



EUROCRIM2025

LOGOS OF CRIME & PUNISHMENT

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EUROCRIM2025

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Poppi, University of Łódź, Poland/Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuania

429. EUROGANG Panel: Gangs Experiences, Appearances and Complexities

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Gangs (Eurogang WG)

Paper Session

6:30 to 7:45 pm

Communications Building (CN): CN 3105

Chair:

Frank Weerman, NSCR & Erasmus University Rotterdam

Participants:

Crips, Bloods & Skins: Are White Power Groups Cut from the Same Cloth as Conventional Gangs? *Matthew Valasik, The University of Alabama; Shannon E. Reid, University of North Carolina, Charlotte; Jane C. Daquin, Sam Houston State University*

Gangs, devil worship and African witchcraft: Toward the development of a contemporary typology for occult-gangs *Ashwill Ramon Phillips, Lecturer, Department of Criminology, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa*

Informal prison hierarchies in the 21 century: subcultures, trends and social control *Dmytro Yagunov, Eberhard and Karl University (Tübingen, Germany)*

Lived experiences of gang-affiliated violence and trauma *Ron Dodzro, Psychologists The Streets Deserve (PTSD)/Juvenis; Winston Goode, Juvenis*

431. Violence and Immigration Detention: Comparative Perspectives from Greece, the UK, and the US

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Crime Control and the Immigration System (Immigration, Crime and Citizenship WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

6:30 to 7:45 pm

Communications Building (CN): CN 3111

Chair:

Mary Bosworth, University of Oxford

Participants:

Bureaucracy, Violence and Border Control in Britain *Mary Bosworth, University of Oxford*

Documenting the Undocumented: Violence in Immigration Detention in Greece *Andriani Fili, University of Oxford Centre for Criminology, England*

Manufacturing consent to removal via indifference - The case of immigration detention in Hong Kong *Wing Yin Anna Tsui, University of Oxford (DPhil, incoming cohort 2025-26)*

432. WG Organized Crime and Criminal Networks Panel 5.

Organized crime: organizational structure & violence

Topic 2: Types of Offending/Organized Crime (Organized Crime WG)

Paper Session

6:30 to 7:45 pm

Deree | Classrooms: DC 502

Chair:

Giulio Cicali, University of Oxford

428. Narrative Criminology 3: Desistance and behaviour

Topic 8: Methodologies in Criminology/Narrative Criminology
Paper Session

6:30 to 7:45 pm

Communications Building (CN): CN 3104

Chair:

Anja Emilie Kruse, Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law, University of Oslo, Norway

Discussant:

Fergus McNeill, University of Glasgow

Participants:

Social integration after release from prison: Narratives of work and desistance *Emma Villman, University of Helsinki; Elsa Saarikomäki, University of Turku*

Many individuals face significant challenges in social integration after being released from prison. Compared to the general population, formerly incarcerated individuals face higher unemployment rates, greater housing instability, and significant challenges in education, health, and other aspects of reintegration. While desistance research acknowledges the role of social integration, the connection between desistance and employment remains insufficiently explored. This study examines employment as a key aspect of social integration. Using qualitative longitudinal interviews with 22 formerly incarcerated individuals, we narratively explore how they perceive the meaning and role of work in their reintegration and desistance processes. Rather than viewing employment solely as a factor affecting recidivism, we argue for a broader understanding of its significance in shaping meaning, agency, and life trajectories. Furthermore, we argue that understanding the liminal phase of integration experienced by people released from prison is essential for making sense of narratives of desistance and societal integration.

