

“Pandemic Times and other Criminological Concerns”

Common Studies Session in Critical Criminology Conference Programme

16th-17th June 2021

Start 1pm European time 12pm in the UK

Wednesday 16th June 2021

1.00-1.05pm Opening remarks and welcome

Susanne Krasmann and Jenni Ward

1.05-2.15pm Plenary

Chair: Susanne Krasmann/Elisabeth Brein

Notes from Isolation: Global Criminological Perspectives on the Coronavirus Pandemic

Dina Siegel and Brenda Oude Breuil
Utrecht University

Abstract:

The volume presented includes topics analysing the meaning of the Covid-19 pandemic and the social responses to it in various domains: from sex work to wildlife crimes, from new forms of social control in Brazil, Ecuador, Canada and Thailand to the role of music, the symbolism of face masks, the spreading of conspiracy theories, domestic violence, and more. It is composed of studies conducted by criminologists who belong to the Utrecht School. The studies presented here in all their variety, improvisation, and cross-pollination, contribute to the body of cultural criminological work, and go beyond. They explore themes and concepts underexposed in cultural criminology so far, and contribute to the further growth of this academic perspective through their combined understandings of crime and social reactions under extreme social circumstances.

Social Hatred Spreading in Parallel with COVID-19

Petra Bárd
ELTE University

COVID-19 did not only take human lives, but it overburdened the healthcare system, jeopardized the economy, and led to the virulence of rumours and fake news. It reinforced existing problems, and hit harder on minorities that are anyway vulnerable.

We argue that simultaneously with the spread of the pandemic, social hatred was also spreading.

Without diminishing individual responsibility, theories explaining victim blaming and scapegoating in times of pandemic will be enumerated and assessed. Placed into this theoretical framework, attacks against individual protected groups will be explained. Mirroring the false and prejudiced allegations of the middle ages, in 2020 theories mushroomed about how Jews invented or spread the virus for financial interests. Minorities anyway suffering more from the pandemics than the average person, due to poverty, overcrowded accommodation, the lack of hygienic conditions, lack of resources for distance learning – such as ethnic minorities – were further victimised by hate speech and crimes. Hostility against foreigners was also on the rise. The LGBTQI+ community was also disproportionately affected by the lockdown. Beyond many other non-hate speech or hate crime related problems, there is an increased likelihood for them to be harassed and assaulted, when they are forced to move back to their families. The lockdown also deepened the problem of domestic violence. Several other social groups traditionally not subject to hate speech and hate crime, such as the sick, people living in large towns, or those repatriating from abroad, also suffered from prejudice and scapegoating.

Finally, both state responsibility for taming prejudice-based crimes and also individual responsibility of perpetrators will be emphasized.

Prisons, COVID19 Pandemia and the Struggle for ‘Transparency

Maximo Sozzo

National University of Litoral

In Argentina in the last 30 years there has been an impressive punitive turn -as in other scenarios in Latin America- that has manifested itself -among other dimensions- in a strong growth in the incarceration rates -from 62/100000 in 1992 to 224 / 100,000 in 2019. This magnified long-lasting negative features of prison contexts: overcrowding, inhumane living conditions, institutional and inter-prisoner and institutional violence - in addition to producing a whole series of broader collateral effects, especially in economically and socially marginalized communities.

Paradoxically, during these three decades, Argentine prisons became more "permeable" or "porous" (in a different sense from that proposed by Weegels, Martin and Jefferson, 2020). Diverse types of social and state actors go through the prison walls on a daily basis and produce knowledge and information about what happens inside them on the outside, rescuing the voices of the prisoners - from state supervisory bodies such as the National Penitentiary Ombudsman, the National Committee for the Prevention of Torture and national and provincial Public Defenses to university education programs in prisons or the various social organizations that develop different types of activities with the inmates. However, this has not resulted in the Penitentiary Services (federal and provincials) making significant progress in the production of 'transparency', generating instead a persistent opacity that is another long-lasting feature in this national context.

This paper seeks to argue that this varied and plural range of actors and practices that "from the outside" make the prison more permeable and porous, "opening the prison" (Baratta, 1993; Pavarini, 1994) produces a "transparency despite from the prison", which distances itself in terms of its symbolic and material characteristics from those that have

been associated with the “neoliberal ethos” and “tyranny of transparency” (Strathern, 2000). It is a “transparency born of dispute and struggle.”

Finally, this work seeks to show how the COVID19 pandemic since March 2020 generated the adoption of strong restrictive measures for the entry of these “external actors” into Argentine prisons and it triggered a series of tensions and conflicts, both inside and outside the prison walls, that show the vitality of this “disputed transparency”, even achieving in some cases the revision of certain restrictive measures and a tenuous tendency - of course, much less than the desirable one - in the opposite direction - cell phone acceptance, reopening of family visits. However, a new wave of the COVID19 pandemic in 2021, even more dramatic than the previous one, reactivates these tensions and conflicts with an end that is presented as uncertain.

