“Global Similarities, Local Differences”

The countdown has begun. The fourth annual ESC conference will take place in Amsterdam, August 25-28, 2004, hosted by the ‘Vrije Universiteit’ (VU) in Amsterdam. The VU is a modern, well-equipped university that provides a stimulating environment and encourages discussion and interaction among participants. The VU’s professional conference facilities are in the university’s main building.

European countries have much in common, but differ in sentencing norms, feelings of insecurity, police priorities, and criminal justice administration. Differences in drug regulations offer a striking example. European countries stick increasingly to their own criminal justice identities as economic and political unification of Europe proceeds.

Plenaries explore the intriguing relationship between ‘global’ and ‘local’.

By May 15 more than 320 abstracts had been received. We expect more than 500 participants. Registrations to date come from many countries and continents including, amongst others, Ukraine, Russia, Latvia, France, Spain, Italy, Slovenia, Germany, the United Kingdom, Belgium, The Netherlands, the Scandinavian countries, the USA, and Canada.

The mayor of Amsterdam will officially open the conference at the City Hall on Wednesday August 25 at 6.00 pm. The City of Amsterdam is proud to host a criminology conference and plans to organise special social events. During the conference, criminological excursions will be organised to the “Van Traa-team” (the city office responsible for dealing with

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Beyond Imprisonment:
Siberian Prisoner Cowboys
By Laura Placentini

Russian prisons are in a new epoch. I have been involved in prison research in Russia since 1997 and have been interested in how prison personnel, in this vast and complex penal system characterised for decades by appalling human rights abuses, are responding to human rights reform strategies.

In May 2003, I spent five weeks in penal colonies in Siberia discussing penal reform with prison officers and

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Trafficking in Women and Children for Sexual Exploitation
By Martti Lehti and Kauko Aromaa

Where trafficking in women and children is concerned, Europe is divided into two sections. Western and northern Europe serve as destination areas, while Eastern-central Europe, the Balkans, and the former Soviet Union serve as source and transit areas.

Most trafficking is connected with prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation. More than 80 percent of victims from south-eastern Europe end up as prostitutes,

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Please submit proposals to host the 2007 and 2008 meetings to incoming ESC President, Sonja Snacken

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Message from the President

Does Legality Work? Discuss in Amsterdam

The present climate of terror in Iraq is a predictable result of the legal violation that began with the invasion and continues with the violation of human rights in Abu Ghraib prison. If we disagree about the political opportunities, we need to be quite clear about legality. Is this a problem of values? Yes, but not of values alone. The situation in Iraq shows that violations of legality do not work!

The first mistake was to invade Iraq without the legitimisation of international law. The initial argument for the invasion, the presence of weapons of mass destruction, was soon exposed as an excuse for violating the sovereignty of an independent country and gaining control of its oil reserves.

The second argument, the need to re-establish human rights violated by the Saddam regime, has been undermined by realisation that neither the American nor some European governments take human rights seriously, at least when they manage prisoners.

Are we as European criminologists interested in issues of legality and human rights, and if so, what can we learn from the Iraq experience?

As researchers, we should ask ourselves and others if legality works. Following the events of 9/11, many of us have discussed possible approaches to international terrorism. There has been little time for discussion.

Tough laws such as America’s Patriot Act of 2001 and related law enforcement policies were initiated on the assumption that a reduction of civil rights would result in higher security. From civil rights to human rights the path has been short.

Guantanamo remains a gross violation of international law and the Geneva convention on the treatment of prisoners.

Since Guantánamo, the invasion of Iraq without ratification by the United Nations and repeated violations of human rights in Abu Ghraib have occurred. What are the results?

I doubt that investment of the human and financial resources spent in Iraq will reduce terrorism. On the contrary, violating legality by invading Iraq and torturing prisoners has produced a side-effect of legitimising terrorism in civilian eyes. Terrorist groups are stronger, better organised, and better financed than ever. Violation of legality is partly responsible.

Can the establishment of democracy in Iraq be achieved now? Free elections in the present climate could simply transform Iraq from a secular dictatorship under Saddam Hussein to a religious dictatorship. This was a predictable result of the invasion.

As for the control of oil: Does Iraq’s oil belong to Iraq? Yes, but it is also true that an unstable Iraqi economy could spread instability in the Arab region and the world will pay for this. Are we as citizens entitled violently to stabilise a country’s economy because we wish to stabilise our own economy? Once again the issue of legality is raised, not as an empty word, but as a starting point to produce a better world and improve security and quality of life. This is relevant for criminologists, at least for European ones.

These and other topics will be on the agenda of the Amsterdam conference. Other topics, such as implications for crime and security of the enlarged European Union with its 25 countries, will definitely enter the

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Marcelo Aebi: Executive Secretary

Marcelo Aebi, of the University of Seville, has been selected by the ESC board, from a strong pool of candidates, to become the society’s first executive secretary. His truly international background, impressive scholarly record, and commitment to the future of European criminology are strong qualifications. Marcelo was born in Argentina in 1966, and has Swiss, Spanish, and Italian origins. He has lived in Argentina, Switzerland, Spain, the United States, and Germany, and speaks English, Spanish, French, Italian, and Portuguese.

A law graduate from the University of Buenos Aires, he moved to Switzerland in the early 1990s. He earned a master’s degree in criminology and a Ph.D. with honors at the School of Criminal Sciences at the University of Lausanne. He worked as a researcher at the school before becoming adjunct professor. With a grant from the Swiss National Science Foundation, he was a visiting fellow at Rutgers School of Criminal Justice and at the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law. Since 2000, he has been vice-director of the Andalusian Institute

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Hans-Jürgen Kerner: President-Elect

Professor Hans-Jürgen Kerner, director of the Institute of Criminology at the University of Tübingen in south-west Germany, has been nominated for president-elect of the ESC for 2004-2005. He has accepted the nomination with pleasure and, if elected at the general assembly in Amsterdam, will become the society’s fifth president at the end of Sonja Snacken’s term of office at the Krakow meeting in 2005.

After graduating in law, Hans-Jürgen began work at Tübingen University, wrote a dissertation on methodological and substantive issues in analysing and interpreting crime statistics, and became a member of a Council of Europe research group on organised crime.

