**Helsinki 2003: Criminologists Head North**

By Sara Harrop

There is something pleasantly disquieting about landing in a city where you know not one word of the language: that rejuvenating frisson of apprehension as you leave the safe, multi-lingual no-man’s-land of the airport and hover on the brink of the great unknown.

Aboard the bus to the city centre, I peer at the polysyllabic street names hoping I can decipher the right place to get off. Clean across the (to me) indistinguishable babble of Finnish, an English voice penetrates.

‘So what’s the latest on the death penalty then?’

Ah! At least I now know I am on the right bus!

How many times was this scene re-enacted on 27 August when 400 people converged on the Finnish capital for the third annual conference of the European Society of Criminology? After the success of the 2002 meeting in Toledo, conference organiser Kauko Aromaa and his team had quite an act to follow. How could they give the chilly Baltic venue the same appeal as its balmy, labyrinthine Spanish predecessor? Confining all accommodation and venues within a small geographical area helped considerably. Rather than needing to accost bemused taxi drivers with butchered requests to take them to the corner of Yliopistonkatu and Fabianinkatu, participants were able to wander along clutching their ESC maps as badges of identification and, by following the stream of conversational snippets about sentencing, restorative justice, and recidivism, to arrive painlessly at Yliopistonkatu.

Continued on page 8

---

**Eurobarometer: Crime & Rising Anxiety**

By Maria João Costa

Europeans in 2002 generally were more apprehensive about safety in their neighbourhoods, and more conscious of drug-related problems, than in previous years, according to a special 2002 Eurobarometer report on public safety. Fear of crime was most pronounced in Greece, France, Luxembourg, Portugal, and the UK, and least in Austria, Germany, and several north European countries.

The Eurobarometer was established in 1973. It conducts opinion surveys two to five times per year on behalf of the European Commission in all E.U. member states. Reports are published twice yearly. Each survey includes approximately 1000 interviews per country, using representative samples. The Eurobarometer is designed to provide regular monitoring of social and political attitudes.

In autumn 2002, a survey was carried out on Public Safety, Exposure to Drug-Related Problems, and Crime. Prepared by the European Opinion Research Group (EORG), it was published in May 2003 and is available on Eurocrim2004.com.

---

**Third ESC Conference a Smash Success**

By Kauko Aromaa and Tuomas Finne

The third annual conference of the European Society of Criminology in Helsinki, Finland gathered about 350 participants, not quite as many as in Toledo last year but nevertheless a good result. The feedback has been largely positive, flavoured with some deserved criticism. Plans for the next conference in Amsterdam, 25-28 August 2004 are underway (www.eurocrim2004.com).

The conference was opened by the Finnish Minister of Justice, Johannes Koskinen, ESC President Paul Wiles, and organiser Kauko Aromaa. The minister’s comments dealt...
Message from the President

The next twelve months will be full of important issues, both organisational and substantive. Contributions from all of you will be crucial to help me and the newly-appointed board manage the Society.

Let me explain the main changes we wish to see.

First, an elected president. Again this year the board solicited expressions of interest and nominations but no one was nominated. The new president-elect, Sonja Snacken, was nominated by the board and elected at the general assembly in Helsinki. Sonja, the other board members, and I will attempt to make the selection of the next president-elect the result of a genuine election.

Second, the appointment of a permanent secretariat and of an administrative structure. We want this structure to be operative by the time of the Amsterdam conference.

Let me move to more substantive issues, which may be of interest during the next twelve months.

Next year ten new countries will join the European Union, and in 2007 its membership will be further enriched by two more. European institutions have played an important role in combating crime and its consequences. In addition, the new constitution will soon come into force.

Fresh ideas are needed on how to prevent crime. New people will occupy new jobs in international and national institutions. New curricula will be developed by our universities.

The ESC can contribute to this through the ideas and work of its members. It can also help eastern and central European universities move ahead in their criminological curricula and research.

What are the most urgent needs of a larger Europe?

The first is the availability of relevant data for comparative analyses. The second relates to university curricula. There is an increasing variety of undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate programmes in criminology. We need to increase our knowledge of such initiatives, and to foster the training of students in criminology in Eastern European universities.

These two activities imply that the ESC should find the appropriate means to interact with the international institutions which deal with European problems. These institutions recruit officers and look for experts. We will benefit from opportunities offered to us and at the same time contribute to an improvement in policies.

I think it useful to propose meetings with the representatives of those international and European organisations that deal with crime-related issues, for which an agenda should be drafted, including topics in which mutual cooperation is useful. Why these meetings and with which agenda? How can European criminologists help?

Here are some issues where cooperation could be reinforced: data for comparative analyses; development of methods for evaluating crime policies; technologies for preventing crime; trade-offs between security and rights.

How would the ESC and its members benefit? Job opportunities and research opportunities.

These are my ideas and proposals for action. Please let me know your ideas and proposals. I’ll raise them at the coming year’s board meetings scheduled for October 18, 2003, January 17, 2004, and May 15, 2004.

See you all in Amsterdam.
Criminology in Belgium

By Sonja Snacken

Criminology in Belgium has a long history. The first ‘cercle de criminologie’ was established at the Université Libre de Bruxelles in 1880, headed by the lawyer Adolphe Prins and the psychiatrist Paul Héger. In 1907, the Revue de Droit Pénal et de Criminologie was founded, offering a mix of articles on penal issues, jurisprudence, and criminology.

University Degrees

Within the universities, schools of criminology were founded in the law faculties at Leuven (1929), Brussels (1936), Gent (1937), and Liège (1937). Training consisted of legal and clinical courses and offered a complementary interdisciplinary specialisation following another basic training (law, medicine, psychology). The courses led to a degree in criminology after a one- or two-year study, and could be followed by a PhD. There were a few dozen students per university.

This picture changed radically at the end of the sixties. With sociological approaches becoming more influential, criminology evolved into a critical social science, broadening its focus from the etiology of crime to include the functioning of the criminal justice system. Independent university research gained importance, and the number of PhDs increased. An additional, preparatory year was introduced to allow such professionals as social workers or police officers to obtain a criminology degree in three years. Some professional functions required a criminology degree (prison director, chief of police).