2.15-2.30pm Break

2.30-3.45pm Panel Sessions

Parallel Session 1 (2.30-3.45pm)

Chair: Dina Siegel + Aitor Ibañez Alonso

Game and Bird Poaching in the Netherlands: Actors, Methods, and Motivations

Sean Eickhoff
Utrecht University

The Netherlands has long been recognized as an important transit hub and destination country for products moving through the illegal wildlife trade. What remains widely unknown is how wildlife crimes, such as poaching, operate within Dutch borders, as most of the available poaching literature is focused on the motivations and methods of actors in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Thus, this research sought to elucidate the actors involved in poaching in the Netherlands, the methods they employ, and their motivations to poach. Through utilizing a multi-sited ethnographic approach, semi-structured interviews, and engaging in participant observation, the preliminary data obtained identified that actors range from opportunistic individuals, families with poaching traditions, and licensed hunters. These actors were found to engage in game or bird poaching, and sometimes both. The methods employed included use of firearms and bow and arrow for game, whereas glue, nets, and rings were primarily used to trap birds. Four motivations for poachers in the Netherlands were illuminated which were not mutually exclusive to either category of target species, including a lack of enforcement, thrill killing, financial gain, and exercising personal liberties. By understanding the motivations and methods of the actors involved in game and bird poaching, the results of this research aim to generate and inform context-specific strategies for preventing poaching and push for these environmental transgressions to be recognized as serious wildlife crimes.

Covid Conservation Crisis: The Experiences of Rhino Counter-poaching Practitioners in Greater Kruger NP

Joris van Deursen
Erasmus University Rotterdam

In this presentation, I will discuss the research I propose to conduct for my master dissertation. The main question that will be central in my research and in this presentation is: “How do counter-poaching practitioners in Greater Kruger National Park experience the consequences of Covid-19 restrictions in countering rhino poaching?” In order to give a more holistic overview of the research context, in this presentation firstly I will elaborate on the issue of rhino poaching and the counter-poaching industry in Greater Kruger. Next, I will explain how the declining trend in rhino poaching incidents since 2015 is threatened by the Covid-19 pandemic. Since ecotourism revenues to fund counter-poaching efforts have dried up and increased poverty around the park has created a fertile breeding ground for poaching, Covid presents a huge threat to protected conservation areas such as Greater Kruger. Therefore, I will conduct an in-depth empirical research into the perspectives of counter-poaching practitioners, on which I will elaborate in greater depth during my presentation. This research is aimed to shed a light on the speculated ‘Covid conservation crisis’.

Pandemic and Biohackers’ Challenge to the Traditional Science and Regulation of Medicine

Ingrida Kruopstaite
University of Vilnius

Expansion of information and communication technologies and greater accessibility of biotechnology tools gave rise to the movement of biohackers – people engaged in do-it-yourself biology and gene editing outside the traditional research institutions. Although biohackers claim their goal is to make science more open and accessible to everyone, this movement raised concerns about biosafety and biosecurity. Since biohackers conduct their experiments unsupervised, the lack of regulation may lead to malicious or accidental creation of dangerous substances or viruses. In reaction to the Covid-19 pandemic, some biohackers started developing testing tools and do-it-yourself vaccine, in order to provide affordable measures against the coronavirus. However, such unregulated research and self-experimentation might contain risks not only to the biohackers themselves but also to the wider society. By analysing online discourses of biohackers’ communities, this paper explores their views on the regulation of medicine, power relations in scientific research and other issues related to the pandemic.

Parallel Session 2 (2.30-3.45pm)

Chair: David Brotherton + Sean Eickhoff

Police Violence, Social Reactions, and COVID-19 Pandemic: The Case of Nea Smyrni, Athens

Demetra Kalampaliki
University of Thrace

A police arbitrariness and brutality incident in Nea Smyrni’s square in Athens, Greece, recorded on 7 March, 2021, during the fifth month of a strict lockdown sparked a series of reactions, leading to violent public protests two days later. The above mentioned police violence case and the social responses in the subsequent two days, consist the focal points of the present paper, in a context of acute socioeconomic and political tension regarding the management of the sanitary crisis caused by and attributed to the

COVID-19 pandemic, alongside the police-based restrictive policy adopted to supervise the observance of preventive health care policy measures. The issue will be examined by conducting content analysis in 5 online Greek newspapers reports, aiming to find the depictions of the incidents and shed light to the crucial issues raised regarding these events. Taking into account the above, it is attempted to approach the subject from a critical criminology perspective, aiming to illustrate the ties between police violence, social movements and the pandemic.