After earning his doctorate in 1973 he became increasingly interested in juvenile delinquency, prison systems, efficiency and effectiveness of sanctions and measures, determinants of recidivism, dynamics of criminal careers, crime indexing systems, and fear of crime. He has been associate professor at Bielefeld, professor at Hamburg, and professor and director of the Institute of

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The Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law

By Letizia Paoli and Hans-Jörg Albrecht

Almost paradoxically, as neither “crime” nor “criminology” is mentioned in its German name, the Max-Planck-Institut für ausländisches und internationales Strafrecht (MPI) is the largest criminological research institution in Germany. Located in Freiburg, MPI is completely independent of the local university.

It is part of the Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Sciences, an independent, largely government-funded, non-profit organisation that promotes basic research in natural science, social science, and the arts. The Max Planck Society was founded in 1948 to succeed the Kaiser Wilhelm Society, which was established in 1911. The current budget exceeds 1.3 billion.

MPI for criminal law came into existence in 1966, when the Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law of the Freiburg Law Faculty was incorporated into the Max Planck Society. Today it consists of two subdivisions: the department of criminal law, headed by Professor Dr. Ulrich Sieber, and the department of criminology, established in 1970 and headed by Professor Dr. Hans-Jörg Albrecht. MPI employs more than 135 people, including 30 administration and IT staff, and hosts more than 25 Ph.D. students. In 2004 its budget is about 4.8 million.

The word mismatch in MPI’s name says volumes about the standing of criminology in Germany, which is still, with few exceptions, closely linked and ancillary to criminal law. We criminologists at MPI constantly make the most of this shortcoming by interacting closely, on an equal basis, with our criminal law colleagues to study the interdependencies of crime and crime control policies. The close collaboration has made MPI a privileged and trusted contractor of several German ministries, the European Commission, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, and, most recently, the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

Despite close interaction with the criminal law department, the MPI

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organised crime) and to local drugs offices.

Plenaries/ Keynote Addresses
There will be four one-hour plenary sessions.

Thursday 26th August: 10:30-12:00 EU enlargement: implications for crime and crime control.
- Prof. Cyrille Fijnaut (Tilburg University, the Netherlands)
- Prof. Alenka Selih (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia)

Thursday 27th August: 16:30-17:30 Genocide as a subject for criminologists.
- Prof. Paul Roberts (University of Nottingham, U.K.)
- Prof. Abdullahi Ahmed An Na’im (Emory University, U.S.A.)
- Prof. Stanley Cohen (London School of Economics)

Friday 27th August: 9:00-10:00 Migration and urban problems.
- Prof. Sophie Body Gendrot (Sorbonne, Paris)
- Jonas Widgren (International Centre for Migration Policy Development, Vienna)

Saturday 28th August: 10:30-11:45 The impact of 9/11 on crime control.
- Prof. Nikos Passas (Northeastern University, USA)
- Prof. Jan van Dijk (United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention, Vienna)

At a panel session immediately after each plenary, the keynote speakers will answer questions and discuss the topics with the audience.

Author Meets Critics Sessions
Four author-meets-critics sessions will be organised. The titles of the books to be discussed will be announced on the conference website (www.eurocrim2004.com).

Reviewed Panels
A reviewed panel is an ‘exemplary panel’ on a general theme.
The chairs of the reviewed panels have been asked to organise panels of four to five experts in particular fields. Working with the local organising committee, they will assure unity and quality in the panels and their papers. Reviewed panels will be given a prominent place on the programme and will be in larger lecture halls.

Panel Sessions
Twelve main thematic lines will be scheduled sequentially to enable people to follow the entire series.

1) Public safety – fear of crime and the community
2) What works? – the effects of police, prosecutorial, custodial, and non-custodial interventions, preventative measures, legislative measures, restorative justice
3) Criminal justice agencies – policing, private security, victim support, prosecution, sentencing, prisons, profiling, actuarial justice, international police cooperation, International Court of Justice
4) Violence – street violence, violence against women, racism and inter-ethnic violence, homicide, genocide
5) Drugs – production centres, drug markets, consumer subcultures
6) Transnational organised crime – trafficking in human beings, arms, and drugs, terrorism, corruption
9) Developmental criminology – groups, longitudinal studies, criminal careers
10) The criminological enterprise – education and training, potentials and tensions between research and policy, the labour market for criminologists
11) Human rights violations
12) Enlargement of the EU

Regular panel sessions may also cover other research areas. Depending on the abstracts received, the planning committee will organise these sessions.

ESC Working Groups
Five working groups have been established in the framework of the European Society of Criminology. Time and space will be reserved for them to meet and discuss latest developments.

Poster Presentations
Posters present research proposals or ‘work in progress’. No paper is required; the research is to be summarised on one poster.

Information
Please visit the conference website (www.eurocrim2004.com) for more information. Don’t miss the huge ESC party organised by V.U. students.

Submission of Papers
Anyone is still welcome to submit an abstract. The deadline has been extended to July 15. The abstract should be submitted online at www.eurocrim2004.com or, if this is not possible, by fax to +31 20 4446230. Sending an abstract implies a commitment to attend.

Registration and Hotel Accommodation
Conference registration on line is recommended. Payment before August, 1, 2004 is necessary. For details of registration and accommodation, please use the conference website: www.eurocrim2004.com.

How to Get There
The VU is located in southwestern Amsterdam, close to Schiphol, Amsterdam’s international airport. A major railway line is nearby and a metro stop (line 51) is in front of the VU Main Building. Amsterdam’s excellent public transportation system enables participants to reach the famous historical city centre of Amsterdam with its major attractions, many hotels, and the airport in 15-20 minutes.
Ruth Chigwada-Bailey

Ruth Chigwada-Bailey is director of Criminology in the Millennium. She received an Honours degree in Sociology from Brunel University, UK, an MSc in ‘Sociology with special reference in Education’ from the Institute of Education, University of London, and a postgraduate diploma in Criminology from Birkbeck College, London. She taught criminology at Birkbeck College from 1989 to 2001. Her special interests are race, gender, and the criminal justice process. Among her writings are Black Women’s Experiences of Criminal Justice (Waterside Press 2003) and ‘Criminalisation and imprisonment of Black women’ published in the Probation Journal in 1989.

Simon Holdaway

Simon Holdaway is Professor of Criminology and Sociology and Director of Sheffield University’s Centre for Criminological Research. He received a PhD from the University of Sheffield. Formerly he was for 11 years a police officer in the Metropolitan Police in London. His special interests are policing, race and ethnic relations, and social theory. Among his major writings are Inside the British Police: A Force at Work (Blackwell 1983), Resigners? The Experience of Black and Asian Police Officers (Macmillan 1997), and The Racialisation of the British Police (Macmillan 1999).

