



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

60<sup>th</sup>

• 1959 - 2019 •

Anniversary of the founding of the  
Institute of Criminology



# Violence Research Centre REPORT

2018-2019



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

Institute of Criminology  
Violence Research Centre

## Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Foreword   | 3  |
| Key Research Projects and Public Engagement 2018-19                | 4  |
| <i>Completed and Ongoing Research</i>                              |    |
| Organised Crime, Illegal Governance and Communities (i-Gov)        | 5  |
| Zurich Project on the Social Development of Children (z-proso)     | 6  |
| The London Medieval Murder Map                                     | 9  |
| Resilience against Offending and Violence                          | 10 |
| São Paulo Project on the Social Development of Children (sp-proso) | 11 |
| Evidence for Better Lives Study (EBLS)                             | 12 |
| Understanding Corrupt Exchanges in Ghana                           | 14 |
| Legitimacy and Counter-terrorism Policing                          | 15 |
| Victimisation, police interviewing and legal decision making       | 16 |
| PhD Research Projects 2018-19                                      | 17 |
| Criminology Day 2018   | 18 |
| Violence Research Centre (VRC) Seminars & 2019 Symposium           | 19 |
| Happy 5th Birthday, VRC!   | 21 |
| VRC Updates  | 22 |

Cover photo: EBLS consortium meeting in the Philippines



## **Foreword**

**Prof Manuel Eisner**  
**VRC Director**

The Violence Research Centre (VRC) is five years old. It was officially launched during the Global Violence Reduction Conference on 18 September 2014. This international event was organised by the University of Cambridge and the World Health Organization. This year we also celebrate the 60th birthday of our parent organisation, the Institute of Criminology.

This report provides an overview of the research activities of VRC members and affiliated researchers for the academic year 2018-2019. It has been a busy year of lectures, conferences and research activities, in particular the start of the Evidence of Better Lives Study's foundational stage, which involved collecting data of 1200 participating families in eight cities around the world.

EBLS is a ground-breaking project in eight middle-income countries: the Philippines, Vietnam, Romania, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Ghana and Jamaica. The next stage, subject to funding, will involve 12,000 families, with data collection covering the first 1000 days of children's lives. If you would like to find out more about our research projects, please visit [www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch](http://www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch).

*Manuel Eisner*

# Key Research Projects

- Organised Crime, Illegal Governance and Communities (i-Gov)
- Zurich Project on the Social Development of Children (z-proso)
- The London Medieval Murder Map
- Resilience against General Offending and Violence
- Evidence for Better Life Study (EBLS)
- São Paulo Project on the Social Development of Children (sp-proso)
- Understanding Corrupt Exchanges in Ghana
- Legitimacy and Counter-terrorism Policing
- Victimization, police interviewing and legal decision making

# Public engagement

The image displays three promotional posters for public seminars organized by the University of Cambridge Violence Research Centre. Each poster includes the university logo, the seminar title, the host's name and affiliation, the date and time, and a QR code for registration.

- Poster 1: The London Medieval Murder Map**  
Host: Prof Manuel Eisner, Director of the Violence Research Centre, Institute of Criminology.  
Date: Wednesday, 28 November 2018, 5:00 - 7:00pm.  
Location: Room B3, Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge.  
Activity: Presentation followed by refreshments.
- Poster 2: Inside the Business of Cybercrime**  
Host: Dr Jonathan Lusthaus, Director of The Human Cybercriminal Project, University of Oxford.  
Date: Wednesday, 27 February 2019, 5:30 - 7:00pm.  
Location: Institute of Criminology, Room B3 (basement).  
Activity: Presentation and Q&A followed by refreshments.
- Poster 3: The Real Gold Standard: Measuring Counterfactual Worlds that Matter Most to Policy**  
Hosts: Violence Research Centre @ Institute of Criminology, Prof Loraine Gelsthorpe - Prof Manuel Eisner - Prof Lawrence Sherman - Dr Paolo Campana.  
Guest speakers: Prof Daniel Nagin - Prof Robert Sampson - Prof Anna Vignoles - Prof Susanne Karstedt.  
Date: Tuesday, 14 May 2019, 3:00 - 7:00pm.