Covid-19 and State Crime Criminology: Re-Thinking the Concept of Essentiality

Valeria Vegh Weis
Free University Berlin (associated)

Notions of Knowledge. Par as an Answer to Epistemological Tensions in Classical Criminological Research

Ludovic De Vocht
Ghent University

Traditional debates on epistemology are since long concerned about impartial knowledge gaining and validity of knowledge. Participatory action research has a praxis of social change and democratic inclusion of participants, in itself questioning traditional epistemologies. This paper is centralised around how critical criminology and PAR align in forming a new transformative epistemology that is very well-suited for questioning traditional research paradigms and how our notions of knowledge are structurally misaligned with disempowered communities.

3.45-4.00pm Break

4.00-5.15 Panel Sessions

Parallel session 1 (4.00-5.15pm)

Chair: Rita Faria + Marion Duggan

The Beginning of COVID-19 Pandemic and Cyber-bullying

Jovita Zekaite
Vilnius University

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the transfer of the educational process exclusively went to the electronic space. Students' time spent on screens has risen sharply, raising fears that traditional forms of bullying, which were widespread in Lithuania (WHO: 2018) will enter the electronic space. Despite concerns, data from various studies have shown that cyberbullying has declined. This position was followed not only by teachers, parents but students as well. Education ecosystem participants were thinking that traditional forms of bullying are far more dangerous than cyberbullying. There was an opinion that you can escape, avoid bullying in cyberspace more quickly and easier than in school. Despite that, cyberbullying has declined, teachers were identified as victims too. (Žekaitė et. al. 2021) In this report, we will analyse what reasons led to the extent of the decrease in cyberbullying. Did the change of space lead to a rupture of the

previously existing social ties, which resulted in bullying? We will compare the dangers of traditional and electronic bullying to school-age children and their teachers and the social, cultural environment in which they occur.

Policing Harmful Content in Social Media Platforms

Boglárka Meggyesfalvi
ELTE Budapest

Not a Problem that Should be Fixed by Adults. Teen Dating Violence and (y)par possibilities

Dante Hoek
Ghent University

Parallel session 2 (4.00-5.15pm)

Chair: Vincenzo Ruggiero + David Porteous

When Big Business, Big Data, and Race Collide: A Critical Criminological Perspective of the Genetic Ancestry Test Industry

Kenzie Dolfo-Smith
Utrecht University

Direct-to-consumer genetic ancestry tests are a novel technology that compares consumer DNA against a reference panel to ultimately create a personalised profile, encompassing ethnic and racial determinations, genomic trait analyses, and essentialising characteristics. Drawing on data gathered from ethnographic content analysis and semi-structured in-depth interviews with experts and consumers from British Columbia, Canada, this qualitative research explores race, consumerism, and data-driven science at the nexus of the genetic ancestry test industry.

The findings of this research indicate that genetic ancestry test providers reconstruct and “sell” racial identity assignments by creating increasingly specific categories that give the appearance of objectivity, despite maintaining fundamentally normative and essentialised boundaries. In addition to reifying the abstract concept of race, the industry further relies upon and perpetuates existing socio-political instabilities to compel consumers to utilise testing services. Consequently, provider companies have been granted immense latitude to accumulate, sell, and share consumers’ DNA with medical research companies, law enforcement, and state agencies, often without consumers’ explicit consent or knowledge. The implications of these utilisations have become especially salient in the wake of global racial-justice movements and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, whereby a range of existing social inequalities have been both brought to light and exacerbated.

State-corporate crime and corruption in the health sector: The impact of pandemic crisis.

Eirini Stamouli and Margarita Gasparinatou
University of Thrace

The presentation focuses on high-level corruption in the health sector in Greece presenting a part of the results of an ongoing post-doctoral research. The research combines qualitative methods: i) document analysis i.e., case law, official reports, articles in the press etc., and ii) semi-structured personal interviews with administrative control authorities, judicial authorities, doctors, executives in hospitals, private sector executives (pharmaceutical companies, biotech companies), members of parliament and government, to trace the “routes” of high-corruption and State-Corporate crime in Greece. The first part briefly presents the typologies of corruption in health procurement and the system of supplies (goods, services, equipment, medicines, and medical devices). The question that arises is whether these phenomena are occasional ones or if they have a more systemic nature constituting an integral part of the reproduction of power structures within the existing economic and political nexus. The second part focuses on the impact of pandemic crisis in health procurement processes examining the assumption that emergency health conditions and law exceptions create more opportunities for corruption practices and embezzlement of public funds.

