EUROPEAN GROUP FOR THE STUDY OF
DEVIANCE AND SOCIAL CONTROL

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Coordinator: Ida Nafstad
Secretary: Per J. Ystehede

An international network working towards social justice, state accountability and decarceration

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Front image: Reykjanes, Iceland, marks the boundary of the Eurasian and North American continental tectonic plates.
I. Editorial

We are sorry to again bring you the sad news that one of our friends and important thinkers has passed away. Thomas (formerly known as Herman) Bianchi died in the end of December last year. In this number René van Swaanningen remember Bianchi.

The deadline for submitting papers to the EG conference 2016 in Braga is approaching – March 31. As a warm-up for the conference Snorri Arnasson has in this number of the newsletter elaborated on lessons to be learned from the Islandic experience of the Banking crisis in 2008.

We are happy to see that the member on the EG Facebook account are steadily growing, and has now reach the number of 2 383. We have members from all over the world, academics, activists, and student, who provide a great contribution to our community. We wish to remind all our members on Facebook to pay attention to our community guidelines for the pages in order to continue our open, collaborative and supportive debate:

1) Please visit the Group website (http://www.europeangroup.org) - it gives you a clear idea of our history, aims and objectives. Make sure that content you post is relevant and conforms to the Group's values.

2) Comment on the topic or position, but not the person. Personal attacks, hateful, sexist, homophobic, racially or ethnically offensive or derogatory content, and harassment or threats against other participants of the discussion board will not be tolerated. This includes libel or unsubstantiated accusations against another. We don't expect everyone to always agree but we do expect people to treat others with respect.

3) Foul, obscene or sexually explicit language or content, that a reasonable person would find objectionable, will not be permitted.

4) No spamming will be allowed.

5) We have 7 individuals who routinely moderate the content and posts. They might on occasion ask for clarification or editing or raise issues.

6) If your post/comment was relevant and removed (accidentally or otherwise), please e-mail europeangroupcoordinator@gmail.com with a brief explanation.

In solidarity,
Ida and Per
II. In Memoriam Herman Bianchi (1924-2015)

René van Swaanningen

On the 30th of December 2015 Dutch critical criminologist Herman Bianchi passed away at the age of 91. Bianchi stood at the basis of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control in 1973 and hosted its third conference at his Free University Amsterdam in 1975 (Bianchi, Simondi & Taylor, 1975). Bianchi introduced both the labelling approach and critical criminology in the Netherlands and Flanders and he became best known for his penal abolitionism.

Bianchi has been very important for Dutch criminology. In 1953 he was the first research assistant in criminology, a discipline that until then was by and large a side-issue for criminal law professors. After he completed his doctoral thesis Position and Subject-Matter of Criminology in 1956 (which was, quite exceptional for that time, written in English), he was appointed as a Reader in criminology at the Free University Amsterdam in 1958 and he took the initiative to establish the first ‘real’ criminological journal in Dutch, the Tijdschrift voor Criminologie. When he became a full professor of criminology in 1961, he took initiative to strengthen the position of criminology at Dutch universities by founding the inter-university criminological contact-organ SICCO (Stichting Interuniversitair Criminologisch Contact Orgaan) and during his professorship, Bianchi established an Institute of Criminology at the Free University in Amsterdam in 1965, with several academic staffmembers and a
four-year educational programme in criminology (after a two years’ ‘candidate’
degree in law or social sciences) in 1968.

From a contemporary perspective it is interesting to see how criminologists in the
1950s predominantly dealt with typical criminal law themes. Bianchi's initial focus
on penal reform was no exception to this (Van Swaanningen 1997: 63-64, 118). We can,
however, also observe how Bianchi’s poetic exaggeration and emotional outbursts
led to the criticism that he was too much of a partisan and too little scientific; that
criticism would only become stronger in later phases of his career. Three years after
his nomination as a full professor, with his book Ethics of Punishment (Ethiek van
het straffen) from 1964, he both laid the foundations for his major legacy in
criminology, the restorative justice approach, but herewith the rejection of his work
by large parts of the criminological community also started.