The Flemish universities (Leuven, Gent, Brussels-Flemish) eventually introduced full four-year undergraduate programmes in criminology, offering a large range of interdisciplinary training (juridical, sociological, clinical), criminological theories, and social science methodologies. Student numbers soared from a few dozen per university to several hundred. The French-speaking universities still offer two- or three-year programmes.

Postgraduate programmes have been introduced in several universities. The international attraction of postgraduate programmes in the French-speaking universities is guaranteed by the French language. Flemish universities offer postgraduate degrees in English.

Separate, fully-fledged criminology degrees such as those offered by the Flemish universities are uncommon in Europe. This has advantages and disadvantages. On the positive side, it has enhanced the visibility and recognition of criminology.

The four-year course is very attractive to youngsters finishing high-school (although not always for the right reasons). They previously had to complete at least two years of additional training, usually in law, before beginning criminology (this sometimes gave criminology

Continued on page 12

Criminology in the Republic of Ireland

By Ian O’Donnell

Criminology in the Republic of Ireland is in its infancy. Recent years have, however, seen a sudden growth of interest and this is reflected in the number of university courses coming on stream. Funding has also begun to emerge and, if this continues, a new thread may appear in the international criminological tapestry.

The first Institute of Criminology in the Republic of Ireland was established in 2000 in the Faculty of Law at University College Dublin (UCD).

The Institute aims to be a centre of excellence that undertakes high quality research on crime, criminal justice, and the penal system in Ireland, enhances public understanding, and collaborates with national and international organisations.

The Institute has already recruited five PhD students with wide research interests: police-led restorative conferences, the impact of probation supervision on desistance from crime, psychological profiling of computer virus writers and hackers, sentencing of juvenile offenders, and the management of racist crime.

Academic Courses

A taught course is not available at UCD; the emphasis is on research and doctoral training. However, a number of other institutions offer programmes, all of recent origin. University College Cork offers a one-year LLM in criminal justice. It has a strong practical component and every student is required to complete a placement with a criminal justice system agency. The first cohort of up to twenty students enrolled in October 2003.

The Institute of Public Administration (IPA) offers a four-year part-time BA in public management. It has five optional streams, one in the administration of justice, and has an annual intake of approximately fifteen drawn from the police and prison services. Since 2002 the IPA has offered a two-year part-time MA degree in public management (criminal justice). The first group of ten students is now halfway through. Distance learning is the usual mode of study.

A four-year BA in criminal justice is available from Hibernia College, an on-line third-level institution established in 2000 to offer flexible web-enabled learning opportunities.

A centre for criminal justice was established at Limerick University in 1997. It has carried out a number of projects including studies of community service and cross-border police cooperation. No taught programme is available.

In Northern Ireland the University of Ulster offers a BSc in criminology and criminal justice. This undergraduate programme is available on both part-time and full-time bases. The Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice was established in 1995 at Queen’s University Belfast. It

Continued on page 19
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
INSTITUTE OF CRIMINOLOGY

The Institute of Criminology has a strong international reputation for academic excellence. The Institute has a distinguished senior faculty which includes Sir Anthony Bottoms, Manuel Eisner, David Farrington, Loraine Gelsthorpe, Adrian Grounds, Alison Liebling, Shadd Maruna, Michael Tonry, Per-Olof Wikström, and Andrew von Hirsch. Its multi-disciplinary staff have backgrounds in criminology, sociology, psychiatry, psychology, philosophy, geography, history, and law.

Radzinowicz Library
The Institute’s library has one of the world’s pre-eminent criminology research collections, including a wide selection of books, papers, periodicals, and historical materials. The library holds over 50,000 books and 18,000 pamphlets, receives nearly 300 periodicals, and has an aggressive acquisitions policy.

The Institute offers a wide range of graduate programmes:

- M.Phil. Degrees in Criminology or Criminological Research (the largest full-time graduate criminology courses in the UK)
- Ph.D. in Criminology
- M.St. in Prison or Police Studies

Students come from around the world, with strong undergraduate records in law, or social or behavioural science subjects, or extensive professional experience. The Institute admits approximately 40 M.Phil. students and 4-8 Ph.D. students each year. A number of awards and studentships are available, including Gates Cambridge Scholarships for non-UK citizens.

For UK Students
Arts and Humanities Research Board, University of Cambridge
Domestic Research Studentships, Millennium Scholarships,
ESRC Studentships, Newton Trust Fellowships

For International Students
Cambridge Commonwealth Trust, Cambridge Overseas Trust,
Cambridge European Trust, Gates Cambridge Trust, Institute of
Criminology Wakefield Scholarships, Lopez-Rey Scholarships

Further information is available from:
The Graduate Secretary, Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge, 7 West Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DT, UK.
Tel: 44 1223 335363, Fax: 44 1223 335356, Email: graduate.secretary@crim.cam.ac.uk
Web-site: www.crim.cam.ac.uk, www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/gradstud/
with basic rights and the EU constitution and with the integration of criminal legislation in Europe. He concluded by pointing out that it is crucial that penal policy decision-making be based on facts and reliable research and that decision-makers interact regularly with experts and practitioners. ESC President Paul Wiles welcomed participants and observed that the choice of Finland as host country should remind all of the merits of Nordic crime policy.

ESC-Helsinki attracted 333 participants who presented 270 papers in 81 panels. Five plenary sessions (on crime control and integration; victims of crime; crime trends in Europe; constitutionalizing European criminal justice; Europeanisation of criminal law) were complemented by a small poster session, a sizeable book exhibit, and two visits to Finnish prisons - the most modern Vantaa prison, and the traditional 19th-century Central Prison of Helsinki.

Participants also had opportunities to meet others at refreshment breaks, over meals, and at the receptions offered by the City of Helsinki and the Finnish Ministry of Justice. Thursday evening was free for attending any of the hundreds of events that together made up the annual “Night of the Arts”, organised by the Board of

In addition, 44 percent (four out of nine) plenary speakers were women, as were 40 percent (two out of five) plenary chairs.