The Violence Research Centre organises public seminars and conferences during the academic year. Turn to page 19 to read about our 2018-2019 events.

# Organised Crime, Illegal Governance and Communities (i-Gov)

Dr Paolo Campana (investigator), VRC and Prof Federico Varese (co-investigator), University of Oxford



Tony Webster, CC



## Study

This on-going project explores the nature and activities of organised crime groups operating in different locations, with a specific focus on Europe. The aim is to tease out the interplay between organised crime and communities. This will allow policy makers to devise better indicators to measure organised crime, as well as design policies to prevent or contrast the emergence of alternative illegal sources of authority within communities.

A focus on illegal governance allows scholars to retain the crucial distinction between producers of goods and services on the one hand and suppliers of forms of regulation on the other. In this view, organised crime attempts to regulate and control the production and distribution of a given commodity or service unlawfully. This requires investments in a special set of resources, which are not necessarily available to illegal producers and traders.

The Study combines a novel theoretical framework with advanced statistical techniques, mainly in the area of network analysis, to gain an in-depth understanding of the mechanisms underpinning organised crime. We wish to thank the Leverhulme Trust for the support. Find out more about this project at [www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch/illegal-governance](http://www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch/illegal-governance).

## Key publications

Campana, P. (2019). *Migrant Smuggling in International and Transnational Crime and Justice*, edited by Mangai Natarajan, Cambridge University Press.

Campana, P. (2019). *Macro trends in the smuggling of migrants into Europe between 2010-2016: Analytical remarks and policy implications in Critical insights on irregular migration facilitation: Global perspectives*, edited by Sanchez, Gabriella and Achilli, Luigi, Cadmus, retrieved from <http://cadmus.eui.eu/handle/1814/62384>

# Zurich Project on the Social Development of



**Investigators:** Prof Manuel Eisner, Principal Investigator, Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge, UK and Jacobs Center, University of Zurich, Switzerland; Dr Denis Ribeaud, Co-investigator, Lead Project Manager, Jacobs Center, University of Zurich, Switzerland; Prof Michael Shanahan, Co-investigator, Director of Jacobs Center, University of Zurich, Switzerland. *Find out the whole list of collaborators on our website.*



## Study

The Zurich Project on the Social Development from Childhood to Adulthood (z-proso) is an on-going longitudinal study of 1,675 children since their admission to the first year of Zurich's primary schools in the autumn of 2004. It aims to understand the developmental dynamics involved in aggressive behaviour and victimisation during childhood and adolescence. The main assessments have been conducted at ages 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17 and early 20s.

Over the waves, the study included experimental assessments of risk-seeking behaviour, measures of friendship networks, assessments of pubertal development and measures of resting heart rate. The study has extensive repeated measures on aggression, bullying, victimisation, and self-reported offending. It now also comprises data on criminal records of participants.

Since 2017, z-proso is mainly based at the Jacobs Center for Productive Youth Development at the University of Zurich. The Jacobs Foundation and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) have provided long-term financial support since 2003. From 2017 to 2020, z-proso has been mainly funded by the SNSF as a national research infrastructure.

# Children (z-proso)

## 15th Anniversary Symposium

On 26 October 2018, a Symposium, hosted by the Jacobs Foundation, marked an important milestone in the project. Welcome addresses were delivered by Mr. Sandro Giuliani, Managing Director of the Jacobs Foundation and Prof Michael Shanahan, director of the Jacobs Center. Dr Denis Ribeaud (Jacobs Center, University of Zurich) gave a



presentation entitled *The long-term study z-proso: an overview*. This was followed by a talk by our Director, Prof Manuel Eisner, *Psychosocial development and experiences of violence: core findings and implications for prevention*.