Strategies of Desistance through Zimbardo's "Time Perspective"

Benjamin Rhodes, Griffith University; Danielle Arlanda Harris, Griffith University

Harris (2017) articulated three main strategies of desistance used by 74 men convicted of sexual offences: Retirement, Regulation, and Recovery. One of the most intriguing features of that work was the unexpected way in which Tense-Aspect-Modality (TAM) (Bybee, et al., 1994) correlated so closely across strategies. Men using a Retirement strategy had "knifed off" and spoke about their offending in the distant (and unitary) past. Men struggling to implement a Regulation strategy used a continuous aspect in the present tense. Men who demonstrated a strategy of Recovery used future tense and a modality of possibility. Time Perspective Theory (Zimbardo & Boyd, 2008) has the potential to account for the changing temporal identities of justice-involved men, and this study is the first to apply it within a Narrative Criminology framework. Thematic Analyses on a subset of 26 men subject to preventative detention revealed that interviewees who used a retirement desistance strategy were overwhelmingly "Past Negative/Future Fatalistic;" the men who used a regulation desistance strategy were predominantly "Future Fatalistic/Past Negative;" and the men who described their desistance as recovery were "Past Positive/Future Focused." This paper examines positionality over time and the ways in which men remember, identify, and imagine themselves as they navigate community reentry. Practical implications for narrative therapy are discussed.

Traumatic experiences, juvenile crime and desistance factors: a qualitative approach *Alfredo Verde, University of Genoa*

This contribution, based on an ongoing clinical-criminological research on desistance from crime among adult subjects conducted through unstructured interviews (FANI – Free Association

Narrative Interview) with an approach inspired by narrative and psychosocial criminology, describes the traumatic experiences suffered in childhood and adolescence, and the onset and development of the criminal career before reaching adulthood. It then considers the most significant desistance factors and the quality of the process itself. The Authors underscore that a narrative-psychosocial approach is important, as longitudinal studies, as repeatedly noted by criminological research, overlook the subjective dimension and rely on quantitative data, losing the complexity and uniqueness of each individual path. Based on the collected data, the work offers an illustration of the relationships between the peculiarities of the desistance process and its output, and hypothesizes that the process may be linked to the quality of the investment in relationships with significant others during the journey, which in turn is correlated to the severity and intensity of the suffered evolutive traumas.

Crimen in Verbis: The Crafting Style of Crime Narratives and Its Reflection of Criminal Behavior Dimensions *Fabio I. M.*

Poppi, University of Łódź, Poland/Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuania

While Narrative Criminology has predominantly focused on the content of crime narratives, relatively little attention has been paid to the structural aspects of how these narratives are crafted. This study highlights the significance of analyzing the "crafting style" of crime narratives—the distinct ways in which stories are organized and presented—offering crucial insights into various dimensions of criminal behavior. By examining how offenders construct their narratives, this research demonstrates that crafting styles are not only indicative of distinctions between recidivism and one-time offending, but also reveal temporal variations in criminal careers, from early offenses to more structured criminal trajectories.

Moreover, an analysis of crafting styles uncovers differences in how individuals recount the same events from the perspectives of both victim and perpetrator, shedding light on the fluidity and strategic reframing of crime narratives. Through a systematic review of narrative structures, this study advocates for a deeper integration of structural analysis into criminological research, broadening our understanding of the relationship between storytelling and criminal behavior.

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Crips, Bloods & Skins: Are White Power Groups Cut from the Same Cloth as Conventional Gangs? Matthew Valasik, The University of Alabama; Shannon E. Reid, University of North Carolina, Charlotte; Jane C. Daquin, Sam Houston State University

The current study's aim is to examine the relationship between the characteristics of members belonging to security threat groups (i.e., prison gangs) by comparing and contrasting these characteristics across racial/ethnic groups. The purpose of this study is not to ascertain the causal ordering of when an individual joins a security threat group, but instead to use a descriptive and comparative approach to assess the similarities/differences in the risk factors for prison gang membership across four categories of gang members: white gang members in White Power designated gangs, white gang members in other gangs that do not identify as White Power, black gang members, and Hispanic/Latino gang members. The goal of this study is to assess the extent to which the characteristics and risk-factors of security threat groups and their members resemble/diverge from each other.