Analida Ivankovic

Analida Ivankovic is a graduate student at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City majoring in public administration and police science/criminal justice. She is also an Auxiliary Police Officer for the New York City Police Department, Precinct 62. She serves as treasurer of the Auxiliary Police Benevolent Association in New York City. Her special interests are police line-ups and accuracy in eyewitness research; criminal justice policy; and reformation of the justice systems of Eastern Europe.

Gorazd Meško

Gorazd Meško is associate professor of criminology at the Faculty of Criminal Justice, University of Maribor, Slovenia. He received a PhD from the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. His special interests are crime prevention, fear of crime, security issues, and comparative criminological research. Among his major writings in English are Corruption in Central and Eastern Europe (ed., 2000) and Dilemmas of Contemporary Criminal Justice (2004). Major publications in Slovene include Family Ties before the Court (1997), Introduction to Criminology (1998), Basics of Crime Prevention (2002), Visions of Slovenian Criminology (2002), and Crime Prevention – theory, practice and dilemmas (2004).

Peter van Koppen

Peter J. van Koppen is senior researcher at the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR) in Leiden, and Professor of Law and Psychology in the Departments of Law at Maastricht University and the Free University Amsterdam. He studied psychology at Groningen and law at Groningen, Amsterdam, and Rotterdam. He has worked at NSCR since 1992. He is co-editor of Psychology, Crime, and Law Continued on next page
and fellow of the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences at Wassenaar. He is president-elect of the European Association for Psychology and Law. He has written widely on psychological issues (recovered memory, lie detection, decision-making, eye-witness identification), on court processes (lawyers’ negotiation, sentencing, judicial appointments), and on police practices (interrogation, confessions, phone-tapping, forensic evidence).

Pierre Tournier

Pierre V. Tournier is director of research at the National Centre for Scientific Research in the Centre on 20th Century Social History at the University of Paris 1, Pantheon, Sorbonne. He has a doctorate in demography and is licensed to direct diploma research at the University of Paris. He is President of the French Association of Criminology and a member of the committee of experts in criminology of the Council of Europe. His particular interest is the quantitative study of the application of penal measures and sanctions. He is author of more than 275 publications in English, French, and other European languages.

Per-Olof Wikström


ESC Website Use Growing

By Sami Nevala

The ESC website has proved a great success in its first months of operation. It went live on 13 January 2004. At first visitor numbers were modest, but the number of hits increased weekly. When the site was announced by e-mail to ESC members in March, the number of visitors shot up. Many members chose to renew their membership on-line.

Site administrators monitor use. This enables us to see how many visitors there are on each day, but also who the website is reaching and which sections of the site are most often accessed.

All newsletter issues rank high on the list of most frequented pages. Many visitors are drawn to the conferences, job opportunities, and working group sections. The working groups have been active in sharing documents and providing status updates.

The site is visited most frequently during European business hours, but another peak occurs around 11 pm, from home users or users from other continents. The great majority of hits come from users accessing the site directly, by typing in the address or using a bookmark, suggesting that they revisit the site periodically (or have acquired the address in print).

In many cases, the site is reached by use of a search engine, such as Google, Yahoo, or AOL search, but many users found the site via the Amsterdam conference website. Other sites, typically of criminology and law departments, contain links. This significantly increases the number of visitors from specific countries, but the number of such cases remains small. The site is relatively new and not yet frequently listed in link collections.

From May 1 to May 24, the top ten countries by number of visitors were United States (135), United Kingdom (100), Germany (60), the Netherlands (37), Belgium (26), Sweden (22), Spain (20), Switzerland (18), Austria (18), Canada (15), and Italy (15).

The USA ranking is partly explained by the large number of Internet users and partly by address conventions. All servers with endings .com, .org, .edu and so on are counted as being resident in the USA, which often is not true (e.g., one server often contacting the site, surf.unvienna.org, belongs to the UN in Vienna).

Visitors are recorded monthly, so a person accessing the site several times a month is counted only once. A record number of visitors reached the site on 4 May, when 102 people visited. March continues to hold the monthly record (619 hits).
The Fifth International Conference on Policing in Central and Eastern Europe

Dilemmas of Contemporary Criminal Justice

to be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, September 23-25, 2004

Hosted by the Faculty of Criminal Justice and its Institute of Criminal Justice Studies, University of Maribor, Slovenia

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dr Gorazd Meško and Professor Milan Pagon, Faculty of Criminal Justice, University of Maribor, Slovenia
Professor Jeffrey Fagan, Columbia University, USA
Professor Stefan J. Kapsch and M. Isaak – Reed College, Portland, USA
G. Klemencic – Faculty of Criminal Justice, University of Maribor, Slovenia
Professor Helmut Kury, Max-Planck Institute, Germany
Professor G. W. Lynch, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York
Professor A. Minaar – College for Law & Justice, University of South Africa

FULL DETAILS OF THE CONFERENCE AND DOWNLOADABLE REGISTRATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE AT

www.fpvv.uni-mb.si/conf2004

A parallel meeting to the conference on dilemmas of contemporary criminal justice will be a GERN interlab about criminal justice and criminological research in SE Europe

(September 24, 2004)

Chairman of the Organising Committee
Gorazd Meško

Chairman of the Programme Committee
Bojan Dobovšek
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European Journal of Criminology is an exciting new journal that will be the prime European source for authoritative information and analysis on crime and criminal justice issues. Launched in January 2004 by the European Society of Criminology in partnership with SAGE Publications, the journal seeks to open channels of communication between academics, researchers and policy makers across the wider Europe.

At a time when crime and punishment is being hotly debated across Europe, the journal brings together broad theoretical accounts of crime, analyses of quantitative data, comparative studies, systematic evaluations of interventions and discussions of criminal justice institutions. Each issue includes a 'country survey' of a selected country within the wider Europe, in order to summarize essential facts about the criminal justice system, review trends in crime and punishment, and discuss major publications in recent years.

Quarterly: January, April, July and October • ISSN 1477-3708
Siberian Prisoner Cowboys

Continued from page 1

...and the local in how penal reform is interpreted by those who must implement it.

How should we think about punishment in cultures substantially different from those where much of the legislation originates?