Dr Sara Valdebenito (VRC) and Dr Aja Murray (University of Edinburgh), both members of the z-proso international network

Prof. Daniel Nagin (Heinz College, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA) discussed the international implications of the study in a talk entitled, *The international significance of z-proso for criminological research: past achievements and future perspectives*. This was followed by an intervention by PD Dr. Marcel Aebi

(Center for Child and Youth Forensics, Psychiatric University Hospital Zurich): *Relevance of the study for the youth forensic practice*. Prof. Urs Hepp (Integrated Psychiatry Winterthur - Zurich Unterland) delivered an intervention called *Implications for*



Prof Noemi Pereda (University of Barcelona, Spain)

*an integrated prevention policy*. The concluding talk was by Councilor



Prof Izabela Zych (University of Cordoba, Spain)

Jacqueline Fehr, Director of Justice and Home Affairs: *Effective prevention and intervention from the point of view of politics*. For updates, visit our website and [www.jacobscenter.uzh.ch/en/research/zproso](http://www.jacobscenter.uzh.ch/en/research/zproso). Photos are courtesy of the Jacobs Center.

## Key publications

2019

**Krisch, M.;** Averdijk, M.; Valdebenito, S.; Eisner, M. (2019). *Sex Trade Among Youth: A Global Review of the Prevalence, Contexts and Correlates of Transactional Sex Among the General Population of Youth in Adolescent Research Review*, <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs40894-019-00107-z>

**Averdijk, M.;** Ribeaud, D.; Eisner, M. (2019). *Childhood predictors of violent victimization at age 17: The role of social early behavioral tendencies in The Journal of Pediatrics*, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/>



A report was produced in German and English to commemorate the 15th anniversary of z-proso. You can download it from our website

#### DI E DREI HAUPTANLIEGEN VON Z-PROSO

Das von Prof. Dr. M. Eisner (Universität Cambridge und Universität Zürich) initiierte und zusammen mit Prof. Dr. M. Murray und Dr. D. Ribeaud (Jacobs Universität Zürich) geleitete Zürcher Projekt zur sozialen Entwicklung von der Kindheit bis Erwachsenenalter ist heute am Jacobs Center für Produktive Youth-Development der Universität Zürich angegliedert und wird als nationale Forschungsinfrastruktur vom Schweizerischen Nationalfonds finanziell unterstützt. Es hat drei Hauptziele:



##### GRUNDLAGENFORSCHUNG

z-proso trägt durch international herausragende interdisziplinäre Grundlagenforschung zum besseren Verständnis von Verhaltensproblemen im Lebenslauf bei.



##### NACHWUCHSFÖRDERUNG

z-proso bietet ein internationales Netzwerk angehende Forschende in der Schweiz und im Ausland an. Innovative Fragestellungen heranz und unterstützt sie in ihrer akademischen Karriere.



##### WISSENSTRANSFER

z-proso arbeitet mit lokalen, nationalen und internationalen Entscheidungsgremien zusammen, um wirksame Strategien zur Förderung psychosozialer Gesundheit und Reduktion von Gewaltverletzungen zu entwickeln.

#### MAIN OBJECTIVES OF Z-PROSO

The Zurich Study on the Social Development from Childhood to Adulthood was initiated by Prof. M. Eisner (University of Cambridge, University of Zurich) and currently leads cooperation with Prof. M. Murray and Dr. D. Ribeaud from University of Zurich. It is affiliated with the Jacobs Center for Productive Youth Development of the University of Zurich and financially supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation as a national research infrastructure. The study has three principal objectives:



##### HIGH-QUALITY RESEARCH

z-proso contributes to a better understanding of behavioural problems in children and young adults through interdisciplinary research excellence.



##### CAPACITY BUILDING

Through its international network, z-proso invites early career researchers in Switzerland and abroad to address innovative questions while supporting them in their academic development.



##### KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER WITH IMPACT

z-proso works with local, national and international policymakers to develop more effective strategies to promote psychosocial health and reduce violence.