Gangs, devil worship and African witchcraft: Toward the development of a contemporary typology for occult-gangs *Ashwill Ramon Phillips, Lecturer, Department of Criminology, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa*

The Free State province in South Africa is noted to have the highest prevalence of criminal youth gangs that incorporate elements of devil worship and African witchcraft in their practices. The

escalation in gang violence and continued reports of devil worship, demonic possession, witchcraft and other occult rituals have prioritised the need for focused intervention and more robust gang-prevention strategies in the province. However, limited empirical studies and the dearth of research engaging gang members directly, present challenges in the management of gangs and gang violence. These concerns are amplified by the absence of a cohesive typology that integrates occult practices within existing gang classifications. Grounded in the subcultural and cultural transmission perspectives, the current study draws on qualitative data to explore extant gang typologies, distinguish Free State gangs from more traditional street gangs, and present a contemporary typology for occult-gangs. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews with 23 gang members, 16 non-gang-affiliated offenders and 18 criminal justice professionals, and analysed using reflexive thematic analysis. The findings confirmed the integration of devil worship and witchcraft-related practices in gang operations, and identified key demographic features and distinct organisational structures. Moreover, occultism was embedded within gang symbolism, hierarchy, ideology and dynamics. The proposed typology enhances the understanding of occult-gang practices, and informs the development of empirically driven interventions, policies and rehabilitative strategies tailored to the esoteric philosophy characteristic of these groups. As the first attempt to explore occult-gang practices in the province from the direct perspective and lived reality of active gang members, this study makes a novel contribution to gang scholarship and criminological literature by addressing a gap in provincial gang research and discourse.

Informal prison hierarchies in the 21 century: subcultures, trends and social control *Dmytro Yagunov, Eberhard and Karl University (Tübingen, Germany)*

Dmytro Yagunov Doctor of Political Science, PhD in Public Administration, Associate Professor Eberhard and Karl University of Tübingen (Germany) d.yagunov@gmail.com Informal prison hierarchies are a matter of relations of power and subordination, power struggles in prisons and a free society, and the use of prisons and subcultural prison symbols to spread political power by powerful actors, including states. Due to the greater openness of prisons to society and the spread of the influence of prison criminal organizations on free society, the boundaries between the concepts of "criminal subculture" and "prison subculture" are increasingly dissolving. This is especially evident in the United States, Mexico, and South America, where the concept of a "street gang" is automatically a "prison gang" and vice versa. Similar trends are also becoming characteristic of European countries due to the penetration of prison gangs from the New World into the European "market". In contrast, in post-Soviet states, the relations between the 'national' professional criminal worlds and the respective informal prison hierarchies remain those of a Russian prison metropolis and fourteen colonies. The 'Metropolis' is making efforts to keep the former "colonies" under its control, using all possible political tools, technologies and levers of influence, as a result of which Russia has acquired the characteristics of not even a police state or even a carceral state, but a prison state. A prison state is not about the number of prisons, the number of prisoners, or the number of prison staff. It is about Russian citizens' approval and internal perception of the idea that the society should be governed by a prison subculture and corresponding informal hierarchies. Consequently, the author argues about the approval of wider use of informal prison hierarchies and prison subculture for the need of social control of the population, following traditions shaped in the Soviet period.

Lived experiences of gang-affiliated violence and trauma *Ron Dodzro, Psychologists The Streets Deserve (PTSD)/Juvenis; Winston Goode, Juvenis*

There is speculation that young Black men (YBM) exposed to gang-affiliated violence are likely to have negative impacts on their psychological functioning, but not enough research has explored this. The current research aimed to listen to YBM in London, examining trauma relating to gang-affiliated violence and how YBM make sense of their experiences. This qualitative study utilised an Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) to explore how eight YBM between the ages of 19-32 storied their lived experiences of gang-affiliated violence and trauma. Three Group Experiential Themes (GETs) and eight subthemes were identified from the data. Together, the themes described the complex interlink of human experience marked by trauma, socially deprived environments, systemic abuses, discrimination, healing,

and coping. These traumatising experiences elicited fear among other emotions. The persistent nature of violence in their communities created a sense of normalisation, and behaviours were adopted to navigate these threats. This research produced new knowledge about how YBM exposed to gang-affiliated violence make sense of their experiences, and the trauma responses they portray which challenge traditional perceptions of trauma and PTSD.