The most popular themes were organised crime, trafficking, and prostitution (5 panel sessions), drug policy and connections between drugs and crime (3 sessions), violence, in particular violence against women (5 sessions), police-related research (5 sessions), juvenile delinquency and sanctions against juveniles (6 sessions), insecurity in European cities (2 sessions), and fear of crime (3 sessions). The conference programme also introduced one teaching session about methodology in criminological research and four author-meets-critic sessions at which new European criminological books were presented and discussed.

Plans are underway for next year’s conference in Amsterdam, with the theme “Global similarities, local differences”. Abstracts are due next spring to Henk van de Bunt, Department of Criminology, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, De Boelelaan 1105, 1081 HV Amsterdam, the Netherlands, tel. +31 20 444 6231, fax +31 20 444 6230, Email: h.g.vandebunt@rechten.vu.nl.

General information may be found at eurocim2004@rechten.vu.nl.

For registration and logistics: Symposium Secretariat ESC2004, c/o Convenience Conference Management, P.O.Box 77, 3480 DB Harmelen, the Netherlands, tel. +31 348 567667, fax +31 348 446057, e-mail: nve@convenience-cm.nl.
European Society of Criminology

Conference 2003 • Helsinki, Finland, August 27–30, 2003
European Society of Criminology

Conference 2003 • Helsinki, Finland, August 27–30, 2003
Criminologists Head North

Continued from page 1

the University of Helsinki’s Porthania building and the conference registration desk.

The City of Helsinki may not have been able to guarantee warmth and sunshine but it was able to provide copious quantities of fine food and alcohol and a sumptuous setting (the City Hall) for the welcome reception. An air of anticipation was palpable as people glanced around the room, scanning the assembly for familiar faces. There were old friends to be caught up with, new contacts to be made, and who knows? Perhaps research strategies to be dreamed up, collaborations to be formed, plans for innovative hard-hitting books to be hatched, and maybe even the seeds of fruitful criminal justice policies to be sown.

At an event of this sort even more ideas are exchanged on an informal basis at social gatherings than at official sessions. One function of a conference is, after all, to enable young aspiring academics to mingle with the good, the great, and the eminent. After hearing a plenary presentation by someone who was previously just a name on the cover of a thought-provoking book, more timid conferees enjoy the opportunity to converse with their more prominent colleagues away from a microphone and several hundred curious eyes. The social programme is as crucial as the academic one to the success of a conference.

A dinner cruise around the Helsinki archipelago was arranged for the Thursday night and, on the Friday, we all had the chance briefly to feel like characters from a Tolstoy novel at a reception by the Finnish Ministry of Justice in the splendiferous, chandelier-decked Government Banquet Hall. A number of participants continued their Baltic sojourn with post-congress tours to Tallinn and St. Petersburg. For those truly intent on a busman’s holiday, tours of two local prisons, one traditional and one progressive, were arranged.

The theme of this year’s conference was ‘Crime and Crime Control in an Integrating Europe’, a topic eminently appropriate to the venue. The Finnish Minister of Justice, Johannes Koskinen, pointed out in his opening address that this topic will prove crucial as the European Union every conference venue is unique and comes complete with its own set of special circumstances. You can rely only to a limited extent on copying ideas picked up from predecessors and must always be prepared for the unexpected. Amsterdam, take note!

The path to a perfect conference seldom runs smoothly and disaster almost struck back in January when Olli Rikala, the original conference secretary, was enticed away by the offer of a permanent job in marketing. Fortunately, by the end of February, a highly competent replacement was found in Tuomas Finne, a student of arts management at Helsinki University. With fluent American English, well-developed organisational skills, and an unflagging sense of humour, Tuomas set about keeping in daily contact with the various subcontracted service providers and answering more than 5,000 emails.

‘I don’t know,’ says Tuomas, ‘whether to worry most about the people who send me hundreds of emailed questions, some of them entirely gratuitous, or about those who don’t ask me anything. They may drop a totally unforeseen bombshell on me at the last moment!’

Sami Nevala stepped in in June to help compile the programme framework. A master’s student at the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control (HEUNI), writing a thesis on the fear of crime questions in the International Crime Victim Survey, Sami, unlike Tuomas, has a background and interest in criminology. His statistical and analytical skills proved invaluable in handling the formidable task of juggling the panel session timings to avoid potential overlaps of interest.

A veteran of several similar conferences, Sami had already met many of the Helsinki participants and relished seeing them all together on
his home turf. Both he and Tuomas talked enthusiastically of the satisfaction of finally matching faces to the hundreds of email personalities who had been their workday companions over the preceding months. Kauko feels pleased and proud to have headed such a lively and likeable team. ‘The team have made the conference,’ he says. ‘Without them, the whole thing would have sunk months ago.’

**Early Preparation**

Kauko Aromaa cannot stress enough the need to start conference preparations early. His own first round of planning began a year in advance with an initial quest for sponsors. The Academy of Finland and the Finnish Cultural Foundation regularly support this kind of international scientific event so he approached them with relatively high hopes. The third important sponsor is the Scandinavian Research Council for Criminology which provided a grant of €10,000 to deal with the initial preparation. Kauko is most grateful to all these institutions. Registration fees cover only about 25 percent of overall costs, so without their support the whole thing would have been impossible.

Naturally, financial contributions are not the only ones. A platoon of people worked hard behind the scenes to ensure that the Helsinki conference would be memorable for all the right reasons. Britta Kyvsgaard of the Danish Ministry of Justice, Jerzy Sarnecki (Stockholm University) and Paul Larsson of the National Police Directorate, Norway, formed the scientific programme board who designed the original plenary programme.

Besides Tuomas and Sami, Kauko would like to thank the secretariat of the Scandinavian Research Council in general, and Anna Esko, the general secretary, in particular. Her contributions were immeasurable. He is also grateful to Professor Jukka Kekkonen of the University of Helsinki’s Faculty of Law for the use of the Porthania and main university buildings, and likewise to his troupe of smiling stripy-shirted student volunteers who were always on hand to deal with practical problems and dispense advice from the cheapest place to eat near the university to how to work the photocopier.