S0022347618318304

**Eisner, N.; Murray, A.; Eisner, M.; Ribeaud, D. (2019). *AA Practical Guide to the Analysis of Non-Response and Attrition in Longitudinal Research Using a Real Data Example. International Journal of Behavioral Development*, DOI: 10.1177/0165025418797004**

**Murray, A.; Booth, T.; Eisner, M.; Auyeung, B.; Murray G.; Ribeaud, D. (2019). *Sex differences in ADHD trajectories across childhood and adolescence. Developmental Science*, 22. <https://doi.org/10.1111/desc.12721>**

**Murray, A.; Booth, T.; Eisner, M.; Ribeaud, D. (2019). An analysis of response shifts in a universal school-based intervention to reduce externalising behaviour. *Prevention Science*, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30847752>**

## 2018

**Averdijk, M.; Ribeaud, D.; Eisner, M. (2018). *The long-term effects of out-of-home placement in late adolescence: A propensity score matching analysis among Swiss youths. Longitudinal and Life Course Studies*, 9 (1: Special issue: Adult outcomes of children raised in care), 30–57. <https://doi.org/10.14301/lcs.v9i1.450>**

**Lee, B. X.; Eisner, M.; Prabhu, M.; Dike, C. (2018). *Violence, justice, and health: implications for a multisectoral collaboration. International Journal of Public Health* 63(1), DOI: 10.1007/s00038-018-1162-y**

**Zych, I., Ttofi, M. M., Llorent, V. J., Farrington, D. P., Ribeaud, D., & Eisner, M. P. (2018). *A longitudinal study on stability and transitions among bullying roles. Child Development*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.13195>**

**Murray, A. L., Kaiser, D., Valdebenito, S., Hughes, C., Baban, A., Fernando, A. D., & Sikander, S. (2018). *The intergenerational effects of intimate partner violence in pregnancy: mediating pathways and implications for prevention. Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, DOI: 10.1177/1524838018813563.**

**Obsuth, I., Mueller Johnson, K., Murray, A. L., Ribeaud, D., & Eisner, M. (2018). *Violent poly-victimization: The longitudinal patterns of physical and emotional victimization throughout adolescence (11–17 years). Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 28(4), 786-806.**

**Borah, T. J., Murray, A. L., Eisner, M., & Jugl, I. (2018). *Developing and validating an experience sampling measure of aggression: the Aggression-ES Scale. Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260518812068>.**



# The London Medieval Murder Map

Prof Manuel Eisner



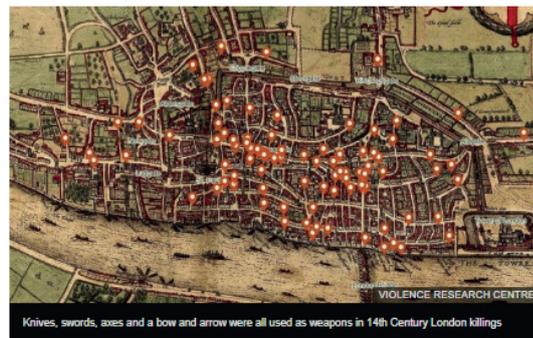
Antique map of London by Braun & Hogenberg, the basis for our digital interactive map. Because of its public success, visitors to our website increased by over 600% in 2018 to over 63,000. According to Google Analytics data, the interest continued in 2019

## Study

The Medieval London Murder Map is an interactive digital map showing the location of homicides that occurred in the City of London in the the 14th century.

Each case is based on the original records held by Coroners - medieval officials tasked to record all cases of sudden and unnatural deaths including suicides, accidents and homicides - in the presence of an investigative jury. The jury was drawn from the free men of the ward where the body had been found, as well as three neighbouring wards.

The Coroners' Rolls comprise 142 cases of homicides. After they had been notified of a violent death, the Coroner and the Sheriffs summoned an investigative jury. The number of murders fluctuated between 13 and 22 cases per year, with an annual average of 16 cases. If we accept a population of around 80,000, the homicide rate in London was about 20 per 100,000 inhabitants per year. This is about 15-20 times more than what we would expect in a UK city of equal size in our times, but a lot lower than the rates found in some of the most violent cities in the world. Visit our website for updates on this project.



The project attracted international media exposure. It was also linked to popular TV series *Games of Thrones*



## Medieval murder map reveals deadliest city spots -- and how crimes unfolded

By Tara Jones, CNN  
Updated 3654 GMT (0054 HKT) November 28, 2018



University of Cambridge criminologist Manuel Eisner plotted 142 cases of murder onto an interactive, online death map of 14th-century London.

