which discussed the perception of Seveso regulation and inspection of chemical corporations.

She has been a board member of the Dutch Society of Criminology for three years (2016 -2019) where she was responsible for organizing annual conferences. In 2012 Marieke was one of the organizers of the seminar Environmental Crime and its Victims (together with Toine Spapens and Rob White) with a focus on green criminology. She was co-editor of "Environmental Crime and its Victims" (Farnham: Ashgate, 2014). Since then, Environmental Crime and... became a (bi) yearly seminar that focuses on different aspects of environmental crime, with the aim of pushing green criminological scholarship further by bridging (sub) disciplinary boundaries but also by bringing together junior and senior scholars as well as practitioners to learn from each other. In recent years, these seminars have been organized in conjunction with the annual ESC conferences, in order to limit the environmental footprint while traveling to conferences. The Green Criminology European Working Group (GREEN) which was established in May 2024 formalizes these collaborations, enhancing and stimulating research on environmental crime and harm across Europe.

Marieke is co-chair with Jenny Maher and Mònica Pons-Hernández.

She feels she has benefited greatly from being a member of the ESC society. During previous conferences and seminars, Marieke likes to connect people and research. She would like to actively contribute to board discussions, offering insights, ideas, and feedback that will help drive the European Society of Criminology forward. If she is elected, she is convinced that she will make a positive contribution to the ESC Board.

→ CALL FOR CHAIR

Nominations sought!

The deadline is September 5th.

The ESC is looking to designate a new chair for the Postgraduate and Early Stage Researchers Working Group (EPER) and invites expressions of interest for this role.

Currently, the aim of EPER is to provide a forum to discuss, develop and collaborate on new and innovative criminal justice research with other early-stage researchers and lead/senior academics on a European Level. It intends to promote the dissemination of information on research conducted by doctoral and postdoctoral researchers across Europe; to establish a communication network between members and to organise regular sessions at the annual ESC meetings, providing opportunity for early stage and postgraduate researchers to present their work and to benefit from the experience of senior academics in sessions concerned with career development.

If you are interested in becoming chair, please send your details to rfaria@direito.up.pt and marcelo.aebi@unil.ch together with a motivation letter (500 words) by September 5th, 2024.

At-large board member: candidate profile

Sergio Grossi



Dear Members of the European Society of Criminology,

I am honoured to present my candidacy for the position of at-large Board member of the ESC. My vision for the ESC is rooted in a commitment to fostering inclusivity, expanding our reach, and enhancing the impact of criminology on both the public and political spheres.

My name is Sergio Grossi, and I am currently the Co-Chair of the ESC Working Group on Community Sanctions. In fall 2024, I will join the John Jay College of Criminal Justice (City University of New York) as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Criminology. I am currently a researcher at the Complutense University of Madrid and the Sorbonne Institute of Legal and Philosophical Sciences.

My research focuses on analysing best practices for the reintegration and education of incarcerated persons. I am currently conducting an international study that uses five languages, which has allowed me to examine practices in seven countries, including Italy, Spain, France, England, Brazil, and Argentina.

I have been awarded a highly competitive European Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) and São Paulo Research Foundation grant, have been included in the expert group of the Green Prisons Research Initiative of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), and participated in the scientific committee of the 2024 congress of the UNESCO Chair in Applied Research for Education in Prison.

My expertise and research have led to invitations as a visiting scholar at prestigious institutions, including the University of Cambridge, UNESCO, and Columbia University. I have also conducted research at the University of São Paulo, the UFF University of Rio de Janeiro, the University of Bologna, the University of Padua, and Paris Nanterre University.

Given my highly international and cross-sectoral career and my passion for justice and inclusivity, I list below the key projects and plans I intend to focus on if elected:

- 1. Increasing Participation and Dissemination in Southern Europe and the Global South:** Based on my five years of professional experience in Brazil and Argentina and my extensive work in Southern Europe, I am committed to strengthening the voice and expanding the presence of criminology in these regions.
- 2. Inclusion of Individuals with Lived Experiences:** Integrating the perspectives of those directly affected by criminal justice issues is a crucial aspect of advancing criminological research and practice.
- 3. Enhancing the Public and Political Impact of Criminology:** Criminology should play a significant role in shaping public policy and discourse.
- 4. Mentoring Services for Early-Career and Lived Experience Criminologist:** Inspired by the mentoring systems in groups like the American Society

of Criminology (ASC), I propose the creation of a tutoring programme within the ESC.

I am committed to supporting the needs of early-career and lived-experience criminologists, as well as those from underrepresented countries, and contributing to the Society's ongoing projects.

Thank you for considering my candidacy. I look forward to the opportunity to serve the ESC community and contribute to its continued growth and success.

→ INTRODUCING CRIMRXIV

Scott Jacques, Jean-Louis van Gelder



A free open access service by and for criminologists

Open Access (OA) is a global movement that is gaining momentum and its epicenter is Europe. The goal of OA is to make science more accessible, impactful, and diverse, by taking away the financial, legal and technical barriers to the publication of, and access to, research and data. CrimRxiv is a key hub and repository for open science in criminology. The aim of CrimRxiv is to initiate, develop, and help disseminate open access practices among criminologists. CrimRxiv is founded, owned, and operated by criminologists. Its home is the University of Manchester's Department of Criminology. It receives further support from the CrimRxiv Consortium, an international network of institutional leaders who together ensure CrimRxiv is free to use for all. Readers never hit a paywall to access articles and other publications and authors never face article processing charges (APCs).