Paul Wiles officially handed his presidential duties over to Ernesto Savona of the Catholic University of Milan. Professor Savona will serve as president until the Amsterdam conference in 2004, when Professor Sonja Snacken will step into that role. Thus the society’s aims of moving the presidency and the annual conference around Europe have been fulfilled. Kracow as a 2005 venue will mean a welcome move eastwards. The jovial, bearded figure of Kauko Aromaa was omnipresent, and seemingly omniscient, throughout. Usually to be seen wielding plastic bags full of spare programmes and ESC flags, he could normally be spotted striding purposefully across the ground floor of the Porthania Building, patiently answering a barrage of questions. ‘Kauko, where’s the bathroom?’ ‘Professor Aromaa, who’s speaking in the next plenary?’ ‘Kauko, where are we supposed to meet the boat tonight?’

Although the official language of ESC conferences is English, the general atmosphere was agreeably European. English may be helping to integrate Europe but the linguistic diversity of our continent adds so much interest! Huddles of German and Dutch speakers switched to English mid-sentence in order to converse with some Israelis. Snatches of Spanish, Italian, and Greek were in evidence at all the social gatherings, as was, of course, Finnish. Scandinavians were particularly well-represented.

Timing the conference to coincide with Helsinki’s ‘night of the arts’ was also a good ploy. On the Thursday night, the whole city became one huge free show as dance performances and operas were held in parks, art galleries and museums opened their doors, and every aspiring young band in town seemed to be setting up their instruments on street corners.

So if you missed out this year, remember the 4th annual ESC conference takes place in Amsterdam from 25-28 August, 2004. You will have a whole new city to explore, secure in the knowledge that you will run into someone you know at least once a day, you can stock up on cheese and diamonds, and you might even meet a future research collaborator and learn something new about the penal system in the Czech Republic too!
Justice in the Risk Society: Challenging and re-affirming ‘justice’ in late modernity

Barbara Hudson University of Central Lancashire

In Justice in the Risk Society, Barbara Hudson outlines traditional liberal perspectives on justice, risk and security, as well as addressing some key concerns, including: the challenges to justice; the politics of risk and safety; communitarian and feminist political and ethical theories; how to use current theories and perspectives such as Habermas’s discourse ethics and postmodern perspectives on justice; and how to develop new methods of re-affirming and reconstructing theories and institutions of justice.

October 2003 • 272 pages
Cloth (0-7619-6159-3) • £60.00
Paper (0-7619-6160-7) • £17.99

Criminological Perspectives: Essential Readings, Second Edition

Edited by Eugene McLaughlin, John Muncie and Gordon Hughes all at The Open University

The Second Edition of Criminological Perspectives offers the most comprehensive guide to the major topics and areas of debate that constitute contemporary criminology. It will be essential reading for students and researchers in criminology, criminal justice studies, socio-legal studies, sociology, social policy and social work.

Published in association with The Open University

2002 • 612 pages
Cloth (0-7619-4143-6) • £60.00
Paper (0-7619-4144-4) • £21.99

Restorative Justice: Critical Issues

Edited by Eugene McLaughlin, Ross Fergusson, Gordon Hughes and Louise Westmarland all at The Open University

Restorative Justice: Critical Issues brings together key international writings that trace the development of restorative justice from its diverse beginnings to current global policies and practices.

Published in association with The Open University

May 2003 • 224 pages
Cloth (0-7619-4208-4) • £60.00
Paper (0-7619-4209-2) • £18.99


Meda Chesney-Lind and Lisa J Pasko both at University of Hawaii at Manoa

This Second Edition explores the gender and cultural factors in women’s lives that often precede a move into criminal behaviour and addresses the question of whether female offenders are anymore violent today than in decades past.

August 2003 • 216 pages
Cloth (0-7619-2978-9) • £54.00
Paper (0-7619-2405-1) • £25.00

The SAGE Dictionary of Criminology

Edited by Eugene McLaughlin and John Muncie both at The Open University

‘Great dictionaries inform, intrigue and investigate. McLaughlin and Muncie’s perceptive collection does all three. The SAGE Dictionary of Criminology is wide and accessible enough to interest anyone concerned with crime, the law and the panoply of issues and explanations that surround them. This admirable volume will inform, guide and contribute to debates in the years ahead’ - Ellis Cashmore, Professor of Culture, Media and Sport, Staffordshire University

2001 • 352 pages
Cloth (0-7619-5907-6) • £60.00
Paper (0-7619-5908-4) • £19.99

Criminology: A Reader

Edited by Yvonne Jewkes University of Hull and Gayle Letherby Coventry University

This Reader provides a comprehensive introduction for students studying criminology at undergraduate level. Not only does the book include 34 essential readings, but also editorial commentary with section introductions, study questions, and suggestions for further reading.

2002 • 408 pages
Cloth (0-7619-4710-8) • £60.00
Paper (0-7619-4711-6) • £19.99
University of Oxford

Centre for Criminological Research

MSc in Criminology and Criminal Justice

For further information: www.crim.ox.ac.uk

Application forms for this one-year full-time course are available from: Graduate Admissions Office, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2J D, UK

Tel: + 44 (0)1865 270060 Fax: 270049

graduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk
Criminology in Belgium

Continued from page 3

students the reputation of failed law
students). Finally, it allows for an
interdisciplinary training that turns
criminologists into something like
‘generalists in criminal and penal
matters’, possible interpreters and
coodinators between the different
juridical and social science
professions.

With the the last 15 years’
increased public and political
attention to crime, demand for
 criminological expertise has soared,
leading to new jobs within the
criminal justice system, prevention
programmes, local security initiatives,
and private security.

Research

Most criminological research is
carried out in the universities. This
includes fundamental and applied, the
latter being preponderantly
quantitative.

Fundamental research is financed
through three channels: the
universities, the National Science
Foundation (FWO), and the Ministry
for Scientific Policy (Department for
Scientific, Technical and Cultural
Affairs: DWTC).

The National Science Foundation
finances PhDs, 3-4 year research
projects, and Belgian participation in
international research networks.

