Convergent roads, bridges and new pathways in criminology
Opening plenary session

Marc Cools
Welcome on behalf of the Faculty of Law and Criminology

Michel Tison, Dean
Welcome on behalf of the City of Ghent and the Ghent Local Police

Veerle Dhondt, Chief Superintendent, Ghent Local Police
Welcome by

Lieven Pauwels, Conference Organiser, Ghent University
Convergent roads, bridges and new pathways in criminology

Warm Welcome to the 19th Conference of the ESC

By Lieven Pauwels, on behalf of the local Organisers
Welcome to...

• ...Belgium
  • First B. ESC Conf Liège (2010)

• ... Ghent

• Ghent University
  • [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghent_University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghent_University)
Inauguration of Ghent Uni by the Dutch Prince of Oranje (October 9, 1817, painting by Mattheus Ignatius van Bree.)
Criminology is embedded in *Fac of Law & Crim*

- Dean Nico Gunzburg (1882-1984)
- Founder of School of Criminology
  - Criminology
  - Criminal law
  - Special Needs Education
  - Medicine (forensic / biology)
- 4-year programme only since 1984
Main theme

Convergence and Divergence

CONVERGE = come together from different directions; merge into one

DIVERGE = branch out from a common point into different directions
Additional information

- Online version of the Conference Programme (*Latest Version*, including errata)
- Twitter account
- @eurocrim2019: tweet pictures etc regarding presentations
- Google Maps to navigate between venues.
ESC presidential address
Tom Vander Beken
Hot and cold topics in European criminology

Tom Vander Beken

Presidential address

19th Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology
Convergent roads, bridges and new pathways in criminology
18 September 2019 - Ghent
Open criminology & interdisciplinary criminology (newsletter message 1 & 2)

“It is my conviction that both our field and our European Society should be seen as an environment to participate in the exchange of ideas and foster collaboration across the borders of our discipline, regardless of very narrowly-defined schools of thoughts, ontological stances and methodological preferences. My argument also implied that as criminologists we cannot withdraw within our discipline and not even within academia. Even if what we do is (still mainly) about the study of the processes of making laws, breaking laws and society’s reaction towards the breaking of laws, we need to keep our eyes open for what happens in other disciplines and society. Indeed, we must look outwards and bridge the gaps (if any) between other disciplines and society.”

Futures of European criminology (newsletter message 3)

Scenario’s about uncertainties related to interdisciplinarity and societal impact of European criminology: Crime Science, Penal Policy, Da Vinci and Theoretical Criminology
What is European Criminology?

An empirical approach - (European) criminology is what (European) criminologists do

We know something about how we publish and (who we) cite, but what do we know about what we actually do?

What can accepted abstracts of the ESC conferences \( n = 11,724 \) learn us about criminology (in Europe), the topics addressed and temporal evolutions?

Automated text analysis

Focus on hot and cold topics
The ESC abstracts

Annual number of abstracts

Year
Number of abstracts
0 100 500 1000
143 244 310 373 552 540 526 666 910 962 1213 1032 1101 1317
The ESC abstracts

Top 5 contributing countries (first author)

- United Kingdom: 2546
- Belgium: 848
- Germany: 826
- Netherlands: 658
- Spain: 536

Top 5 contributing institutions (first author)

- University of Cambridge: 204
- Ghent University: 202
- Vrije Universiteit Brussel: 152
- University of Edinburgh: 119
- Max Planck Institute: 115
Methodology

(Correlated) topic models

Automated analysis of large-N text corpora
Combination of machine learning, natural language processing and text mining
Detection of patterns and word co-occurences

N abstracts = 11,724
N words = 2,282,493

50 topics
Multiple topic models
Model selection: qualitative interpretation over quantitative model fit
Combination of machine learning and expert knowledge

Detection of hot & cold topics
Trend analysis \( p < .001 \) (Griffiths & Steyvers 2004, PNAS)

With Dr. Christophe VandeViver and Dr. Stijn Daenekindt
Most prevalent topics

- study
- survey
- differ
- will
- present
- compar
- data
- one
- can
- situat
- place
- even
- take
- differ
- concept
- polici
- polit
- argu
- critic
- discours
- paper
- research
- use
- data
- method
- analyti
- inform
- studi

www.ircp.ugent.be

Prof. Dr. Tom Vander Beken
+32 9 264 69 39
Tom.VanderBeken@UGent.be
Least prevalent topics
Hot topics

Victim, experi, support

Interview, process, experi

Research, use, data

Media, online, technolog

Environ, harm, environment
Hot topics

Highest word probabilities for hot topics

- **victim**
- **experi**
- **support**
- **vulner**
- **need**
- **victimolog**
- **research**
- **media**
- **onlin**
- **technolog**
- **communic**
- **internet**
- **new**
- **use**