Anti-Money Laundering Prevention: The Role of Banks

Cátia Tomé
University of Porto

The purpose of this study is to understand the different procedures of an AML (Anti Money Laundering) regime in financial institutions, focusing on banks, and their efficiency in preventing money laundering. Financial institutions and especially banks have a privileged position in preventing money laundering, through an AML regime that focuses on procedures such as Customer Due Diligence or Know Your Customer, Staff Training and Reporting of Suspicious Transactions. Operations are based on a risk management approach which has been appointed as the most effective in preventing money laundering.

In order to have a deeper understanding of the procedures and their efficiency, the decision to opt for a qualitative methodology was made. Ten experts (compliance officers and chief officers) were interviewed about their perspectives on different matters relating to AML, such as opinions on the prevailing legislation, training received, procedures used in their daily activities, risk factors and its analysis, as well as the costs and challenges of doing compliance and their opinion on whether the overall AML regime of their institutions proves to be effective or not.

The findings showed that procedures such as Customer Due Diligence, Staff Training and Reporting of Suspicious Transactions, based on a risk management approach, were indeed the most mentioned and depicted as the most important in an AML regime. Results also show that interviewees consider them to be effective although not enough in preventing money laundering. The findings show, as well, that interviewees feel that there are challenges in compliance that fundamentally relate to excessive and changing regulation and legislation, to the lack of enough human and technological resources and to the massive costs of doing compliance.

5.15-5.30pm Break

5.30-6.45pm Panel Sessions

Parallel session 1 (5.30-6.45pm)

Chair: Jenni Ward + Elena Krsmanovic

Favourite Rappers or Favourite Cappers? An Online Semiotic Field Study on Amsterdam Drill Rap Production and Consumption

Joran de Jong
University of Utrecht

Originating from the suburbs of Chicago, drill rap has gained ground in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands as well. Particularly in Dutch urban areas, such as Amsterdam, Rotterdam and the Hague, the music genre has gained massive popularity. This new DIY-style of ‘gangsta’ rap possesses an hyperviolent and hyperlocal character, in which youth compete on social media to establish a more authentic and ruthless persona than their competitors. In doing so, drill has become infamous in Dutch mass media because of its romanticisation of violence and its alleged relationship with increasing rates of knife crimes. Creating a massive audience online, societal concerns arise on the influence which the violent character might have amongst Dutch youth. Especially during times of the Covid-19 pandemic, social interaction between youth have transferred towards the online domain. In combination with the inherent online nature of drill rap, the present fieldwork is similarly conducted on social media. By conducting ‘netnographic’ fieldwork on three social media platforms and content analysis of 173 music videos, an exploratory mixed method approach has been utilized to study the phenomenon. Drawing upon digital and cultural criminological theories and concepts, it is aimed to explain the symbolic dynamic within and between online Amsterdam drill production and consumption.

Why the Birmingham School Matters in the Contemporary Study of Gangs

Hugo Goeury
John Jay College, New York

In this paper I argue that the Birmingham School of Cultural Studies, active in the 1960s and 70s, provided a rich theoretical framework for the development of critical gang studies today. Their work on youth subcultures, symbolic resistance, moral panics and crisis of hegemony offers valuable insights into contemporary gang studies that are all but ignored by most orthodox gang researchers who are schooled to purge any Marxist-influenced discourse from their work. I propose a re-engagement with key texts from Birmingham School authors to make the links between foundational works in critical criminology with a radical new inter-disciplinary discourse that is reimagining gang research through depathologizing and decolonizing this quintessential subject/object of deviant studies.

Gangs, Politics, & the Possibilities for Redemption in Urban America: Transforming the ‘Survivalist Gang Mentality’ among the Gang Subculture into Anti-colonial Consciousness through Revolutionary Political Education

Andrea Martinez with discussant Benny Perez
John Jay College, New York

Within the past couple of decades new gang scholarship has emerged that centers a counter-gang paradigm to situate gangs and gang members within a historical context to

explain the emergence of gangs and gang members as a response to colonial oppression (Duran, 2013; Barganier, 2011). Building on this work, the discussants offer a decolonial framework that contributes to a theoretical conceptualization of how to view gang members as capable agents of transformation and gangs as rife with “political possibilities” through revolutionary political education (Brotherton & Barrios, 2004). The discussants argue that if society is serious about reducing/eliminating the individual/collective enactment of violence among active gang members in urban communities within the U.S., scholars and law enforcement must reexamine their understanding of the original guiding principles of the emergence of gangs as a starting point to understand the survivalist gang mentality among contemporary gang members. Both discussants offer several case studies of effective political activity by both incarcerated and formerly incarcerated gang members to demonstrate the potential for the transformation of the ‘survivalist gang mentality’ among the gang subculture into a vanguard of revolutionary consciousness and abolitionists. They contend that the politicization of gang members and gangs (and the decriminalization of their labels) should be seen within a Third World liberation lens that is rooted in transformative abolition praxis and the need for policy changes that go beyond gang reforms.