Criminological research long
languished at the margins of other
disciplines but slowly gained
recognition in the 1990s. As part of
public support for universities,
funding is provided for independent
academic research, to be decided by
the universities themselves, usually
through their own research councils.

The Ministry of Scientific Policy
(DWTC) finances long-term (5 years),
high-level inter-university, and
interregional research networks on
selected topics.

Policy research is mainly
performed in the universities with
external funding, and is financed by a
variety of ministries. This is linked to
divisions of responsibility among
different political levels: federal (e.g.,
justice, police), regional (e.g.,
education, welfare), and local (e.g.,

prevention). This led in the past to
fragmented and dispersed research
projects, aggravated by divisions of
topical interest among ministries.

Attempts at better coordination and
more transparent decision-making at
the federal level have resulted in the
creation of longer-term research
programmes on police matters within
the Ministry of Interior (since 1985)
and on justice matters within DWTC
(since 1989).

Policy research on crime and
justice in Belgium was fostered over
the last twenty years by political

Since the mid-1990s, the
etiology and treatment of
sexual offenders has
gained importance, further
fostered by the Dutroux
scandal.

upheavals following several violent
incidents, and by scandals about
police and judicial ineffectiveness in
addressing them. Electoral successes
since 1991 of extremist right-wing
politicians focusing on immigration
and insecurity, and growing attention
to victims of crime, especially after
media coverage of the Dutroux case in
1996, have also stimulated research.

These developments focused
public and political attention on crime
and security, the need for police and
judicial reform, and political and
judicial authorities’ lack of legitimacy
in the eyes of the public. Many
political and legislative initiatives
have been undertaken, accompanied
by demands by the ministries, or
proposals by universities, for
evaluation and follow-up.

Internal research departments were
created in the ministries of justice
(National Institute for Criminalistics
and Criminology, Department for
Penal Policy) and interior (General
Police Support Service, Secretariat for
Prevention) in the mid-1990s. These
departments have had to foster
coordination of research. This has led,
however, to new problems.

Because of the absence of a
tradition of internal research in
Belgian ministries, many aspects of the
functioning of the research
departments were unclear, including
their scientific independence from
policy-makers, relations between
internal and external policy research,
and availability of internal data for
university research.

To enhance consultation and
coodination, transparency of
decision-making and financing, access
to data, and quality control, a
‘Consultation Platform for Justice and
Security’ was set up in 2000 among
the research departments and the
penal law or criminology departments
of the universities.

There is no consensus on how to
achieve these goals. For the
ministerial research departments, the
balance between coordination and ad
hoc considerations remains uneasy.
Universities fear for their
independence in proposing relevant
research topics and for their co-
option as providers of political
legitimation (Devroe 2003). Whether
the development of the internal
ministry research departments will
reduce financing for independent
external policy research remains to be
seen.

At European Union level, research
financing has long been limited to
legal aspects of EU cooperation. With
increased focus on justice and
security, interest in criminological
topics should increase, as Paul Wiles
noted in his president’s message in the
March 2003 ESC Newsletter.

Private commercial research
bureaus are (as yet) rarely involved in
criminological research in Belgium,
unlike in such neighbouring countries
as the Netherlands. Large consultancy
firms, however, increasingly are being
asked for assessments of financial
efficacy, quality control, and
implementation of reform in the
police, justice, and prison services.

Major Research Topics

Ministry control of financing of
university research projects has
resulted in a predominance of work on
police and insecurity, criminal policy,
and justice system functioning.
Etiological studies on such subjects as juvenile delinquency and drug addiction are rare and are usually conducted by psychologists or psychiatrists linked to the university criminology institutes. Since the mid-1990s, the etiology and treatment of sexual offenders has gained importance, further fostered by the Dutroux scandal. Lack of integrated data and statistical systems has led to more descriptive studies of certain crimes, especially drug offences, but also hooliganism, transnational crime, and computer crime.

Criminal policy studies concentrate on a variety of subjects: feelings of insecurity, social exclusion, and prevention; specific crimes (drug offences, sexual offences, organised crime); victims; administration of the criminal justice system.

Police studies expanded substantially in the 1990s, and encompass the development of integrated police statistics, relations between the police and the public, organisation and functioning of the different services, inter-agency cooperation, and private security.

Judicial systems have been less frequently studied. Topics here include the functioning, workload, and increased competences of public prosecutors; the use of remand custody and its alternatives; sentencing of particular offences or offenders (drug offences, sexual offences, ethnic minorities, female offenders); the relations among sentencing, penal inflation, prison overcrowding, and life sentences.

Research programmes of the ministry of scientific policy currently tackle topics such as changing interactions between judicial and social or civil services (schools, mediation) and public attitudes to justice.

With regard to prisons, the main topics studied have been overcrowding, lack of prisoners’ rights, regimes for specific categories of prisoners, welfare and support for prisoners by external services, violence, electronic monitoring, and parole. Prison staff have also slowly gained increased attention.

Juvenile justice systems have long been studied in Belgium. Discussions are underway about future policy directions including from welfare, human rights, and restorative justice models. Empirical research concerns the influence of these discussions on professional practice; the introduction of mediation, community service, and family group conferencing; and juvenile institutions and treatment.

How can we assess developments in criminological research in Belgium? Police operations and courts have been opened to scientific inquiry. Universities have generally succeeded in maintaining their independence from the authorities. However, this research has brought limited theoretical innovation, hence reducing the proportion of fundamental research.

Theoretical models and concepts developed or supported in the separate criminological institutes, often influenced by interactionist and critical theories, shape the ways commissioned, policy-related research is tackled. To give a few examples: the concept of acteur social in the creation, transgression, and application of the penal law (Université Catholique de Louvain); the concept of ‘social vulnerability’ and restorative justice as a new paradigm in penology and victimology (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven); a human rights approach to penal law, police, penology, juvenile justice, medical power (Universiteit Gent, Vrije Universiteit Brussel); and penal welfarism and actuarial justice (Université Libre de Bruxelles), etc.

Reference

Sonja Snacken is professor of criminology, penology and sociology of law at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and president-elect of the ESC.