Russian prison practices test the conventional wisdom of transnational legislation that states that practices that fall outside generically proscribed norms of ‘humanity’ are inhumane in universalist terms. The work of Siberia’s prisoner cowboys reflects not only economic conditions, but also the recent cultural history of Soviet communism in which use of prisoner work was essential for the economic and political infrastructure.

The Soviet Union exploited prisoners on a gruesome scale. However, present-day practices reflect the salient features of Soviet criminological discourse in which prisoners were looked upon as citizens rather than as a vanquished group of individuals, undeserving of public support. Thus, there is a risk that cultural sensibilities will be subverted in harmonising penal systems to reflect a broad consensus of human rights.

Before I describe some of these tensions, I need to step back to the early 1990s when the collapse of the USSR triggered a penal reform process that is ongoing.

How Prisons are Responding

When the Soviet Union collapsed, an inhumane, overcrowded, and massively under-funded penal system was exposed. Tuberculosis was 17 times higher than in Russian society. Prisoners were fed on a reduced diet of bread and water and were known to have died from lack of oxygen because the prisons were so chronically over-crowded. Prisoners often had to stand in queues all night and all day to be assured a bed.

As human rights organizations such as the Moscow Center for Prison Reform, Penal Reform International, Human Rights Watch, and Amnesty International have documented, the distance between nominal aims of imprisonment in Russia and material practices remains great. However, significant progress has been made.

Prisons

Russia and America account for about one third of the world’s prison population. Russia’s has grown enormously since the collapse of the USSR in 1991. Between 1991-2001, the prison population increased by 36 percent from 750,280 prisoners in 1992 to 979,285 in 2001 (from 480 prisoners per 100,000 population in 1992 to 670 in 2001).

In recent years the population fell a little, from 1,009,863 in 1997 to 979,285 in 2001. Amnesties, pre-trial reforms, and increased use of alternatives to custody for serious crimes (especially those involving children) contributed to the reduction.

Further reforms contemplated include the creation of a devolved management structure meant to allow regional administrators to manage the penal system more effectively and to allow criminals to be dealt with in the regions where they live. Individual treatment programmes based on psychological, psychiatric, and social pedagogical diagnoses, and an extension of various religious, civil, and political rights and privileges to prisoners, have also been introduced.

Russia’s commitment to criminal justice reform over a relatively short period has been breathtaking compared with the USA where there has been fierce resistance for at least 30 years to the application of international norms. The Russian government, however, despite its good intentions, has been unable to fund the prison system fully. The unstable economy has led to a reduction in investment. Consequently, prisons must rely on prison work to produce goods that can be bartered with local communities. Much of Russian society relies on barter for day-to-day survival so its use in prisons is viewed as entirely normal.

For Western prison sociologists, however, the use of barter as a way to enable prisoner and institutional survival tests the limits of what we have come to expect from prisons in the twenty-first century. These limits are particularly perplexing and fascinating in Kemerovo prison region with its prisoner cowboys who manage prison farms.

The Penal Economy

Prison barter is based on a coincidence of wants and needs, and is more commonly associated with less developed countries. Barter is used between families, at the market, in hospitals, and now in prison colonies. There is little question that barter transactions reduce some of the basic inefficiencies arising from the poor state subsidy of the prison system. It is an innovative enterprise. However, barter is notoriously inefficient and
outmoded because it depends on a coincidence of needs (Marvasti and Smyth 1999). While the regular and growing practice of barter is inevitable in current conditions in prisons, barter offers more than a means for survival. It has become important for maintaining the social welfare of prisoners and staff; without it, the prisons might destabilize.

The local community also benefits. Economic conditions necessitate a symbiotic relationship between the prison and the community because the local communities thrive off prisoners’ work. Thus, the boundary between the ‘inside’ world of the prison and the ‘outside’ world has become less distinct in Russia than in Western prison systems.

The Prisoner Cowboys

In Kemerovo open prison, up to 400 inmates nearing the ends of their sentences or serving sentences for minor offences live in conditions that challenge commonly held notions about prisons. There are no perimeter fences or other technologies that control and restrict the movement of prisoners. Effectively inmates live as ‘free people’, residing in army-style barracks built out of the remains of the Gulag.

Inmates interact with the local population. Many work as farmers to produce goods for the colony and the local community. It would be an exaggeration to say that Kemerovo is a rural idyll of picture-postcard fields and lakes where local communities thrive off prisoners’ work. Thus, the boundary between the ‘inside’ world of the prison and the ‘outside’ world has become less distinct in Russia than in Western prison systems.

Economic conditions necessitate a symbiotic relationship between the prison and the community because the local communities thrive off prisoners’ work.

Inmate Nikolai Illych Ponamaryov is an inmate farmer who works from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. He is part of an inmate farming team who call themselves the ‘prisoner cowboys’. His principal job is to herd cattle, tend to the penal colony’s horses and other animals, and manage the workload of other inmate farmers. A horse is his main mode of transport. Prison officers drive Nikolai out to the local farms.

His day-to-day work varies. A typical day involves planning the farming quota with prison officers, liaising with local farmers, and preparing targets for planting seeds, farming land, and wheeling-and-dealing with ‘free farmers’.

Reflecting on his role, Nikolai said to me: ‘I am just a farmer, a prisoner farmer; but I am also a cowboy because I am a cattle rancher too. We work the land so that we can make a bit of money for the colony. Some of the money will pay for more books and other stuff. I get exhausted, but I feel good about my work. I take pride in my work. I make a difference’.

The first question I asked on seeing the prisoners on horseback concerned prisoners’ absconding. Nikolai responded: ‘the open colonies are located very far from urban areas so it will not be easy to run away on foot…and I don’t want to escape. Most of us are approaching the ends of our sentences. Why waste that? If I escape and get caught, I’ll end up in a strict regime, I won’t be able to farm and move outside’.

More than Punishment

Kemerovo’s farm provides up to 50 percent of the essential resources the colony requires for daily operations. It’s not just prisoners who benefit from having more bread and vegetables, prison refurbishment, new bedding, televisions, and money to pay for prisoner education and work. The staff benefit also (they can buy prison-produced food products at reduced prices).

The regional prison authority UIN (Uprvalenie Ispolnitelnie Nakazanie) supports the employment of the prisoner cowboys for several reasons. First, the use of barter and farming work relieves the cost of running the prison. This makes easier the burden of meeting minimum international standards.

The biggest obstacle has been trying to implement a reform programme under the current turbulent economic conditions. The Chief of Kemerovo prison region, Colonel Valerii Sergeivich Dolzhantsev, told me: “We welcome any help we can get. We must meet these European norms now but in the current climate…well, it’s near to impossible”.