Together with Louk Hulsman, Herman Bianchi has been amongst the founding
fathers of Dutch penal abolitionism: the criminological perspective in which ‘crime’
as a valid concept and ‘punishment’ as a legitimate answer to that are rejected
(Ruggiero 2010). In 1985, Bianchi took the second abolitionist conference ICOPA to
his Free University in Amsterdam (Bianchi & van Swaanningen, 1986).

In Ethics of Punishment Bianchi criticises the fact that the victim is defined out in the
penal process is and only plays a role in the background as a witness. Based on a
Biblical vision of justice, called tsedeka in Hebrew, Bianchi developed an alternative
model of justice in which both the ability of the offender to accept his responsibility
and is willing to strive for reconciliation with the victim are taken into account. Only
then, the moral order can be restored. Bianchi calls the situation of a morally sane
society eunomie. This concept is already relatively close to the idea of reintegrative
shaming, which would twenty-five odd years later become very influential
(Braithwaite 1989). Later, most notably in his book, Justice as Sanctuary from 1985
(1994 for the English edition), Bianchi adds a procedural element here, which he calls
assensus – as opposed to (false) consensus or (disruptive) dissensus. The issue is
whether the conflicting parties can agree on the circumstances of the facts and which
consequences must be attached to this, and not how the State feels about it.

In the mid-1960s, when students and other protesters were criminalised and arrested
arbitrarily, Bianchi had embraced the labelling approach in criminology. This too
leads him eventually to his abolitionist vision: the penal definition of problems must
be unmasked by returning the definition power of the problem back to the
conflicting parties. With this he argues along the same lines as Nils Christie, who in
1977 had published his influential article Conflict as Property. Bianchi adds that a so-
called ‘sanctuary’, a safe haven for conflict resolution should be established, where
police and justice authorities have no access. He bases this idea on the right of
churches or embassies to grant people who are persecuted asylum. If the conflict mediation in a safe haven succeeds, the public prosecution should lose the right to prosecute. Although with safe havens for perpetrators of general offenses it has became nothing, there are still churches in which failed asylum seekers are taken care of.

With the introduction in the Netherlands of the labelling approach in the mid-1960s and critical criminology in the mid-1970s, Bianchi played a central role in the paradigmatic change in criminology that took place in the seventies. After a century in which criminology had almost been exclusively etiological and perpetrator focused, the emphasis was now placed on the social responses to crime. In less than ten years the discipline had changed completely from a criminology of the law-breaker to a criminology of the lawmaker.

This is also the time that Bianchi has been the most active in the European Group. Bianchi (1974a, 1980: 302-7) accounts of "sleep-ing-bag and sit-in conferences", which are a "true relief" in comparison to the conferences of the International Society of Criminology, with their ladies programmes and posh conference sites, where criminologists discuss, in Mussolini's Italy mainly about problems of the level of bicycle theft, and later in Franco's Spain, in close harmony with Latin American participants in fine military uniforms, about virtually the same. The aim of the European Group to free criminology from this suspect ideology and to reform it into a critical discourse on state-organised social control was wholeheartedly supported by Bianchi.

Bianchi's still challenging book ‘Basic Models in Criminology’ (Basismodellen in de kriminologie) from 1980 was in many ways the continental European, Dutch answer to Taylor, Walton and Young’s book The New Criminology – including the sometimes bantering way in which ‘mainstream’ perspectives in criminology were dealt with. But, Basismodellen was composed along a strongly Foucauldian historical line and implied a radical reform agenda, that was strongly influenced by Thomas Mathiesen’s book The Politics of Abolition from 1974. The book may have been widely criticised for sloppiness and one-sidedness, but it did confront students with the implied human and worldviews behind so-called ‘purely scientific’ findings and it suggested to bring seemingly obvious things to discussion.