- **interview**
- **process**
- **experi**
- **desist**
- **narrat**
- **stud**
- **environ**
- **harm**
- **environment**
- **south**
- **natur**
- **impact**
- **develop**

- **research**
- **use**
- **data**
- **method**
- **analys**
- **inform**
- **stud**

18 September 2019 | ESC Address
Cold topics

Crime, crimin, commit

Rate, data, statist

Offend, crimin, sex
Cold topics

Highest word probabilities for cold topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Offend</th>
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<td>32</td>
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Food for thought and further exploration

When differentiated into 50 topics, modelling ESC abstracts of ESC conferences shows:

- Most prevalent topics: meta language of ESC abstracts (or European criminology)?
- Stability for most topics over time
- 5 hot and 3 cold topics

European criminologists: general practitioners instead of specialists?

Strong subdisciplines or themes move to their own fora and conferences?

European criminology: increased attention for scientific method and study design?
Local organiser’s address

Lieven Pauwels
Criminology in Belgium... in a nutshell

Lieven Pauwels
Antoinette Verhage
Goals of this presentation

• (1) Historical development of criminology / (criminal) policy in Belgium
  • (2) Criminology as an educational programme
  • (3) Research Topics and Funding

• It’s not the first time ESC takes place in Belgium
• A lot has been written on criminology in Belgium:
  • Daems & Parmentier (2017)
  • Hardyns & Pauwels (2016)
  • Daems, Maes & Robert (2013)
  • Dantinne & Duchêne (2010)
  • Bruinsma & Walgrave (2009)
  • Snacken (2007)
  • ... there is a lot more, but in Dutch or French (e.g. Festschriften, edited volumes at the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the Leuven School of Criminology and the 75th anniversary of the Ghent School of criminology,...
Can Belgian criminology be presented in a nutshell?

A selection of milestones
For Belgian criminology & criminal policy
Let the journey begin!
Increasing international visibility
By participation in large-scale projects (ISRD, ICVS, Eurogang, European Sourcebook, …)

1990-2000

Heydays of integrated Social / situational CP

1991 ‘Black Sunday’ Vi.Blok

1996: Dutroux case

1998: Prep police reform

• First integrated police statistics
• First national crime & vict survey
  • Ponsaers, Bruggeman, Van Kerckvoorde
• NICC (current director C. Myncke)

Becomes fully operational

2000

2001

9/11

2003

2006

2008

2009

2010

2015

S. Snacken ESC Award

‘Refugee crisis’ RWA on the rise

2019 ‘Elections’

2020

Zaventem Attacks

2016

Increase in publications ‘Metrics Mania’

2000

2009

1st criminological PhD on articles At Ghent Uni

2004

L. Walgrave ESC Award

2008

L. Walgrave PhD on articles At Ghent Uni

2016

L. Walgrave ESC Award

1st criminological PhD on articles At Ghent Uni

2004:

Ba/Ma Educational reform
Impact on criminology programmes
Increasing attention for research methods

21th C:

key-words Evaluation / Safety / Security /
‘New Public Management’ / (Penal) populism
Police Studies / Org. Crime / ‘radicalisation studies’

2008

Bank crisis

2004

ESC Award

2001

L. Walgrave PhD on articles At Ghent Uni

2008

L. Walgrave ESC Award

1993

1996: Dutroux case

1998: Prep police reform

1991 ‘Black Sunday’ Vi.Blok

2016

‘Refugee crisis’ RWA on the rise

2019 ‘Elections’
How does that impact on Belgian criminology?

- **Key topics**: EVERY institution of crime control / ‘new’ phenomena (pol viol) /
- Every School has own core themes

- Divergent or convergent?
- Educ programmes vs research clusters

- Increasing gap policy and criminological knowledge!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION
ESC European Criminology Award 2019

Laudatio: Michael Tonry (University of Minnesota Law School)
AND THE WINNER IS...

Tapio Lappi-Seppälä
Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy
ESC Young Criminologist Award 2019

Laudatio: Anna-Maria Getos (Zagreb Faculty of Law)
Kjersti Lohne (University of Oslo)

“Penal humanitarianism beyond the nation state:
An analysis of international criminal justice”
European Journal of Criminology Best Article Award 2018

Laudatio: Tom Vander Beken
Do offenders have distinct offending patterns before they join adult gang criminal groups? Analyses of crime specialization and escalation in offence seriousness

Maria Libak Pedersen
Ministry of Justice, Denmark / Aalborg University, Denmark
INVITATION TO THE RECEPTION

Marc Cools

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CHEERS!