Secondly, the majority of inmates I interviewed felt empowered. Across Europe, prisoners’ work has declined generally and problems of finding enough work have been exacerbated by a decline in meaningful labour. Simon (1999) states that, in English prisons, purposeful labour minimises the risk of re-offending because prisoners leave prison with a sense of personal dignity that their work has been meaningful and useful.

The Kemerovo prison population felt that they were engaged in ‘real purposeful labour’ that contributed to prisoner and institutional survival and sustained local communities. This last point was particularly significant, as many prisoners in rural regions remain in the local communities where the penal colonies are based.

Thirdly, the community played a positive role that insulated prisoners against social exclusion. The community was genuinely committed to the prison farms and planned ahead which goods and services they required. Whether it was clothes, buttons, or machinery parts, the community was involved in the production line. The trust among all parties was intriguing. Rarely did the prisoners trade for an extra piece of machinery, a bag of maize, a winter jacket, or two dozen eggs.

Most staff lived in villages surrounding the colonies and were included in that rural network as ‘friends’ and ‘trading partners’. Prisoners were consulted on whether their skills matched local demand. There was always a flurry of activity over any changes made to farming production or to the products prison administrators requested - a striking

Continued on next page
Prisoner Cowboys

Continued from previous page

scenario when it is considered that, in the United Kingdom, the focus has been on prison industries rather than on prison industries. This was a prison running as much on ‘word of mouth’ as on criminal justice policy.

The work of the prisoner cowboys facilitates prisoner rehabilitation and prison stability. Prisoners learn barter skills that they use once released. The community sustains a basic standard of living. The best features of the penal system reveal it as a model based on co-operation, goods-sharing, giving and taking, and knowledge-sharing. The worst features, however, arise from prison labour’s exploitative potential, corrupt barter practices, and reduced risks of state subsidy.

Human Rights Legislation

The work of this prison goes way beyond crime control in the usual sense. One key question is how current practices measure up against European and international standards designed to prohibit exploitation of prisoners. One view is that prisoners are being exploited. That’s too simple. The penal practices in Kemorovo demonstrate problems of interpretation and implementation of European prison legislation in states in transition.

Consider how current practices translate on an international scale. The situation is complex. Under current international prison rules, working prisoners are afforded little protection from exploitation. There is a tacit assumption that prison work should be a positive experience. If the regime can present a case that there are institutional benefits from compulsory labour, a prisoner loses the right to decline work. National penitentiary laws or penal codes determine how prisoners can present a case that there are institutional benefits from compulsory labour. Prisoners learn barter skills that they use once released. The community sustains a basic standard of living. The best features of the penal system reveal it as a model based on co-operation, goods-sharing, giving and taking, and knowledge-sharing. The worst features, however, arise from prison labour’s exploitative potential, corrupt barter practices, and reduced risks of state subsidy.

References


Laura Piacentini is a lecturer in criminology at Stirling University in Scotland.

Marcello Aebi

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of Criminology at the University of Seville (Spain), where he teaches criminology, victimology, and research methods.

His main research interests include comparative criminology, corrections, methodology, drugs and crime, and victimization and self-reported delinquency studies. As a consultant expert for the Council of Europe, he is responsible for the Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics (SPACE). He is also a member of the group of experts that prepared the first two editions of the European Sourcebook of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics and is working on the third. In Switzerland, he participated in evaluation of the effects on crime of heroin prescription programmes and using a randomized experimental design on effects of community service and short-term imprisonment. In Spain, he has conducted surveys of tourist victimisation and urban victimisation, and is studying drug use in prisons.

He is member of the editorial boards of the European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research, Déviance et Société, and Revista Española de Ciencia Penal y Criminología; a member of the Advisory Board of the European Journal of Criminology, of Cuaderno Negro (Argentina), and Penal Field: New French Journal of Criminology; and associate editor of Revista Española de Investigación Criminológica (Spanish Journal of Criminological Research).

Marcelo Aebi’s work and record place him at the crossroads of northern and southern European criminology, and of European and American criminology. As executive secretary of the ESC, he wishes to consolidate the position of the society in western Europe and to expand its presence in central and eastern Europe and elsewhere. He wants to strengthen the position that the society has already achieved – through its conferences, newsletter, and journal – as a major international criminological forum, one characterised by the diversity of approaches that is one of its most valuable trademarks.
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Human Trafficking in Europe  
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and about 10 percent as suppliers of other erotic services. Approximately 10 to 30 percent are under age 18, mostly 15–18-year-old girls, but younger children are also involved.

Estimates of the current extent of trafficking for prostitution in Europe are necessarily rough since good data on volume and turnover are not available, for several reasons.

First, comparable statistics on reported crimes, indictments, court cases, and victims are unavailable. Second, statutory categories and definitions vary widely. Third, human trafficking is an activity of organised transnational crime, and inevitably is difficult to control and prevent.

Fourth, the vulnerable legal status of the victims, often illegal aliens, makes them unwilling to report the crimes or to co-operate with the authorities during investigations and court proceedings.

Fifth, conceptions of trafficking in women vary widely. This is partly because of differences in national legislation and partly because of divergent ideological and moral attitudes to prostitution. At its broadest, trafficking in women is understood to include all (international) female prostitution, and at its most limited, only certain crimes against personal freedom criminalised in national legislation.

NGOs estimate that approximately 500,000 women and children are trafficked each year for sexual exploitation to the pre-enlargement E.U. Annual trafficking from and through the Balkans is about 120,000 women and children, and from the whole of Eastern Europe about 200,000.

Trafficking for sexual exploitation is also common outside the EU, and from Europe to other continents. Estimates of this activity are even vaguer than for trafficking to the EU, but the volume is probably smaller.

The US government estimates the annual worldwide volume of trafficking in women and children at 500,000 to 700,000 victims.

Trafficking in Europe has increased rapidly over the last decade. The demand for prostitution and other sexual services has increased.

Trafficking in humans to Western Europe can be organised far more easily and more economically from Eastern Europe, with its current economic and social problems, than from old source areas such as Southeast Asia, West Africa, and Latin America. Estimates of the yearly financial turnover vary from 100 million euros to several billion.

The majority of victims come from Albania, Lithuania, Moldavia, Romania, Russia, and Ukraine. Of victims assisted by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) over the last few years, about half have been Moldavians, one-fourth Romanians, and one-tenth Ukrainians.