Parallel session 2 (5.30-6.45)

Chair: Olga Petintseva + Anna Laskai

“From Hero to Zero” – The Paradigm Shift of Victimized Health Care Workers in the Pandemic Era

Zeineb Sassi
Hamburg University

Since the outbreak of the Coronavirus in December 19, the world has faced one of its most severe health crises in human history. While terrorism as a global criminological concern dominated the pre-pandemic public and academic discussion, a new term, “viruism”, covering pandemic related victimization notoriously came into existence. This paper aims to dismantle the paradigm shift of victimology respectively victimization in the ongoing pandemic era. Particularly, it sheds light on how health care workers became a target of multidimensional victimization unleashed by responses to the pandemic of state and population. With the help of a visual COVID-19 model of transformation, images for photo elicitation and subjective narratives, this paper critically concludes by elucidating how health care worker’s status during the pandemic shifted from “hero to zero”.

Covid-19 and Labour Exploitation: Assessing the Risks of Working in the Italian Agroindustry

Leonardo Fiori
Erasmus University Rotterdam

The Italian agricultural sector is prevalently composed by a fraction of individuals informally and irregularly employed in the labour market. This precarious position favours the designation of criminal activities such as labour exploitation leading to severe conditions of injustice and inequality for the workers employed in this business sector. This presentation zooms in the Agro Pontino region, a land intensively devoted to the

production of fruits and vegetables. Here, Italians, Indian migrants, African asylum seekers and other individuals are employed in the agroindustry. Part of their exploitative situation consist in the numerous risks arising from a lack of safety measures. Working in the fields is physically demanding, yet the labour conditions include shifts of extensive hours with insufficient breaks, during any meteorological condition, at day and night. Furthermore, the use of dangerous tools and hazardous material without any protective equipment leads to a severe level of risk for the safety of workers. Considering such problematic elements, this presentation analyses the various forms of risk present in the workplace within the agroindustry, with a particular addition on the impact of Covid-19 in the life of agricultural workers. The pandemic has aggravated the workers' situation and amplified the risks for what regards their health. After more than one year in a state of emergency, these individuals are found in worse living conditions than before due to a degradation of labour standards entailing to a reduction of their salary and an increase of safety risks resulting in a deteriorating condition of exploitation.

Policing Gender Violence. A study on Women's Police Stations in Argentina

María Victoria Puyol
National University of Litoral

Argentina inaugurated the first Women's Police Station in 1988 in La Plata, the capital of Buenos Aires (from now on PBA). The PBA currently has 131 CMs and 35 Offices for Attention to Victims of Violence, employing around 2,300 agents. Its main objectives are the design and implementation of policies for preventing gender violence and assisting victims. They have been designed to work with specialized police personnel - mostly, but not exclusively, female police officers - and support interdisciplinary teams comprised of psychologists, social workers and lawyers. The thesis aims to analyse police officers and professionals' members of interdisciplinary teams' discourses regarding gendered violence, victims of gendered violence, the role of WPS within a masculinists police structure, and the impact of the women's movement on WPS. The objective is to contextualise and understand the practices and interventions deployed by the WPS in policing gender violence. The methodological strategy was designed to develop qualitative research. The methodology combines the review of relevant documents, and semi structured in-depth interview with a sample of 100 police officers and professionals' members of interdisciplinary that work in 10 WPS of the PBA. The WPS selection criteria were having been in operation for at least five years. The fieldwork was conducted between August 2018 and March 2019.

Close of Session

Thursday 17th June

1.00-2.15 Plenary

Chair: René van Swaaningen + Brenda Oude Breuil

The Ideological Foundations of the New Greek Criminal Code and Critical Criminology

Sophia Vidali
Panteion University

The paper explores the ideological foundations of the new Greek criminal code, enacted in 2019, a few months before the pandemic. In particular, the principles that inspired the new legislation, as well as their importance in achieving the objectives pursued through the implementation of its provisions in general and in the COVID-19 era, are presented. The analysis is taking into account both what is stated in the text of the law and what appears from the data of penal and social reality. The paper highlights the general principles of the new CP and their ideological meaning, established after 70 years of implementation of the previous (1950) Criminal Code and confirmed in the new one. Putting them in the current historical context, it identifies the contradictions and shows the limits of dogmatic criminal law to express a progressive reform in relation to its proclaimed mission.

Is There an Epidemic of Youth Violence in the UK?