(CNN) — There were many ways a person could meet a violent death in medieval London, from violent mob punishment (for littering eel skins) to getting wounded in a fracas (by a servant shooting arrows into a crowd).



## New interactive death map breathes life into medieval London

Brutal range of revenge killings and fatal scuffles recorded by coroners in early 1300s



# Resilience against Offending and Violence

Dr Maria Ttofi, Prof David P. Farrington, Dr Alex R. Piquero, PhD candidate Hannah Gaffney and others



## Study

Resilience is defined as the dynamic process encompassing positive adaptation within the context of significant adversity. This concept has shaped criminological thinking about why individuals abstain from crime in spite of childhood adversities.

Resilience and desistance models have also shaped criminological thinking on ‘turning points’ that enable individuals to escape their delinquent lifestyles later in life.

The research focus has been on protective factors against involvement in crime and violence – although, admittedly, research on protective factors that facilitate desistance from a deviant lifestyle is of equal importance.

## Key publication

Ttofi, M. M., Piquero, A. R., Farrington, D. P., McGeec, T. R. (2019). *Mental health and crime: Scientific advances and emerging issues from prospective longitudinal studies*, *Journal of Criminal Justice*, V62, retrieved from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0047235218303982>

# São Paulo Project on the Social Development of Children/Projeto São Paulo desenvolvimento social de crianças e adolescentes (sp-proso)

Prof Maria Fernanda Peres, University of Sao Paulo (principal investigator), Prof Manuel Eisner, University of Cambridge (co-investigator), Dr Renata Bertazzi Levy, Dr Catarina Machado Azeredo, Dr Leandro Fórnias Machado de Rezende, Dr Marília Sposito, Dr Márcia Thereza Couto Falcão



## Study

Brazil has exceptionally high levels of interpersonal violence, including youth violence and victimisation. This three-year project, funded by a British Academy grant (the Newton Advanced Fellowship), is conducting a cross-sectional, school-based survey with 14-15 year-old adolescents in São Paulo, Brazil. It uses the methodology of the Zurich Project on the Social Development of Children (z-proso) and the Montevideo Project on the Social Development of Children (m-proso) to research risk and protective factors for violent behaviour and victimisation in Brazil.

A cross-sectional, school-based survey was conducted in a sample of 2702 15-year-old children in 119 schools in São Paulo, comprising state and private schools. In July 2017 an international workshop was held in the city involving education stakeholders from the public administration and private schools. Prof Manuel Eisner and Dr Nico Trajtenberg (Universidad de la Republica de Uruguay) were present with other Brazilian academics and all the 119 participating schools were invited.

In December 2018, Prof Maria Fernanda Peres from the Department of Preventive Medicine and Prof Manuel Eisner presented further findings from this study. The conference was held at the University of São Paulo and involved head teachers and stakeholders of the city and the state. The ultimate goal is to develop a shared platform that can help to support an intersectoral public health approach to violence prevention. A report in Portuguese and English can be downloaded from our website - [www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch/sp-proso](http://www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch/sp-proso) - and the Brazilian website: <https://sites.usp.br/sp-proso/>.

# Evidence for Better Lives Study (EBLS)



**Research consortium:** Prof Manuel Eisner, University of Cambridge, UK; Dr Aja Murray, University of Edinburgh, UK; Prof Adriana Baban, Babes-Bolyai University, Romania; Prof Michael Dunne, Queensland University of Technology, Australia; Prof Pasco Fearon, University College London, UK; Prof Asvini D. Fernando, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka; Prof Assad Hafeez, Health Services Academy, Pakistan; Prof Claire Hughes, University of Cambridge,

UK; Prof Bernadette Madrid, University of the Philippines, The Philippines; Dr Joseph Osafo, University of Ghana, Ghana; Prof Siham Sikander, Health Services Academy, Pakistan; Prof Vo Van Thang, University of Hue, Vietnam; Prof Mark Tomlinson, Stellenbosch University, South Africa. Prof Susan Walker, Caribbean Institute for Health Research, University of the West Indies; Prof Catherine Ward, University of Cape Town, South Africa.