EUROPEAN QUANTITATIVE CRIMINOLOGY

I would like to invite ESC members with research interests in quantitative criminology to join the newly formed European Quantitative Criminology (EQC) working group.

Apart from defining a pool of European criminologists with quantitative orientation and promoting communication among them, the EQC working group’s shape and objectives are open for discussion. Possible functions include organizing quantitative criminology or research methods panel sessions at ESC conferences or holding one-day EQC workshops, establishing cross-national quantitative criminology research ties to aid in competing for European Commission funds, offering a student award for the best quantitative paper submitted to the ESC meetings, and drafting guidelines for quantitative research methods courses, etc.

If you would like to join, please send your name, position, affiliation, and (optional) quantitative research specialization/expertise to atseloni@uom.gr. Your views and suggestions for short and longer-term functions of the EQC group are greatly welcome. Please include the group’s abbreviation, ‘EQC’, in the subject field of your e-mail message.

Andromachi Tseloni
The Department of Criminology at Keele University

The Department has established a national and international reputation as one of Europe’s premier research training sites in criminology. Our position as a leading provider of postgraduate research training is recognised by Britain's Economic and Social Research Council. And, in 2002, the Department gained recognition as a Marie Curie Training Site (MCTS) in criminology from the European Union.

Research and teaching in the Department is inspired by a broad concern with the study of crime and the connected issues of social cohesion and social justice. The Department is home to a number of internationally renowned scholars working on all aspects of crime, criminal justice and crime prevention from a broad social science perspective. Members of staff come from several countries across the EU and speak a number of European languages. Together with the Graduate School of Social Sciences we offer a wide range of courses and training programmes for young researchers. The beautiful rural campus of Keele University is situated between the cities of Manchester and Birmingham in the heart of the English Midlands, and offers all the advantages of a flourishing academic community of students and teachers.

Marie Curie Fellowships

MCTS fellowships are funded by the European Union with the aim of giving doctoral students the opportunity to spend some time away from their home institutions at selected sites with proven excellence in research and research training. Between 2003 and 2005 the Department of Criminology at Keele offers a number of Marie Curie Fellowships to doctoral students from all over the EU, and Associated States, who want to pursue their studies in a broad range of topics related to community crime prevention. Fellows must not be UK nationals and must be registered on a doctoral programme at a non-UK university. They may study in the department for periods of between six months and a year. All fellows are welcome to take advantage of courses on the Department's taught MA programmes and to undertake research training in the Graduate School of Social Sciences.

Your application is welcome at any time. Applicants should contact the MCTS Co-ordinator, Professor Susanne Karstedt by email (s.karstedt@crim.keele.ac.uk) or by post at the address given below.

MA Criminology and Research Methods/ MA Criminology

Our MA degrees provide students with a thorough grounding in criminological theory and contemporary debates in crime control and criminal justice, as well as rigorous training in all theoretical and practical aspects of criminological research. Well established links with teachers and researchers across Europe, North America, Australasia and Southern Africa are amply reflected in the scope of the taught postgraduate programmes. For further information contact the MA Co-ordinator, Dr. Bill Dixon by e-mail (w.j.dixon@keele.ac.uk) or visit us on the web at www.keele.ac.uk/depts/cr/postgrad.htm.

Department of Criminology, Keele University, Keele Staffordshire, ST5 5BG, UK
www.keele.ac.uk/depts/cr
CESDIP is the main French research centre in the area of crime and criminal justice. A joint centre of CNRS and the Ministry of Justice, it is part of an international network (GERN, Groupe européen de recherches sur les normativités) and has a joint research program with the Max Planck Institut für internationales und ausländisches Strafrecht (Freiburg, Germany). It cooperates with a wide range of specialized French and foreign agencies. CESDIP is located about 20 kms from Paris, near Versailles and easily accessible by metro.

One or more Marie Curie research fellowships are offered each year for periods of 3 to 12 months. Research fellows may have a background in any of the social sciences or law. Research fellows have full access to the centre’s activities, facilities and library. They will be assisted in making contacts with other agencies. They will be supervised by one of the centre’s senior researchers.

Main research topics:
1. Socio-political analysis of the law-making process (substantive or procedural criminal law)
2. Enforcement of legal norms and the criminal justice process
   - Public and private police organisations
   - Legal professions
   - Specific crimes (homicide, violence, drugs, money-laundering, organized crime etc.), specific deviant sub-populations (adults, women, juveniles, migrants etc.)
   - Sentencing
   - Corrections
3. Victim surveys and fear of crime
4. Theoretical and historical approaches
   - History of criminology and related sciences
   - History of crime and criminal justice
   - Sociological theory of crime, deviance and norms

Post-graduate students will be selected on the basis of their scientific ability, current research programme, and compatibility with the centre’s programme. They will be expected to have a working knowledge of French. The CNRS is an equal opportunity employer.

Application deadline: None
Starting date: by agreement with the selected fellow. Duration: 3 to 12 months

Send your application to Ms. Sylvie Zemb at the address below; please include CV, research project outline, letter of recommendation from doctoral supervisor.

CESDIP, Immeuble Edison, 43 boulevard Vauban 78280 Guyancourt
rlevy@ext.jussieu.fr , zemb@ext.jussieu.fr, http://www.cesdip.msh-paris.fr

For further information see: http://www.cordis.lu/improving/fellowships/home.htm
the web (http://europa.eu.int/comm/public_opinion).

In 1996 and 2000, the Eurobarometer included questions about street safety after dark and contact with drug-related problems.

The 2002 special survey covers street safety after dark, drug-related problems, personal expectations regarding victimisation, and opinions about crime and prevention.

The special report compares and contrasts its results with results from the 1996 and 2000 general surveys. The data are analysed country by country, and in terms of socio-demographic variables.

Fear of Crime – Street Safety

In comparing the 1996, 2000, and 2002 findings, I report absolute results without reporting statistical significance. Across the EU, there was a slight increase in the percentages of those feeling a bit or very unsafe, as figure 1 shows. The largest increases between 1996 and 2002 were in Greece, the UK, Italy, Luxembourg, Finland, France, the Netherlands, and Denmark. The most pronounced change occurred in Greece.