David Porteous
Middlesex University

Fashionable Interventions in the Social Control of U.S. Youth: Pathologization, Behavior Modification and the Dangerous Knowledge of the Credible Messenger

David Brotherton
John Jay College New York

In this presentation I analyze the theoretical auspices of two anti-violence interventions popularly employed in the most marginalized neighborhoods of the United States. Critically delineating their domain assumptions and practices, I show how such interventions often produce outcomes that run counter to their stated goals. With both interventions rejecting the foundational analytical principle of “root causes” in critical criminology, their popularity might be explained by their functions as useful salves for the continuity and maintenance of the current social order, replete with its practices of structural violence masked by the proliferation of inter-personal violence. In contrast, I discuss a more radical intervention which adheres to the tenet of “root causes” while seeking to leverage and employ the dangerous knowledge of the condemned and the marginalized in the long term goal of self-emancipation, solidarity and community renewal.

2.15.2.30 Break

2.30-3.45 Parallel Sessions

Parallel session 1 (2.30-3.45)

Chair: Damian Zaitch + Valeria Vegh Weis

Informality, Deference, Negotiation and Censoriousness: An Inquiry into the Relationships between Reformist Political Authorities and Prisoners in one Prison Service in Argentina.

Waldemar Claus
National University of Litoral

The present research advance is part of a broader thesis that seeks to reconstruct the articulations between politics and prison order in the men's prisons of Santa Fe (Argentina) between 2003 and 2007. Drawing on the agenda outlined by the historical sociology of crime policy (Loader and Sparks, 2004; Loader, 2006), and its uses to analyze prisons (Sparks, Bird, and Brangan, 2016; Brangan, 2019a and 2019b), the thesis seeks to account for the way in which the political actors who took charge and sought to reform the prison service during those years problematized, configured and acted upon the problem of prison order. This reform sought to respond to a situation that these actors - and others, in public and political discussions about the prison - defined as a deep prison crisis, which included high levels of overcrowding and violence, and very deteriorated and inhuman detention conditions in the prisons of Santa Fe.

This presentation will attempt to reconstruct one dimension of this problem, that linked to the instances through which these 'new' reformist political authorities established relationships with inmates in the men's prisons of Santa Fe in the first two years of their administration¹. More specifically, it will seek to describe the importance and meaning that these actors gave to these relationships, the channels through which these links flowed, the form they took, and the images of authority and subjects that circulated in these instances.

The investigation will show that the main motivation of the political authorities for the establishment of these links was associated with the attempt to break the resistances that the inherited bureaucratic structure imposed on the reformist policy and considerations about the existence of a legitimacy deficit in the bureaucratic structure and the prison authorities that favored, along with other factors, the production of disorder and violence. For this reason, the 'new' political authorities tried to establish more direct and informal relations with prisoners, links which bypassed the inherited prison bureaucracy, in order to more effectively manage prison conflicts.

On the prisoners' side, the presentation will highlight the appeal to a close, personal and paternal authority, capable of correcting the excesses and injustices of his subordinates, and the notions of justice that sustained their demands. Also, it is going to emphasize that the position in which the prisoners placed themselves in front of those authorities and the tone in which they addressed them - from deference to demand - varied depending on the way in which they presented themselves: starting with those

¹ That is, until the outbreak of the so-called 'Coronda massacre'. This was an incident involving hostage-taking that resulted in the killing of 14 inmates by other inmates. It happened at the Penitentiary Unit No. 1 of Coronda in April 2005. Beyond the fact that there is still judicial and political dispute over the conditions and reasons that propitiated the event, it seems difficult to underestimate the impact it had on life in the prisons of Santa Fe.

who presented as disempowered individuals seeking protection from the new authorities; continuing with those who claimed for themselves some informal leadership position among the prisoners, who tried to open instances of negotiation with these political actors; and finally reaching those who identified themselves as spokesmen of broader groups, who highlighted agreements and disagreements with the direction of prison policy, made demands and highlighted promises that were kept and not kept.

Decolonised Methodology in Researching the Criminalisation of Queerness in Uganda

Saskia Hennecke
University of Kent

My proposed dissertation research focuses on the coloniality of the criminalisation of queerness in Uganda and highlighting lived experiences. I will work with a local LGBTI+ advocacy organisation to produce a short documentary which addresses my own research interests as well as those of Ugandan LGBTI+ activists. Uganda is a country with a rich history of sexual diversity, but British colonialism and Evangelical neocolonialism have injected a normalisation of homophobic culture and policy into Ugandan society. As researchers, a carefully tailored methodology is our sharpest tool for navigating nuanced environments with sensitivity. When used carelessly, though, that tool becomes a weapon that can easily re-victimise vulnerable communities. In my presentation, I will outline the methodology I have planned, which is visual, participatory, and action oriented. I will emphasise my efforts to inscribe my methodology with decolonisation and personal reflexivity of my gender, sexuality, race, class and coloniality among this community, not with any delusions that I can separate my identity from my work, but so that I can reflect constantly on my impact on the environment and draw understandings from the discomfort of my otherness. It is ultimately my goal to use my filmmaking skills to highlight what is beautiful and true about the criminalised queer communities of Uganda, to centre the expertise and experiences of members of the community without flattening these into a single story, and to produce something that is not made for a western audience, but serves the community it represents, and represents them justly.