## Study

The Evidence for Better Lives Study (EBLS) is an innovative global birth-cohort study in eight cities across the world. In each city, the early childhood development of 1500 children within their family and community will be tracked. EBLS will examine exposure to violence and other adverse experiences while also striving to illuminate how families in different cultures raise and support their children. In each site, the study will be accompanied by the introduction and evaluation of multi-sectoral prevention packages that can help young children to achieve their full developmental and learning potential.

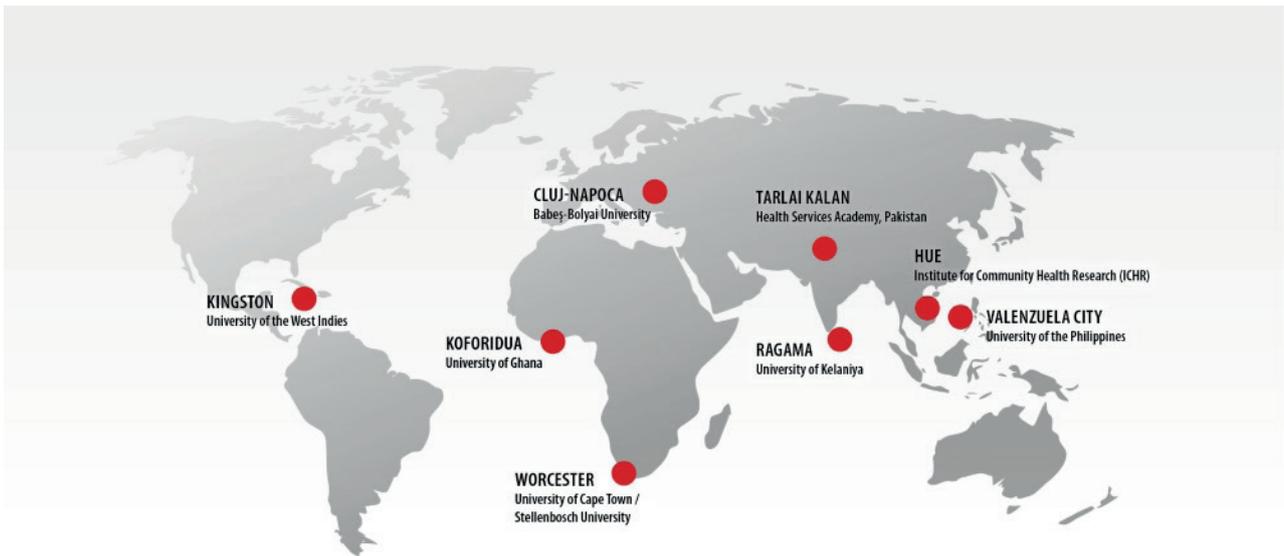
In 2017 the Fondation Botnar agreed to fund an 18-month pilot study (1200 pregnant mothers, 150 in each site). This interdisciplinary, impact initiative aimed to enhance the life-chances, health, and wellbeing of children and their families in low-resource contexts. A global network of academics was set up to liaise with international, national and local partners in order to contribute to effective policies that protect children.

The project was made possible through generous contributions by the Fondation Botnar, the ESRC Impact Acceleration Fund, The School of Humanities and Social Sciences Research Grants, The British Academy and the Consuelo



Foundation. The VRC entered the third stage, the foundational study - or pilot - in July 2018. The South African site of Stellenbosch was replaced with Worcester, while retaining the same research team. Field trips were organised to set the pilot in motion, while weekly skype meetings kept all the sites in touch with each other and the coordinating team in Cambridge. Activities included:

- A field trip to Valenzuela City in The Philippines, with a meeting in Manila where the first edition of the NaRA (Needs and Resources Assessment) Report, which is currently undergoing a major update, was presented (see photo, bottom left).
- A training workshop for fieldworkers' coordinators in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, in December 2018 (photo, right).
- A field trip to Ghana, one of the EBLS sites in March 2019, where researchers were interviewed for films on the project.