Our mission is to advance the quantity, quality, and usage of open criminology. To grow faster and better, we want to serve the ESC, its members, and working groups (such as the European Network for Open Criminology). Therefore, we invite you to share your work on CrimRxiv. This will increase not only the visibility of your work but also ensures free and fair access for everyone and contribute to the development of criminology as whole. Also, please consider CrimRxiv as a (free) resource for research and teaching. To see what's happening on CrimRxiv, visit our site, follow us on social media (on X; on LinkedIn), and sign up for our weekly digest email. Our new YouTube channel has helpful videos, including one explaining How-To Submit your work to CrimRxiv. Thank you for supporting open criminology!

Green Criminology European working group - GREEN

Environmental concerns are at the forefront of economic, political and societal agendas as they pose a grave threat to our everyday lives and future generations of humans and non-humans alike. Green Criminology draws attention to the broad, complex, and multivariate harms, transgressions and risks that damage and kill our environment. Green Criminology enhances our understanding of and responses to environmental harms and crimes by moving beyond conventional understandings of crime and illegality by drawing attention to “harms” and the influences of social inequalities and power imbalances. It addresses the problem of legal protection, enforcement, and environmental justice, and gives voice to a wide range of victims, including ecosystems, plants, and non-human animals. Green criminologists approach the issue of environmental crime and harm predominantly from biocentric and ecocentric perspectives, regarding humans as just “another species”, operating within complex ecosystems. Therefore, green criminologists study ecological damage from various disciplines.

Since 2012, green criminologists from around the world have been organising a (bi)yearly seminar that focuses on different aspects of environmental crime, intending to push green criminological scholarship further by bridging (sub)disciplinary boundaries, but also by bringing together junior and senior scholars as well as practitioners to learn from each other. In recent years, these seminars have been organised in conjunction with the annual ESC conferences, to limit the environmental footprint while travelling to conferences. Established in 2024, the Green Criminology European Working Group is the most recent ESC Working Group and formalises these collaborations, enhancing and stimulating research on environmental crime and harm across Europe.

This working group **aims** to: provide a context in which ESC members and non-members can exchange information and experiences about *researching* and *teaching* green/environmental crime; push green criminological scholarship further by bridging (sub) disciplinary boundaries; foster an open and honest discussion about theoretical and methodological developments and challenges in Green Criminology; bring together junior and senior academics, as well as practitioners and law and policymakers in the field of environmental crime and harm to learn from each other; foster opportunities for cross-national (research) collaboration and knowledge exchange between researchers, policymakers, corporations, and civil society organisations.

The GREEN board consists of chairs Marieke Kluin, Jenny Maher and Mònica Pons-Hernández; and of board members Lieselot Bisschop, David Rodrigues Goyes, Joanna Narodowska, Nigel South, Daan van Uhm and Tanya Wyatt.

If you work on environmental crime, you are invited to **join** the working group. Please send your name, position, affiliation, and a short description of the research project you are working on to greencriminologyEWG@gmail.com.

This year’s “**Environmental Crime & ...**” **pre-ESC seminar** is aimed at understanding and addressing the complex nexus of environmental crime, crisis, and conflict. We put the spotlight on the multifaceted visible and hidden environmental crises and conflicts and how they relate to environmental crime and harm. The seminar takes place on Wednesday 11 September 2024, in Bucharest. For more information about this **Environmental Crime, Crisis and Conflict pre-conference**, including the program and registration, please visit the [seminar page](#).

→ EDITORIAL NOTES

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



In many places, summer is considered to be the “silly season”, the time of the year without relevant stories or news because most people are enjoying a prolonged break. While it cannot be stated that there has been no relevant news (the elections in France, the presidential race in the USA, the UN Secretary-General calling for action to curve extreme heat, or the International Court of Justice stating to have found multiple and serious international law violations by Israel towards Palestinians, just to name a few.), it is true that in Europe most people are enjoying their summer leaves. This includes politicians, judges and lawyers, police officers, lawmakers, and many others. Scholars are usually also included and while some argue that you can never really take time off from science, it is not uncommon, during this time of the year, to receive plenty of automatic “out-of-the-office” emails from colleagues.

As editor of the ESC newsletter, there are numerous challenges in putting together the summer issue. However, this has traditionally been a very important issue of the newsletter, particularly because readers get to learn about Criminology in the country that will be hosting the next annual conference (Romania, in this case) and also because they get to know more about the profiles of the candidates for the next elections for the ESC board. The sheer quality and merit of this year’s candidates is amazing and their profiles highlight how diverse and rich European Criminology is.

Likewise, readers can accept the invitation to head into the European Criminology Oral History Project (ECOH) YouTube channel and understand better the story of the gradual consolidation of European criminology.

September will bring EUROCRIM2024 to lovely Bucharest, as well as the recomposition of the board. Eventually, it will also bring academics together to react to Josep Tamarit’s appeal to join forces to create a European victimisation survey, potentially taking that opportunity to re-think what or who is a victim, supporting them in narrating their experiences with the crime, the justice system, the offender and with their own identities and stories, following on the suggestions of Narrative Victimology (e.g. Pemberton, Mulder & Aarten, 2019). And, getting inspiration from Andra-Roxana Trandafir and George-Cristian Ioan, children and the vulnerable (including non-human victims) need criminologists, policy-makers and social actors to demand on their behalf for better protection from crime and more chances to benefit from fair and effective institutions.

References

Pemberton, A., Mulder, E. & Aarten, P.G.M. (2019). Stories of injustice: towards a narrative victimology. *European Journal of Criminology*, 16(4), 391-412.



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