Trafficking in women to Europe from other continents is most common in the Mediterranean countries and the British Isles. The main source areas are Southeast Asia, Latin America, and North and West Africa. According to Europol, the extent of this trade has remained about the same over the last decade. The overall increase thus originates from Eastern Europe.

Characteristics of Victims

Victims are typically from the most economically depressed and unstable areas of the continent, and belong to the most disadvantaged social and ethnic groups. Usually, they are very young: teenagers, or in their early twenties. With their idealised views of an easier life outside their poverty-stricken homelands, victims fall easy prey to criminals promising good jobs and high wages abroad. Trafficking offers criminals an opportunity to make huge profits with minimal risk and low capital investment.

Trafficking is usually carried out co-operatively by several small local groups. This makes the activity flexible and difficult to prevent, since the elimination of one group seldom affects the activities of others.

Relations between groups are normally purely business, and groups can act in several networks simultaneously. Women are sometimes transported directly to the ultimate destination country, and engage in prostitution after arrival, or are moved in stages and exploited at each stage. The first method is common in trafficking from the Baltic countries and Russia to Western Europe, the latter in trafficking through and from the Balkans.

Victims are recruited through newspaper and Internet advertisements, by individual recruiters (often female), or by front agencies offering EU employment opportunities. Some women are willingly recruited, but their conditions of employment often differ from those originally agreed. The recent trend has been towards personal recruiting instead of general advertising. In some countries, women are also recruited by abduction, and there are reports from Albania and Kosovo of families selling their daughters to traffickers.

Victims are controlled by multiple...
means, but violence is common. More and more cases are reported of extreme coercion, assaults, rapes, and even homicides. Trafficking from and through the Balkans is reportedly exceptionally violent and entry into West European prostitution markets by Balkan groups has had a brutalising effect. Forced addiction of women to hard drugs is increasingly used to tie victims to traffickers. Groups trafficking women usually engage in other forms of trafficking and smuggling.

Traffickers exploit victims’ vulnerabilities. Debt is a common means of control. The women usually agree to pay their travelling and recruiting expenses from future earnings. This debt is passed from one recruiter to the next until it ends up in the hands of the exploiter in the destination country. Combined with inflated housing and living expenses charged to victims, the debt soon becomes impossible to handle. Victims’ earnings go directly to the exploiters, and the women have no financial means to escape.

Passports and other identity documents are often confiscated, and women are threatened with local authorities, deportation, and detention. Threats are effective because they are at least partly real: in most European countries, victims cannot avoid immediate deportation even in the most aggravated cases.

**Prevention**

Differences in living standards between Western European and the former socialist countries are the main reason behind the increase in trafficking. Four of the most important source countries are the poorest in the continent. Lithuania is the poorest country in the Baltic area. In large areas of Russia the living standard is exceptionally low and the social problems are enormous.

The most effective means to prevent trafficking is social and economic development in Eastern Europe. Recent positive developments in Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic have significantly and rapidly reduced trafficking there. Enlargement of the European Union can be expected to produce significant positive results. However, the most troubled countries have been left out of the first phase of enlargement, and Moldavia and Ukraine especially play second fiddle in EU-Eastern European relations.

Crucial crime control policy questions involve creating extensive and reliable systems for collecting comparative data; criminalising the trafficking in women in all European countries with relatively uniform criteria and sanctions; improving co-operation in crime prevention; improving the legal status and rights of victims; and creating efficient witness protection programmes.

There is no reliable, comparative information available on the extent of trafficking in women in Europe. European countries should invest in gathering national statistics that employ relatively uniform criteria and comparable standards. NGOs that assist and provide support for prostitutes and trafficking victims are important information sources. Means should also be developed for efficient and extensive collection of information in each country. To obtain better knowledge and create a basis for more efficient data collection systems, basic research concerning trafficking and organised prostitution should be increased.

Human trafficking legislation is still fairly diverse, although some harmonisation in the criteria of the crime, sanctions, and the status and rights of victims has been achieved. Activities of the Council of Europe, the Organisation on Security and Co-operation in Europe, and the EU have been crucial.

By 2002, in 28 of the 52 European jurisdictions, trafficking in women was criminalised as a distinct crime; legislation was being drafted in at least three others. Not one country now has statutory witness protection programmes designated specifically for the victims of trafficking. Of the EU member countries, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Luxembourg, and Sweden have no formal witness protection programmes. In the other countries, witness protection for trafficking victims is available only under general witness protection provisions and programmes, and the entry criteria are usually so strict that trafficking victims seldom meet them.

EU legislation concerning human trafficking is variable and constantly developing. The two most important pieces of special legislation are the Council framework decision on combating trafficking in human beings (2002/629/JAI), and the proposed Council directive on the short-term residence permit issued to victims of action to facilitate illegal immigration or trafficking in human beings who co-operate with the competent authorities (COM (2002) 71).

The framework decision obligates member countries to criminalise trafficking in humans for forced labour and sexual exploitation, and instigation, aiding, abetting, and attempting such activity.

A proposed directive includes regulations on conditions and...
Human Trafficking in Europe

Continued from previous page

procedures for issuing short-term residence permits for victims of human trafficking. The aim is to give victims who assist the authorities in the investigation and prosecution of the crime the right of temporary residence in the EU.

Day-to-day protection and support of victims now depend mostly on various NGOs. The EU supports their work, but the main responsibility and financial support are shouldered by voluntary organisations and individual volunteers.

Conclusions

In most European countries trafficking for prostitution is not a high priority in crime prevention. Data are scarce. Information and studies are to a large extent based on the same few original sources, and usually repeat the same story. The volume of trafficking and forced prostitution is usually assumed to be much larger than available sources show. This is probably true, but one should bear in mind that the police and NGOs have a tendency to exaggerate rather than minimise the role of trafficking and organized crime in international prostitution. The new paradigm of organized crime can easily lead to this kind of exaggeration, and many NGOs have an ideological tendency to see all prostitution as trafficking.

Trafficking routes in Europe are so many, and the organisation of the crime is so flexible, that closing all routes and eliminating all trafficking networks is impossible. It is more practicable to concentrate crime prevention efforts and law enforcement operations on the main source countries and the most important junctions.