- A project overview at the 1st INSPIRE Implementation Jamboree *Advancing evidence-based action to end violence against children* in Kampala, Uganda, on 25 June 2019 (photo bottom right).

An article on the project was published in the University's research magazine, *Horizons* (photo below, left). Two short movies, including the footage



shot in Ghana and interviews with other site PIs, were commissioned to introduce EBLs to the general public and to institutional audiences. They will be shared on our social media channels in winter 2019. Information on the EBLs Study is on our website ([www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch/EBLS](http://www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch/EBLS)).

# Understanding Corrupt Exchanges in Ghana

Dr Justice Tankebe



## Study

Corruption matters because of its consequences for economic development, the rule of law, democratic governance and human rights. Research on public reactions to corruption tends to focus on general populations. However, given the understanding of corruption as the abuse of power for private gain, those without power lack opportunities for such (mis)conduct. It is, therefore, fruitful to focus on future elites as many will go on to occupy positions of influence. They will have discretionary power over the allocation of resources. Discretion provides the space to engage in corruption or to act against corruption. This project aims to enhance research-based understanding of corrupt behaviour by tracking the experiences of recent university graduates in Ghana. The overall goal is to understand how corrupt behaviour at the individual level develops over time.

To pre-test survey instruments, a questionnaire was administered in a classroom setting to a convenience sample of 574 final-year students at a large public university in Ghana. The surveys took place between February and March 2016, yielding a response rate of 92.3%. As usual, potential participants were informed that:

- their participation was voluntary
- their responses were completely anonymous and
- they reserved the right to refuse participation or withdraw from the study at any point without giving a reason for their decision.

Two papers have emerged from the data: *Moral economy and corruption intentions* (Justice Tankebe, Susanne Karstedt and Sarah Adu-Poku) and *Legitimacy, deterrence and support for anti-corruption practices* (Justice Tankebe).

## Key publications

**Tankebe, Justice.** (2019). Cooperation with the Police Against Corruption: Exploring the Roles of Legitimacy, Deterrence and Collective Action Theories. *British Journal of Criminology*, 59(6): 1390 - 410. 10.1093/bjc/azz030

**Tankebe, Justice & Karstedt, Susanne & Adu-Poku, Akosua.** (2019). Corruption Intentions Among Prospective Elites in Ghana: An Economy of Esteem. *International Criminal Justice Review*, 29(2): 168-186. 10.1177/1057567718799827.

# Legitimacy and Counter-terrorism Policing

PROTON network - Dr Justice Tankebe



## Study

Terrorist campaigns involve three “strategic actors – the group, the government and the audience” (Cronin 2009). A feature of the dynamic relationship among these actors is a struggle by terrorist groups and the State to claim legitimacy among local communities. Legitimacy matters because it shapes the quality of support an institution can expect from its audiences. If the actions of an institution are perceived as illegitimate, the rules of that institution will not be normatively binding. There is speculation that counter-terrorism strategies sometimes act as a ‘recruiting sergeant’, pushing people into – rather than preventing them from – terrorism.

There is a need to understand the perceived legitimacy of these strategies. The project, therefore, seeks data on people’s understanding of ‘terrorism’, how they experience – personally or vicariously – police counter-terrorism activities, their normative expectations of counter-terrorism policing and their perceptions of the legitimacy of those activities. It contains a vignette experimental component that tests how experiences of counter-terrorism practices affect perceived risks of recruitment into terrorism.



This study is a part of a larger project – Modelling the recruitment PROCesses leading to organized crime and TerrOrism Networks (PROTON) – co-ordinated by Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Milan, Italy). Funding comes from the European Union through its H2020 Work Programme 2014-2015, Secure Societies, Fight Against Crime and Terrorism, FCT-16-2015, Ethical/Societal Dimension Topic 4 - Investigating the role of social, psychological and economic aspects of the processes that lead to organised crime - including cyber-related offenses - and terrorist networks and their impact on social cohesion.