(De-)constructing a Special Category of Prisoners: Sex Offenders, Custodial Regimes and Reintegration Challenges in Greece

Anna Kasapoglou, Dimitrios-Lazaros Koros and Nikolaos Koulouris
University of Thrace

The paper presents the affects of the pandemic and the preliminary findings of an ongoing research which is co-financed by Greece and the European Union (European Social Funds- ESF) through the Operational Programme “Human Resources Development, Education and Lifelong Learning 2014-2020” in the context of the project “*Prisoners for sexual offences: Custodial regime, prison experience and reintegration interventions*” (MIS 5050213). The research concerns the construction of a particular category of prisoners and the "protective" custodial regime they are subjected to, discredited and segregated from the general prison population on the grounds of the offence they are accused for and convicted of. Offenders detained and imprisoned for sexual offences and prison staff, share prison marginalisation or rehabilitation experiences influencing social reintegration prospects with researchers, who are repeatedly adjusting their study plan to the restrictions dictated by the pandemic condition. Initially the research

provided for the use of a combination of research methods (focus groups with prisoners, structured individual interviews with prisoners and prison staff). Nevertheless, restrictions strengthening the total characteristics of custodial institutions in the pandemic period impeded the researchers' admission to prison facilities. Therefore, interviews with ex-prisoners, released after being pre-trialy detained or having done time for sexual offences, become the primary source of information, necessary to explore the research topics, while it is expected that it will be possible to enrich the analysis should permission to visit prison facilities is granted. So far, no special statutory provisions exist for the treatment of sexual offenders in prison, nor are there any special programs in place for their rehabilitation. The construction of sexual offenders as a special category is based on their de facto separation from other prisoners, in line with the informal code of the social organization of the prison community. The study aims to explore how the separate detention of sexual offenders is experienced by prison staff and themselves, and discuss their special (non) treatment from different points of view, namely the legality and legitimacy of such discriminatory practice in terms of prisoners' protection, safety, stigmatization and possible social exclusion, as well as their post release expectations and potentials. Moreover, the adjustment of these prisoners to the demands of social life in prison, as well as the role of prison officers and various social reentry interventions, and their conformity with the European and international prison/penitentiary standards and practices are put in context, to reveal and question the main directions for coherent and consistent human rights-based and social reentry-oriented penal policies.

Parallel session 2 (2.30-3.45)

Chair: Fiore Geelhoed + Federica Nappa

Islamic Terrorism in Postcolonial Africa: The Role of the Nigerian Government in the Success of Boko Haram

Felix Brongers
Erasmus University Rotterdam

The northern part of Nigeria has fallen victim to the atrocities of Boko Haram since 2009. Kidnappings, school attacks and killings made Boko Haram notorious and resulted in the international campaign #bringbackourgirls following the abduction of 276 school girls in 2014.

In this presentation I will discuss the emergence and radicalisation of Boko Haram and I will do so by using a social-ecological perspective that considers historical, social economic, religious and political factors as the causes for radicalisation. The analysis will take a critical point of view against the role of the government. I will argue that the presence and absence of governments -starting the analysis with the colonial times- provided a breeding ground in which Boko Haram could emerge. Furthermore, the military response against Boko Haram obstructed a political solution and resulted in human rights violations by the Nigerian army that fuelled the radicalising rhetoric of Boko Haram.

Both the atrocities of Boko Haram and the violent reaction of the Nigerian government have led the country into a humanitarian crisis. To come to a solution, the government should take actions to end the marginalisation of the northern population and make an effort to establish a line of thrust.

The Crime-Terror Nexus as a Vector in Counterterrorism: Making the Case of Cabo Delgado

Beatriz Vigo
University of Porto

Mozambique, specifically its people of the northern province of Cabo Delgado, has been deeply affected by violence and dislocation in the awakening of the terrorist insurgencies perpetrated by the local terrorist group known as Al-Shabaab or ASWJ (Ahlu Sunnah Wal-Jamâa). The province of Cabo Delgado, which is heavily Muslim populated, has long been facing hardships fruit of governmental negligence, social tensions and organized crime networks that incentivize corruption and trafficking, pillaging the province's natural resources that entitled it the name of 'Cabo Dourado' (Golden Cape).

The present study aims to deconstruct these 'pre-existing conditions' and to better understand the role they played in fostering the current extremist scenario. Mainly, it dives deep into the criminological perspective of the Crime-Terror Nexus theories and tries to grasp to what point the existing trafficking and organized crime networks enabled the terrorism phenomenon: what are the financing sources of Al Shabaab? are these networks being benefited by the terrorists for financing purposes? did the presence of organized crime create opportunities for terrorists?