An ‘anti-establishment’ and ‘anti-conventional’ position was already visible in Bianchi’s earliest works; implicit in the 1950s, but way more explicit from the 1960s on. In his doctoral dissertation from 1956 Bianchi calls for a disconnection of criminology from criminal law, since it has reduced the criminology to an auxiliary science. He argues that criminologists can learn most from the phenomenological anthropologists. Later, historical studies were added. Comparative ‘cross cultural’
and ‘cross time’ analyses are, according to Bianchi (1980: 409-410), necessary to maintain the reflexive, scientific character of criminology, in a period of time in which especially practical recommendations within political determined frameworks are being asked for.

Bianchi (1974b) opposed a reduction of criminology to an applied policy science that he saw coming. He made a distinction between ‘governmental’ criminology, which serves the penal establishment with policy-recommendations and a ‘non-governmental’ criminology in which a critical position, outside of the state apparatus is taken. This article, which is one of Bianchi’s most cited works, is actually much more modest than how it was read in the 1970s, when it was widely suggested that Bianchi would have claimed that ‘real’ criminology was only possible at the university and that at the WODC, the research department of the Dutch Ministry of Justice, only ‘His Masters Voice’ was being heard.

After his retirement in 1988, Bianchi did not engage explicitly with criminological themes anymore. Because criminologists especially contributed to the public exclusion of vulnerable groups, he always thought that it was a ‘science of disgrace’, and that had only become worse after his retirement. Freemasonry and mystics like Hildegard von Bingen began to take a more central role in his life. After his retirement, he also exchanged his name ‘Herman’, which he has always hated as a pacifist, because of the reminiscences of an ancient German word for soldier, for ‘Thomas’. When he saw that, next to the unmistakable positivist turn in criminology, also the restorative justice approach had become very popular, Bianchi became more interested in his previous field of study again. Today, the Dutch Prize for restorative justice initiatives is even called the Bianchi Prize.

Herman Bianchi has left an unmistakable mark on the development of Dutch criminology from the 1950s to the 1990s. The hey-days of his career were in the 1970s, when he nearly had the status of a guru for a generation that wanted to change the world. Intuitively, he foresaw quite a few of the social and legal developments that would take place in the 2000s remarkably adequately. And he never doubted that at one point in time, restorative responses to what is called ‘crime’ today’ would prevail.

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About the author: René van Swaaningen is a Professor of International Criminology at the Erasmus University Rotterdam and he is currently Head of this university's Criminology Department. He received his PhD at the Erasmus University Rotterdam on a thesis on the historical and empirical development of critical criminology in Europe. In the 1980s, he has extensively worked together with Herman Bianchi at the Free University Amsterdam. Amongst other things he organised the second abolitionist conference with him, and Bianchi also supervised his master-thesis. René has in the 1980s and 90s been active in the European Group, for which he has been a steering committee member for many years and he organised the 1990 European Group conference in Haarlem, in the Netherlands.
III. LESSONS IN BANKING CRISIS – THE ICELANDIC EXPERIENCE

Snorri Arnasson

Introduction

In October 2008 the Icelandic banking system collapsed with massive consequences for both economy and society in Iceland. Great resources were put into revealing what led to the events preceding the banking collapse and a Special prosecutor office was established to investigate suspected crimes and prosecute those believed to be responsible. Several bankers are currently serving prison sentences and a number of people are still awaiting prosecution or trial (Árnason, 2010; Gunnlaugsson, 2010 & 2012; Jännäri, 2009; SIC report, 2010). This short article presents a few major lessons to be learned from the Icelandic banking crash.

Privatization

The privatization process of the banking system between 1998 and 2003 is a clear example of crucial policy mistakes made in Iceland. Instead of spreading ownership between a larger number of institutional and private investors, politically well-connected individuals and groups with little banking experience were allowed to buy controlling stakes in each bank. The privatization of the banks thus created new opportunities for these entrepreneurs who soon changed the mission of the banks from service to growth. Three banking empires emerged, rapidly growing through increased business ventures abroad (Jónsson, 2015; Mixa, 2015) and as access to domestic and foreign capital investment improved, the Icelandic economy boomed.