The International Crime Victimisation Survey (ICVS) has asked the same question since 1992. ‘How safe do you feel walking alone in the area you live after dark? Do you feel very safe, fairly safe, a bit unsafe or very unsafe?’

Countries are generally ranked in the same order1 in ICVS and Eurobarometer results. The major exception is Belgium where Eurobarometer respondents show higher levels of anxiety.

Questions about feelings of safety differ significantly from questions about perceptions of risk. The most recent ICVS report points out that the relationship between ‘fear of crime’ and victimisation experience may be misleading as ‘fear of street crime may be influenced by specific “cultural” pressures, such as media presentations of violent crime’ (van Kesteren, Mayhew, and Nieuwbeerta 2000).

Drug-related Problems

Respondents were asked about their contact with drug-related problems in their neighbourhood over the last twelve months. These included such things as seeing people dealing in drugs or taking or using drugs in public spaces, or finding syringes left by drug addicts. Drug-contact responses were ‘often’, ‘from time to time’, ‘rarely’, ‘never’, and ‘don’t know’.

Figure 2 combines ‘often’ and ‘from time to time’ answers. Across the EU, exposure to drug-related problems grew steadily from 1996 (14%) to 2000 (17%) and again to 2002 (19%). The number replying ‘never’ is decreasing more rapidly than the number replying ‘rarely’ is increasing.

Perceptions of Risk

Respondents were asked ‘Over the next 12 months, do you think there is a risk that you will personally be the victim of one of the following (theft of mobile phone; theft of other personal property; mugging or robbery in order to steal a mobile phone; mugging or robbery in order to steal something else; burglary or break-in at home; and assault or threat of assault)? Yes, no, don’t know?’

Surveys generally find a relationship between people’s concern about crime and actual risks. The Eurobarometer does not measure victimisation, so the relationship cannot be evaluated. In victimisation surveys conducted locally, links are found between the likelihood of burglary and
perceptions of risk of burglary.

International surveys depend upon similar understanding of the questions asked. The administration must include strict translation to assure, as far as possible, the same meaning, and allow respondents to provide equivalent responses. In this part of the 2002 survey, comparisons of the average responses concerning theft with responses concerning mugging or robbery suggest some problems.

Scores are very different between countries. In some cases there were significant levels of ‘don’t know’ answers. Across the EU 18% of respondents could not or would not evaluate victimisation risk for four of the six types of crime. The following figures illustrate inter-country comparisons of perceptions of risk. ‘Don’t know’ answers are not shown, but can be calculated as the difference between the total and the sum of ‘yes’ and ‘no’ responses.

In the 2002 special report the figures are examined in light of socio-demographic variables, and also in light of other survey results about respondents’ access in their household to fixed and mobile phones. In general, country rankings are consistent across the countries involved. Perceptions of risk are generally lowest in Austria, Germany, Italy, and Denmark, and highest in Greece and France.

- Perceptions of risk of theft of mobile phone and other personal property are higher among women (23% and 31%) than among men (21% and 28%).
- Younger respondents revealed higher anxiety about mobile phone theft over the next year. The 15-24 age group registered highest anxiety concerning theft of other personal property.
- The longer respondents had spent in full-time education, the greater the risk of theft perceived.
- The more urbanised the area, the more perception of risk of theft seems to rise.
- Across the E.U., perceptions of risk of burglary or break-in at home are greater among women (28%) than among men (25%) and among older people (rising from 21% for the 15-24 age group to 30% for those 55 and above).
- An increased perception of burglary risk is found in urbanised areas and among those with access to a mobile phone.
- The level of income does not predispose to a higher or lower expectation of burglary risk (28% among those in both edge categories).
- An increased perception of risk of mugging or robbery to steal a mobile phone and to steal something else was found in urbanised areas and among women.
- Age appears to influence responses related to mugging or robbery to steal a mobile phone, with higher ‘yes’
responses registered among younger people. Age appeared to have no effect on responses concerned with mugging or robbery to steal something else.

- Income does not appear influential in perceptions of risk of mugging or robbery to steal a mobile phone. In relation to mugging or robbery in order to steal something else, the poorest and the wealthiest tend to feel the most vulnerable.
- Those who said they had access to (but did not necessarily own) a phone reported a considerably higher concern about theft (23%) than the E.U. average (18%).
- Average responses concerning theft are generally higher than responses concerning mugging or robbery. The pattern is maintained for every country except Portugal. This exceptional result could arise from inadequate translation of the inquiry.
- The figures for men who felt at risk of assault or threat of assault were slightly lower (23%) than for women (25%).
- Perception of assault risk tends to decrease with age (28% in the 15-24 age-group, 22% in the 55+ age-group).
- The greater the degree of urbanisation, the greater the perceived assault risk (20% - 29% for the polar categories).

References


Note

1 Comparing the survey results of the 2000 sweep of ICVS and Eurobarometer concerning Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, The Netherlands, Portugal, and Sweden.

Maria João Morgado Costa is head of the Justice Statistics Department at the Legal Policy and Planning Office, Ministry of Justice, Portugal.
Criminology in Ireland

Continued from page 3

offers a range of postgraduate courses at diploma and degree level involving up to 60 students each year. A master’s degree in human rights and criminal justice is offered jointly with the National University of Ireland, Galway.

Other Research Centres

A research unit was set up at the Garda Síochána [Police] Training College in 1994. Its work is largely operational in nature and the findings are seldom published or made generally available. There is no research unit in the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, the Prisons Service, or the Courts Service. The Probation and Welfare Service has a single member of staff allocated to research duties.

The National Crime Council was established on a non-statutory basis in 1999. It has commissioned research into crime trends in Ireland between 1950 and 1998, public order offending, and domestic violence. It has also carried out a number of projects in-house.

Finally, the Law Reform Commission has played a role addressing rape law, principles of sentencing, and confiscation of criminal assets.

Funding Opportunities

Prior to 1998 the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform did not have a research budget. An annual sum of around €500,000 is now available. Most of this is spent on prison-related projects. The biggest were a general healthcare study of almost 800 prisoners and a survey of hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV prevalence in another 1,200. Other commissioned research investigates public perceptions of crime, and attrition in rape and sexual assault cases.