To answer these questions, qualitative data was drawn from interviews to 3 experts on security and conflict issues in Africa, with knowledge on the Cabo Delgado situation. Preliminary results allow the dissection of the different plausible sources of financing for the group, between probable, possible, and unlikely. Furthermore, it illustrates other regional cases where this Nexus can be found, introduces new hypothesis and complexifies the relationship between the local insurgency and organized crime.

Under the Veil of Darkness: Examining the Securitization of Immigration through Customs and Border Patrol's Tactical Terrorism Response Team

Darializa Avila Chevalier
John Jay College New York

The Tactical Terrorism Response Team (TTTRT) is a unit of Customs and Border Patrol for which there is little public information. It operates at various ports of entry throughout the country and, based on information obtained by attorneys suing on FOIA claims, primarily targets United States citizens and non-citizens with valid entry documents. This study seeks to understand the TTTRT's function as a body of immigration enforcement and how its practices compare to its purported mission. In my analysis I examine: (i) the emergence of this unit in the context of historical trends in the convergence of securitization and immigration policy, and (ii) the unit's use of invisibility as a tool of securitization and exclusionary immigration policy. Given the limited public information on this unit's operations, this study explores the matter through a case study of Abdikadir Mohamed's 2017 encounter with the unit, his subsequent immigration proceedings, and the FOIA lawsuit filed against CBP for more information on the TTTRT.

3.45-4.15pm Break

4.15-5.45pm

Chair: Michael Mills + Nils Schuhmacher

(Re)Writing Historical Narratives One Par(t) as a Time

Yordi Roskam

Ghent University

This paper explores how PAR can enhance its transformative power through critical narrative criminology and history to (re)write historical narratives and include the suppressed perspective of the oppressed.

Feminist Activists' Struggles Against Rising Numbers of Femi(ni)cides in Mexico and the United Kingdom

Lotte Wildeboer

University of Kent

In March 2021, a vigil took place in London, UK after the disappearance and killing of Sarah Everard. In that same month, on International Women's Day, protesters marched the streets of Mexico City, Mexico calling for attention for the killings of women in their country. Both protests were predominantly focused on femicides. Femicides can be defined as the killings of women because of their gender, which is grounded in structural inequality and gender-oppression. Worldwide, approximately ten women are killed every hour. More than a third of these women are killed by their former or current partner (UNODC 2019). Although reports by the UNODC (2019) point out specific geographical regions where the risk of femicide is higher, femicide is a problem that spans far beyond low-income countries; it is a global issue (Walklate et al 2019, p.83) In reaction to this increasingly complex crime, activists across the global north and south have used different strategies against rising number of femicides. This presentation explores the need to further investigate these strategies used by feminist activists across the world, focusing on social media activism in Mexico City, Mexico, and data-activism in the United Kingdom.

Consensus in Conflict. Debates around the Distinction between Security and Defense in Argentina during the Government of Mauricio Macri (2016-2018)

Juliana Miranda

National University of Litoral

The aim of my thesis is to contribute to the understanding of how the debate regarding the distinction between the spheres of internal security and national defense has been configured in Argentinian recent history. After the fall of the last civil-military dictatorship, diminishing the influence of the military in the internal (political) landscape was conceived as the primary way to achieve civil control. This implied a consensus sustained by the vast majority of the political parties and other relevant social actors in a still fragile argentine democracy. Three major laws were sanctioned in order to pinpoint a new role for the Armed Forces: the National Defense Act (1988), the Internal Security Act (1991) and the National Intelligence Act (2001). These laws still distinguish the sphere of defense from that of security to this day.

Twenty years later, I look into the different rhetorical mechanisms through which this separation is conceptualized today in the public arena by different actors involved. To analyze how these disputes for meaning were shaped, I draw from two theoretical fields:

the sociology of public problems and sociolinguistics, specifically utilizing elements from discourse analysis as a tool to approach and comprehend communicative events through the use of documentation material as a secondary source.

In this session I will focus on the period ranging from the first months of 2016, right after former president Mauricio Macri took office, until mid-2018, when the decree that regulates the National Defense Act was reformed by the Executive. I attempt to tackle three objectives: identify key actors and how they define the notions of “security” and “defense” during this period; signal the main events and problematic areas which allow for the issue of the distinction to arise in the public agenda; and, finally, reconstruct in what ways the ideas and notions supported by the actors interlink with the rhetorical strategies and resources they deploy in order to put forward their positions in the debate.

Common Studies Session close 5.45pm

Online drinks and tribute to Roger Matthews led by a Kent University representative and Barry Spunt led by David Brotherton