At the same time, government involvement in the matters of the private sector changed dramatically. Instead of most affairs being resolved politically, a laissez faire approach was adopted. In the spirit of deregulatory neo-liberalism, it was now believed more beneficial to trust the ‘laws of the market’ and leave business under professional leadership, as independent as possible (Kjartansson, 2002). These changes in the economy and society shifted the balance of power from the government to the financial and corporate sector (Árnason, 2010). A monster had been created and set loose.

Desupervision

From 1999 to 2006 the total assets of the commercial banks had grown 15 fold and reached in total over eight times the Icelandic GDP. Meanwhile the Financial Supervisory Authority (FSA) in Iceland and other government agencies were too
poorly funded to keep up with the growth of the financial system. The FSA was much too small, both in numbers and variety of skills, to supervise and regulate a banking system as large and internationally active as that in Iceland. The FSA had difficulties in hiring and keeping competent employees and the best ones often left for better salaried positions in the banks (Árnason, 2009; SIC report, 2010; Jännäri, 2009). It seems that in their pursuit for shortcuts to profit goals, the bankers benefitted not only from loopholes in the legal framework, but also from the inadequate supervision provided by the FSA.

Moreover, the failure of privatization and deregulation as policies, represents the bankruptcy of the neo-liberal ideology. As a result, desupervision facilitated a “criminogenic environment” which fostered opportunities for fraud and manipulation (Árnason, 2010).

**Economic crimes**

An interesting trend appears when examining numbers of reported economic crimes from 2002 to 2012 in Iceland. From 2002 to 2006 the number of reported economic crimes drops considerably and to only a third of the count in 2002. In 2007, however, a sharp increase begins, reaching a peak in 2009. As Figure 1 shows, the number of reported economic crimes in 2009 is five times higher than in 2006.

![Figure 1. The number of reported economic crimes in Iceland in the years 2002–2012.](image)

Of course this fluctuation in numbers does not represent a changed trend in ‘real’ economic criminality in a matter of years. Instead, it illustrates the collapse of regulation and supervision in the years leading up to the banking crisis itself and how economic crimes were only discovered in the aftermath.
When the banks collapsed in October 2008 it was like Pandora’s box had been opened. Actions that had previously been disregarded, criticised as legal but unethical or a little "in a grey area“ at worst were suddenly re-defined and labelled as totally illegal. Although these actions had been taking place over a lengthy period of time they didn’t become the focus of investigation and prosecution until after the banking crisis. The sharp rise of reported economic crimes in 2009 can thus be explained merely by a shift in regulation and a re-thinking of enforcement policy that was brought on by the shockwave caused by the banking collapse. Deregulation had paved the way for the Icelandic “business Vikings“ to implement their means to an end.

**The “business Vikings”**

Rapid changes surrounded the privatization of the banks. The new atmosphere put greater emphasis on quick financial gain than before and tougher competitive methods replaced old sets of ethics. Liberalization of financial markets and phenomenal growth of the banks created an imbalance between institutions in society. This can be called a condition of anomie which increased the danger of illegal means being used to reach unrealistic profit goals (Árnason, 2006). Passas’ (2000) adaptation of anomie theory to business situations, suggests that the basic goals of business to maximize profit is in itself an infinite objective and therefore unrealistic and thus increases the danger of anomic conditions. The pressure to attain desired profit levels, as well as the fact that profit levels were directly related to their own salary, increases the likelihood that both management and employees will engage in criminal conduct. This theory applies only too well to the Icelandic experience.

The owners of the banks and the top management were a tight knit group of like-minded, driven and ambitious but young and inexperienced males. Such cohesion and lack of diversity gives rise to erroneous group decision making according to social psychological theories. The owners were closely connected to the management of the banks and they were also the biggest borrowers of the banks. The management of the banks was driven by greed and unrealistic profit goals, risk-taking in lending, borrowing and investment policies. Moreover they showed obvious disregard for the importance of ethical guidelines (SIC report, 2010).