Now that the Central Eastern European countries have joined the EU, the possibilities of controlling trafficking through them will improve, but there is still a need for more efficient police and intelligence co-operation within the EU, and between the EU and non-members. It is also crucial to continue to invigorate the campaign against corruption in border controls, police forces, and government generally, which is rampant not only in many source countries but also in many destination countries.

It is hard to say how well trafficking prevention works and what practises are best and most effective. The measures taken should be many and varied, including legislative measures, police operations, public awareness campaigns, support programmes, and media campaigns.

The implementation of the basic recommendations of the COE, OSCE, EU, and UN concerning trafficking in women and children remains deficient in several European countries. The most urgent short-term task is adoption and implementation of compatible and appropriate legislation concerning trafficking, and improving effective protection and assistance mechanisms.

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department of criminology takes pride in its multidisciplinary approach and the varied professional backgrounds of more than thirty full-time and part-time researchers. Besides lawyers, the staff includes psychologists, sociologists, political scientists, and even one physicist.

The backgrounds of MPI criminologists are also very mixed, with ten nationalities represented. Many are involved in international projects in cooperation with foreign institutions and scholars.

In addition, over one hundred guest scholars visit the institute yearly, making MPI a truly multi-cultural place to be. Approximately one third of foreign scholars’ visits, ranging from a few weeks to over one year, are funded by Max Planck Society Scholarships. (We encourage anyone interested in applying to see: <www.iuscrim.mpg.de/info/aktuell/jobs/guest.html>.)

In addition to formal and informal exchanges with MPI staff, guest scholars take advantage of the institute’s superb library. With over 360,000 volumes and 1,400 journals and periodicals from all over the world, this is one of the world’s largest libraries in criminal law and criminology.

The variety of professional and geographical backgrounds of staff is reflected in the multiplicity of the ongoing and recently completed research projects of MPI’s department of criminology. These fall into six main categories.

**Sentencing and Penal Systems**

There are four ongoing projects on sentencing.

- Two involve evaluation of a pilot project on electronic monitoring of probationers and suspects in Frankfurt, and the extension of electronic monitoring to the whole state of Hesse. These studies are being carried out by Markus Mayer and Daniela Jessen respectively, and are funded by the Hessian Ministry of Justice.
- Juliane Laule as part of her Ph.D. project is assessing the relevance of a convicted person’s relatives to the imposition and execution of penal sentences.
- Imke Hotter is investigating alternatives to pre-trial detention for juvenile offenders in Baden-Württemberg.
- Several projects focus on dangerous offenders and penal issues.
  - In collaboration with the Technische Universität Dresden and with the financial support of the Saxonian Ministry of Justice, Dr. Rüdiger Ortmann recently launched a 10-year-long evaluation of the social-therapeutic treatment of sex offenders. A parallel project on juvenile sex offenders is being carried out by Dr. Joachim Obergfell-Fuchs.
  - Gunda Wößner aims to develop a typology of sex offenders through interviews with over 50 experts and 160 convicted sex offenders.
  - Following up a major project completed in the mid-1990s, Dr. Jörg Kinzig is coordinating a longitudinal study of the criminal careers of 500 dangerous offenders (i.e., persons convicted for violent or sex offences), three-fifths of whom are or were held in preventive detention.

One project deals with victims.

- Dr. Obergfell-Fuchs recently concluded a study of 300 female victims of sex crimes in collaboration with Weisse Ring, the largest German NGO supporting crime victims.

**Organised Crime and Internal Security**

Several projects carried out in the past five years assess organised crime activities and the effectiveness of related control policies in Germany and Europe.

- In 2003 Dr. Michael Kilchling and Tim Lukas submitted a study to the Federal Ministry of the Interior on the potential involvement of lawyers and tax consultants in money-laundering activities.
- With support from the same ministry and the Ministry of Family, Elderly People, Women and Youth, Annette Herz is investigating legal and practical obstacles preventing the successful prosecution of trafficking in human beings in cooperation with the Kriminologische Zentralstelle in Wiesbaden.
- In 2003 Dr. Kinzig completed a major study of organised crime cases in Germany and concluded that little evidence of serious organised crime remains at the end of the judicial process. Many projects in this group adopt an international and comparative perspective.
- Dr. Kilchling recently concluded a study of confiscation policies in Europe with funding from the EU Falcone Programme.
- Dr. Letizia Paoli studied illegal drug markets in Frankfurt and Milan on behalf of the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction in Lisbon.
- Anna Luczak is comparing the public discourse on organised crime and related control policies in Germany, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands.
- With Professor Dr. Cyrille Fijnaut (Tilburg University), Dr. Paoli brought together experts from 13 European countries, including Russia and Turkey, to compare organised crime conceptions, patterns, and policies. The findings will be presented in a major conference in Brussels organised by the Dutch Presidency of the European Union in November 2004.
- Together with Professor Peter Reuter and Dr. Victoria Greenfield of the Rand Corporation in the U.S., Dr. Paoli is coordinating a project on modelling the world heroin market, funded by the European Commission, the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Dutch Ministry of Justice, and a private American foundation.

**Penal Norms**

Many projects in this category are being carried out on behalf of German governmental institutions.

- In 2003 Professor Albrecht, Claudia Dorsch, and Christiane Krupe concluded a major study for the Federal Ministry of Justice on the...
use and efficiency of wiretapping in Germany.
- For the same ministry, Hannes Meyer-Wieck is currently reviewing the practice and efficiency of eavesdropping.
- On behalf of the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Security, Carsten Schäfer and Dr. Paoli are studying prosecution of consumption-related drug offences across the German states. The cannabis section of this study is part of a larger research project on the effects of cannabis de-criminalisation in the United States and several other Western countries coordinated by the Rand Drug Policy Research Center.
- With Professor Marianne Löschning-Gspandl (Graz University), Dr. Kilchling is evaluating victim-offender mediation for adult offenders in Austria and Germany.

Victims
Since the 1970s, victimology has been a focus.
- Building upon earlier work, Professor Dr. Helmut Kury, in cooperation with researchers of the Jena University, is comparing victimisation experiences and fear of crime in Germany’s “old” and “new” states.
- MPI criminologists are also increasingly involved in victimological investigations outside Germany.
  - In cooperation with the Stability Pact for Southeastern Europe, Dr. Uwe Ewald, Ernesto Kiza, and Corene Rathgeber are conducting a survey of victims’ experiences in the former Yugoslavia.
  - Focusing on victim experiences of undocumented migrants entering the EU and people of the former Yugoslav states, Ernesto Kiza is assessing the reliability of non-scientific victim data and analysing its impact on the public discourse on mass victimization.