The government is committed to carrying out a national victimisation survey in 2004 and biennially thereafter. This will require a substantial increase in funding. A white paper on crime is in preparation and may have implications for criminological research agendas.

The other primary source of funding is the Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences, which has made its first award for criminological research. This is a three-year investigation of recidivism among Irish prisoners. It will involve close collaboration between UCD and colleagues from the universities of Missouri–St. Louis and Cambridge.

Sources of Information

There is no society of criminology in Ireland. Nor is there a dedicated journal. In general the quality of the official data is poor. Even where courses are on offer, criminologists are scarce. Indeed there are probably no more than a dozen academics in the country working in the broad area of criminal justice, and for most it is a secondary interest.

The knowledge base thus is underdeveloped and much basic research has never been carried out. For example, there are virtually no data available on sentencing and little is known about how the constituent parts of the criminal justice system operate or interact. This can make simple inquiries excessively laborious and renders conclusions frustratingly tentative. Policy making often takes place in an informational vacuum.

Despite these difficulties interesting studies have appeared spasmodically over the years and these are to be found in long established publications that are not well known outside Ireland. These include the Irish Jurist (founded in 1848 and now in its fifth series), Administration (published four times a year since 1953), the Irish Criminal Law Journal (established in 1991), and the Economic and Social Review (in existence since 1969). A recent addition is the Judicial Studies Institute Journal, now in its third year.

There is no Irish textbook of criminology and students rely heavily on materials produced for other jurisdictions, which are not always appropriate. A number of attempts have been made recently to locate the Irish experience in a wider historical and comparative context and a selection of the relevant publications is listed below. However it remains true that the Irish voice is silent in contemporary international debates.

Influences

Ireland offers a case study in policy transfer. As a small island between Britain and the United States it can hardly avoid being buffeted by the winds of change in its larger neighbours. This can be seen in such developments as the rapid expansion in the prison population since the late 1990s, the introduction of mandatory minimum sentences of 10 years imprisonment for possession of drugs valued at over €13,000, and the infection of political debate with the rhetoric of ‘zero tolerance.’

However Ireland is different too and there is important work to be done charting areas where it has innovated or managed to resist the pressure to yield to trends in the Anglo-American world. Going forward it may be that different reference points are required, such as other small EU countries. Such a reorientation could have many benefits despite the linguistic, legal, and cultural challenges it would doubtlessly present.

References

Scholars in other jurisdictions are often starved of information about the Irish criminal justice system. The following publications might be of some interest:


Dr Ian O’Donnell is deputy director of the Institute of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University College Dublin.
## New Criminology Books from Willan Publishing

### Criminal Visions: media representations of crime and justice

*Edited by Paul Mason (Southampton Institute)*

Media representations of law and order have been matters of keen public interest and debate, but few publications have addressed this subject head on. This book aims to meet this need by bringing together leading researchers in the field, addressing issues of fictional, factual and hybrid representations of crime and justice in the media.

**September 2003 320pp**  
ISBN 1-84392-014-X (hardback) £40.00 / US $59.95

### Repositioning Restorative Justice

*Edited by Lode Walgrave (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)*

This book is based on papers presented at the 5th international conference held at Leuven, Belgium in 2002. The central theme is the positioning, or repositioning, of restorative justice in contexts where it can offer hope to communities both fearful of crime and looking for more socially constructive responses to crime.

**September 2003 352pp (234 x 156mm)**  
ISBN 1-84392-017-4 ( hardback) £50.00 / US $64.95

### Restorative Justice in Context: international practice and directions

*Edited by Elmar G. M. Weitekamp (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven) and Hans-Jürgen Kerner (University of Tübingen)*

This book brings together a selection of papers originally presented and discussed at the fourth international restorative justice conference, held at the University of Tübingen. The contributors include many of the leading authorities in the burgeoning field of restorative justice, and they provide a comprehensive review of developing international practice and directions, and the context in which restorative justice practices are developing.

**March 2003 368pp (234 x 156 mm)**  
ISBN 1-903240-84-0 (paperback) £27.50 / US $39.95  
ISBN 1-903240-82-4 (hardback) £50.00 / US $64.95

### A Restorative Justice Reader: texts, sources, context

*Edited by Gerry Johnstone (University of Hull)*

This main of this book is to bring together extracts from the most important and influential contributions to the restorative justice literature and its emergent philosophy, accompanying these with an informative commentary providing context and explanation where necessary. Includes work by both well known proponents of restorative justice and work by some of the key critics of the restorative justice movement.

**May 2003 512pp (246 x 171mm)**  
ISBN 1-903240-81-6 (paperback) £26.00 / US $37.50  
ISBN 1-903240-84-0 (hardback) £50.00 / US $69.95

### Sex Offenders in the Community: managing and reducing the risks

*Edited by Amanda Matravers (Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge)*

This book brings together a leading group of authorities in the field to explore current criminal justice responses to the management of individuals who are convicted of sexual offences, aiming to help policy-makers, practitioners and students to develop an informed position on this complex and increasingly controversial issue.

**November 2003 240pp (234 x 156mm)**  
ISBN 1-84392-015-6 (hardback) £30.00 / US $55.00

### Confronting Crime: crime control policy under New Labour

*Edited by Michael Tonry (Director, Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge)*

A distinguished team of academics and senior government policy advisors assess the broader issues underlying proposed criminal justice reforms as well as the past record of the Labour Government – looking especially at proposals to develop a more flexible sentencing regime, and restoring public confidence in the legal process.

**September 2003 272pp (234 x 156mm)**  
ISBN 1-84392-022-0 (hardback) £30.00 / US $55.00

---

For further information about these and other forthcoming books, or to place an order, please contact Willan Publishing on:  
tel) +44(0)1884 840337, (fax) +44(0)1884 840251,  
E-mail: info@willanpublishing.co.uk Website: www.willanpublishing.co.uk  
or write to:  
Willan Publishing, Culmcott House, Mill Street, Uffculme, Devon EX15 3AT, UK