The incentive to grow was very high for the managers. Comprehensive bonus schemes were implemented. However, the risk of such schemes can have a very negative impact, as managers can be motivated to bend the rules to meet the profit goals. Also, when failing to meet their targets they may be motivated to report false business results (Johnsen, 2014).
Corporate culture

Jännäri (2009) found that the banking community had a tendency to consider the letter rather than the spirit of the law as setting the boundaries for their actions. Complicated webs of holding companies were established to circumvent many of the restrictions in banking law. Top management of the banks was a group of single-minded individuals and their own set of guidelines were realized in the corporate culture. The SIC report (2010) described the banking culture as driven by speed and change. Incentive schemes and bonus payments induced risk-taking and aggressiveness. Most of all the culture was characterized by conformity and leader-worshipping, a kind of group-thinking that did not make room for any criticism of the management’s course of action. As experienced employees were replaced by young males, fresh out of universities the corporate culture got shaped by an increasingly homogeneous group of people.

In a study of middle managers of large corporations, Árnason (2006) found that corporate culture is shaped by its leaders and their policies, so it becomes very difficult for middle managers to stop violations as they are not aware that they’re actually doing anything wrong. The laws on the inside are set by their CEO. The norm is to go as far as you can get away with (Árnason, 2006; Árnason & Gunnlaugsson, 2008). These findings support Sutherland’s theory that internal sets of rules, imposed by management, outweigh regulation of the authorities (Sutherland, 1983).

Special prosecutor Olafur Thor Hauksson admitted in a newspaper interview that he faces suspects who “are not aware of when they crossed the line” and part of the difficulty in prosecuting bankers is that the law is often unclear on what constitutes a criminal offence when it comes to economic crimes. “Greed is not a crime, but where does greed lead” he asked (www.nytimes.com, 2013). Huisman (2012) points out that it is difficult to determine between illegal and unethical behaviour in the capital markets and different stakeholders have fiercely debated where this line should be drawn.

Aftermath

In the aftermath of the banking collapse in Iceland there was virtual consensus to seek justice for economic crimes. Such consensus only presents itself under rare circumstances such as economic crisis. The way Icelandic authorities have sought to hold individuals accountable for their actions in the banking crisis has few parallels in other countries. At the end of 2015, more than seven years after the banking crisis in Iceland, 29 bankers had been sentenced to a total of 75 years in prison. The determined approach by the authorities to prosecute these criminal offences linked
to the economic crisis is in stark contrast to the approach taken by authorities in the US or the UK for example. However, a crisis such as in 2008 also offers a singular opportunity to make effective changes to the regulatory system. Some have been implemented. It remains to be seen if Iceland will have learned from the experience. History has a funny way of repeating itself and events tend to move in a cycle.

**Lessons learned**

So what lessons can be drawn from the Icelandic experience? First of all, the privatization of the banks was carried out in a way that handed small groups of inexperienced bankers major stakes in the banks. On top of that a *laissez faire* policy was adopted. That resulted in a poorly regulated or supervised banking system. Money does not regulate itself, people do. Systems need to be clear as to what is legal behaviour and what isn’t and the regulatory authorities need to be at least as strong in capacity as the banks they are intended to regulate. Thirdly, executive bonuses linked to financial growth of the banks may open the path to criminal behaviour, they increase incentives to bend the rules. Fourth, management of corporations need diversity in terms of age, gender, education and experience in order to overcome potentially flawed group decision making. Middle management needs to be motivated and facilitated to refuse to conform to potentially illegal decisions made by top management. Whistle-blower laws are one way of implementing that. Finally, a zero-tolerance policy to white collar crimes may create a more responsible business culture, as it sends out the message that individuals will be held accountable for their acts. While attempting to analyse the causes of the Icelandic banking collapse, it is necessary to adopt a holistic approach. The banking crisis was not simply the result of bad banking by some rotten apples, there were far more factors at play.