Social Change, Crime, and Crime Control
The impact of social change on official and unreported criminality, crime perceptions and control policies is investigated by several studies with different approaches.
- The Freiburg cohort study is one of the oldest and most ambitious MPI projects. Under the coordination of Dr. Volker Grundies, the team is analysing police files and judicial records of all persons born in Baden-Württemberg in 1970, 1973, 1975, 1978, 1985, and 1988. With a database of over 635,000 records for about 191,000 people, the study is investigating the emergence and evolution of official criminality and the impact of social change.
  - In a large project funded by the German Research Foundation, a team of researchers coordinated by Dr. Dietrich Oberwittler has adopted a socio-ecological perspective to analyse juvenile delinquency in urban environments.
  - Harald Kania is using a rigorous qualitative approach to investigate ordinary people’s subjective perceptions of crime in Germany.
  - Irina Mirimovitsch is reviewing policies for the integration of Spätaussiedler (i.e., ethnic Germans recently migrated from East European and former Soviet countries) and the reasons for their criminalisation and drift into deviance.

Laboratoire Européen Associé
The Associated European Laboratory is a French-German research institution established in 1998 and composed of MPI, the Centre d’Études Sociologiques sur le Droit et les Institutions Pénales (CESDIP), the Group Européen sur les Normativités (GERN), and the Institut Féédératif de Recherche sur les Economies et les Sociétés industrielles (IFRESI). Three major areas of comparative research have been pursued: police, justice and immigration; drug use, drug trade, and drug economies; and internal security policies.
- A comparative assessment of victim studies in the two countries was carried out by Professor Kury, Dr. Obergfell-Fuchs of MPI, and Professor Philippe Robert, Dr. Renée Zauberman, and Marie-Lys Pottier of CESDIP.
- With Drs. René Lévy and Jean-Pierre Masse of CESDIP, Nimet Gülßer is investigating the remand of illegal migrants to be expelled from Germany or France.
- Comparative investigations focus on illegal drug consumption and trade, with the involvement of Professor Albrecht and Dr. Axel Gronemeyer (Bielefeld University) in Germany and Dr. Marie-Danièle Barré (CESDIP) and Prof. Dr. Dominique Duprez (IFRESI), among others, in France. Several projects address issues related to internal security policies.
  - In 2003 Dr. Azilis Maguer published her Ph.D. dissertation on cross-border police cooperation at the French-German border.
  - Dr. Susanne Müller compared the legal and practical criteria of sentencing in France and Germany.
  - As part of her Ph.D. research, Stephanie Tränkle is carrying out a qualitative, micro-sociological study of victim-offender mediation in the two countries.
  - Evelyn Shea-Fischer is analysing the relevance, organisation, and implementation of prison labour in France, Germany, and England.
  - Claire Saas is assessing the impact on asylum and immigration laws in several European countries of the fight against terrorism.
  - In 2003, Markus Mayer, Rita Haverkamp, and Dr. Lévy edited a book on the future of electronic monitoring in Europe, resulting from a conference organised by...
The Max-Planck Institute

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MPI and CESDIP.

Publishing

MPI has its own internal publishing company, “edition iuscrim” (for further information, contact Michael Knecht or see <www.iuscrim.mpg.de/verlag/verlag.html>). Fourteen books were published in the criminology series in 2002 and 2003. Together with Professor Pijnaut and Professor Günther Kaiser, the former director of MPI’s department of criminology, Professor Albrecht edits the European Journal of Crime, Criminal Law and Criminal Justice. Submissions are welcomed (for further information, see <www.iuscrim.mpg.de/verlag/krim/kzs/europeanjournal.html>).

The Future

In coming years, without neglecting its German competencies and connections, MPI will continue to internationalise its research topics and practices. A growing number of studies are being carried out on European and international topics, ranging from international organised crime and the world heroin market to European electronic monitoring, confiscation, and drug policies. With their recent tragic history and their difficult transition to effective democracies, the post-Yugoslav states have become a focus of several MPI research projects.

A large group of MPI legal and criminological scholars, under the leadership of Professor Sieber, submitted a comparative analysis of sentencing laws and practices to the ICTY in late 2003; this is being developed further. Dr. Maguer is carrying out a study for the French Ministry of Defence on the development of efficient border controls on the former Yugoslav and Albanian territories.

The growing internationalisation of research topics has intensified internationalisation of research practices. A growing number of non-German scientists work full-time at MPI, but its German and non-German staff is increasingly involved in networks of cooperation and exchange with foreign academic institutions. Some of these relationships, in addition to the LEA, are partially institutionalised. MPI contributes to the Master in European Criminology programme at the Catholic University of Leuven, and has collaboration agreements and regular exchanges with several European, North-American, and Chinese universities.

Further information may be obtained from the MPI’s website: <www.iuscrim.mpg.de>

Letizia Paoli is a senior research fellow at the Max-Planck Institute, Freiburg, Germany. Hans-Jorg Albrecht is director.

President’s Message

Continued from page 2

European criminological debate. All members of the European Society of Criminology may take advantage of a larger Europe to increase co-operation in research and education. The future board will aid this process.

The ESC arrives in Amsterdam in good shape with all its commitments fulfilled. The board has worked throughout the year to move the society from infancy to maturity, achieving a real representative structure for its members. The constitution has been amended through members’ discussion and approval. Nominations for president-elect and new board members have been solicited and will go before the General Assembly for ballot. Applications for the post of secretary general have been solicited and Professor Marcelo Aebi (Seville) has been selected. As this function will stabilise the work of the society, one more board member position is now up for election.

Finally we have The European Journal of Criminology. Criminology in Europe will become the instrument for informing members of society events. The website is now in place to facilitate information exchange and networking. All this has been carried out thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication of certain members. They deserve our deep thanks!

Forthcoming conferences are in the pipeline. Amsterdam will be a great event and the organisers have done a fine job. Thanks to all! Krakow is ready for 2005 and Tübingen will host us in 2006. Terms of reference for running future conferences have been established and procedures for selecting a 2007 venue have been announced.

See you in Amsterdam. The ESC has matured in a very few years. Your participation will help spread the common language of knowledge and research we need to vanquish the shadows of ignorance and brutality.

H-J Kerner

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Criminology at Heidelberg. While in Hamburg, he was also a judge at the criminal division of the High Court of Appeals.

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