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www.serstakursaksoknari.is/english

**About the author:** Snorri Arnason is a Master of Sociology from the University of Iceland. Analyst for the Reykjavik Metropolitan police. Teaches Criminology at the University of Iceland. Secretary for the Icelandic council of the Nordic Council for Criminology.
IV. European Group Conferences – call for paper

**Economic Crisis and Crime: From Global North to Global South**

*44th Annual Conference of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control*

University of Minho  
Braga, Portugal  
1st, 2nd and 3rd September 2016

Although economic crisis is a global phenomenon, southern countries of Europe have been particularly affected. In Portugal, for example, quality of life has considerably decreased and the crisis has intensified exclusion, homelessness, emigration and enforced poverty.

Taking into account the different realities of the crisis in the countries of the global north and south, this conference calls for papers exploring various manifestations of the crisis in different sectors of the criminal justice system and other public services. The conference will seek to address the following questions:

Are patterns of crisis different in northern and southern Europe? Are state control and forms of resistance to the crisis different between the north and the south of Europe? How can we promote social justice in times of crisis? How can scholars contribute to reducing social inequality and the policies that promote social exclusion? How are activists and social movements dealing with the crisis in different countries? How can we involve citizens in the fight against state violence?

We welcome papers on the themes below which reflect the general values and principles of the European Group. Please forward short abstracts of 150-300 words to the relevant stream coordinators by **31st March 2016**.
Streams

**Fear and looting in the periphery: Approaching global crime and harm in (and from) the south(s) [Working group in progress]**

- Theoretical development of state-corporate crime and social harm on / from the south(s)
- Complex relations and connections between north and south.
- International financial agencies, debt and the production of crime and harm.
- Geographical production of crime and harm
- Resistance from the south(s)
- What is to be done about state-corporate crime?
- Post-colonial criminology

*Contact: aleforero@ub.edu & djf@unizar.es & ignasi.bernat@udg.edu*

**Crimes of the Powerful Working Group Stream**

- Corporate and State crimes/harms/violence
- Resistance, contestation and class war
- Economic, physical, emotional and social costs of crimes of the powerful
- Power, harm, corruption and violence in institutions
- Eco-harms and green criminology
- Criminal justice, civil law, critical legal perspectives and social justice

*Contact: Samantha.Fletcher@staffs.ac.uk*

**Social harm/Zemiology [Working group in progress]**

- Social harms of the financial crisis, recession and austerity
- Social harms of neo-liberalism and other forms of social organization
- Social harms of criminalization
- Social harms of ‘war on terror’ (criminal justice and social policy interventions)
- Social harms of border control
- Social harms relating to gender, sexuality, age, ethnicity etc.
- Methodological, epistemological, theoretical issues

*Contact: C.Pantazis@bristol.ac.uk & S.Pemberton.1@bham.ac.uk*
Prison, Punishment and Detention Working Group Stream

- Resistance to control and prison
- Immigration detention and forced removal
- Prison and surveillance
- Surveillance outside the prison
- Semi-penal institutions
- Punishment and structural violence
- Genderisation of practices between prisons
- The institutional genderisation of inmates
- Gendered Violence in Prison

Contact: Victoria.Canning@open.ac.uk

Policing and Security Working Group Stream

Post-crash policing: developments, implications and possibilities for resistance

- Post-crash intensification of coercion and surveillance: criminalizing resistance
- Policing the crisis in southern Europe: developments and comparisons
- Capitalism, pacification and post-crash policing
- Containing the police counterattack: problems and prospects for police accountability
- Citizens, activists, communities, movements: possibilities for resistance and alternative political programs

Contact: g.papanicolaou@tees.ac.uk

Criminalizing children and young people

- From marginalization to crime
- Institutional violence in the care system for children and young people
- Regulating the behavior of youth
- Comparative perspectives in youth justice

Contact: pcmartins@psi.uminho.pt
V. News from Europe and around the World

Germany

Dear Colleagues,
Don't miss this opportunity to share the results of your research at this premier scientific event!

Abstracts must be submitted electronically through the website 'CALL FOR ABSTRACTS' page at

https://eurocrim2016.abstract-management.de/

There is no fee for submitting an abstract for the EUROCRIM 2016 Conference. Original works or recently published materials are also welcome.

All submitted abstracts will be peer reviewed, and those selected will be presented at the 16th Conference as either an oral presentation or poster presentation.

Don't wait, all abstracts must be submitted by
15 April 2016

Visit our website regularly for scientific program updates and useful information at http://www.eurocrim2016.com/
India

We are delighted to announce that Jindal Institute of Behavioral Sciences along with the International Society of Criminology is organizing the 18th WORLD CONGRESS OF CRIMINOLOGY from 15 – 19 December 2016, at O.P. Jindal Global University, Delhi NCR, Haryana, India.

O. P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat is a non-profit, philanthropic, multidisciplinary, research oriented university. Situated on an 80-acre state-of-the-art residential campus in the National Capital Region of Delhi, we are committed to promoting global research and education through international collaborations and expert global faculty. Jindal Institute of Behavioural Sciences (JIBS) is a value based research institute of JGU which is committed to understanding, developing and applying human process competencies through continuous experimentation, research and learning related to applied and experimental behavioural science.

The World Congress of Criminology, which has been held under the auspices of the International Society of Criminology since 1938, is the foremost criminology event that brings together the best academics, researchers, professionals and policy makers to discuss the most relevant and current issues related to crime and deviance and their prevention under the aegis of the International Society of Criminology.

We graciously invite you to participate in the 18th World Congress of Criminology at O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat in December 2016.

For more information on the congress & registration please visit our website: www.jibsisc2016congress.com

To view the invitation online, please click the following link: https://slate.adobe.com/cp/jYuKJ/

We request you to kindly spread the word amongst your peers & colleagues. We look forward to your active participation in the Congress.

Italy

Conference:
'Sites of Confinement: Confines, Control and Resistance at the Border' conference registration now open

Thursday, 17 March 2016 09:00 - 18:00

Campus Luigi Einaudi, University of Turin, Lungo Dora Siena 100/A - 10154, Turin, Italy
Room: E5
http://www.open.ac.uk/researchcentres/herc/events/sites-confinement-confines-control-and-resistance-border
Spain

We celebrate 15 years anniversary of the Observatory of the Penal System and Human Rights. Session can be followed by streaming,


Sweden

New publication from Criminology in Stockholm


THE DARKER SIDE OF EQUALITY? THE DECLINING GENDER GAP IN CRIME: HISTORICAL TRENDS AND AN ENHANCED ANALYSIS OF STAGGERED BIRTH COHORTS Felipe Estrada, Olof Bäckman and Anders Nilsson

In this article, we elucidate the way the gender gap in crime has changed in Sweden since the mid-19th century. The analysis is directed at theft offences and violent crime. The long historical perspective provides a background to our analysis that focuses on the period since the 1980s. Our principal data are comprised of the registered offending of different birth cohorts. Most of the findings from our study refute the hypothesis that the declining gender gap in crime is due to an increasing number of women committing offences. Instead, the most important driving forces in recent times have been a powerful decline in the number of men convicted of theft crime and a netwidening effect causing a rise in womens’ convictions for violence.

Keywords: crime trends, crime drop, gender gap, net-widening, inequality, Sweden

UK

Call for papers:

Oppositional Energies: social justice, protest and oppositional politics Middlesex University, Hendon Campus, London. 26th May 2016 - call attached.

Policing report:


Please feel free to contribute to this newsletter by sending any information that you think might be of interest to the Group to Ida/Per at: europeangroupcoordinator@gmail.com

Also feel free to contribute with discussions or comments on the published material in the newsletter

If you want to subscribe to the newsletter, please send a mail to europeangroupcoordinator@gmail.com

Please send it in before the 25th of each month if you wish to have it included in the following month’s newsletter. Please provide a web link (wherever possible).