The fieldwork comprised in-depth interviews with a non-random sample of Muslims in London and telephone surveys of a national probability sample of UK Muslims. The data from the latter have been analysed and written up for an edited book by Professor David Weisburd of Hebrew University, Israel. Analysis of the qualitative data is ongoing, and it is expected to yield a few journal articles.

# Victimisation, police interviewing and legal decision making

Dr Katrin Müller-Johnson



Within the area of victimisation, Dr Müller-Johnson's main focus is on sexual offences, such as child sexual abuse or rape. Her research into investigative interviewing is connected to this interest in sexual victimisation. In sexual offences, there is often little evidence apart from the victim's statement, therefore her/his testimony is of crucial importance.

Dr Mueller-Johnson studies police interviewing of vulnerable witnesses, not only children but also older adults or persons with disabilities. She researches ways to improve the quality of police interviews and investigates the effects of cognitive aging on eyewitness testimony. Her research on decision-making in criminal justice spans police as well as jury and judges' decision-making.

Together with Dr Tim Coupe and Dr Barak Ariel, she has been writing a book entitled *Crime Solvability Factors: Police Resources and Crime Detection*, which will be published by Springer in autumn 2019. Two chapters are particularly relevant to the VRC: *Factors that predict clearance of non-domestic assaults* - co-authored with her PhD student Tom Olphin - and *Reporting, Detection and Solvability of Sex Offences on Railways* - co-authored with her MSt student Antony Jones and Dr Tim Coupe.

In May 2019, Dr Müller-Johnson gave an invited keynote lecture to the Prison Service's conference of managing chaplains for the female estate entitled *Victimisation, Childhood Adversity and Resilience: Adopting a vulnerability focused perspective in working with prisoners*. She also gave a lecture entitled *Polyvictimisation of children and Youth: Measurement, Prevalence Rates and Patterns across Adolescence* at the 35th International Post Graduate Course on Victimology, Victim Assistance and Criminal Justice in Dubrovnik.

In September 2019 Katrin joined the University of Oxford, but she will be still affiliated with research groups within the University of Cambridge.

# PhD Research Projects

## **Hannah Gaffney**

*What Works in Cyber Bullying Intervention and Prevention? Exploring Effective Intervention/prevention Strategies and Neglected Risk Factors.* Supervisors: Maria Ttofi and David Farrington

## **Kim Reising**

*Crime and Health: Long-term Bidirectional and Intergenerational Effects between Mental/physical Health and Offending Behavior.* Supervisors: Maria Ttofi and David Farrington

## **Rebecca Raffan Gowar**

*New Estimates for the Economic and Social Costs of Crime in England and Wales.*  
Supervisor: Maria Ttofi

## **Bomin Lee**

*Childhood Conduct Disorder and Later Offending.* Supervisor: Maria Ttofi

## **Sergio Triana Enemocon**

*Understanding the Effect of Reintegration and Crime Prevention Programs on Crime rates. Evidence from Colombia.* Supervisor: Manuel Eisner

## **Menaal Munshey**

*Terrorism, Justice and Legitimacy in Northwest Pakistan.* Supervisor: Manuel Eisner

## **Lu Liu**

*Explaining the Variation of Terrorist Groups Engagement in Hostage-taking from a Global Perspective: Is Ideology Relevant?* Supervisor: Manuel Eisner

## **Tom Olphin**

*Solving Crime: Targeting Factors that Predict Clearance of Offences.* Supervisor: Katrin Mueller-Johnson

## **Emmanuel Addo Sowatey**

*Police Corruption in Ghana.* Supervisor: Justice Tankebe

## **Faryal Shafi**

*Mariticide Prisoners in Pakistan.* Supervisor: Justice Tankebe

## **Sara Trainor**

*Legitimacy and Private Prosecutions in England.* Supervisors: Justice Tankebe and Dr Findlay Stark

## **Michael Long Siu**

*Legitimacy and Public Order Policing in Hong Kong.* Supervisor: Justice Tankebe

## **Vincent Harinam**

*Dealings on the Dark Web: An Examination of the Network Structure, Robustness, and Growth of a Crypto-market.* Supervisor: Paolo Campana

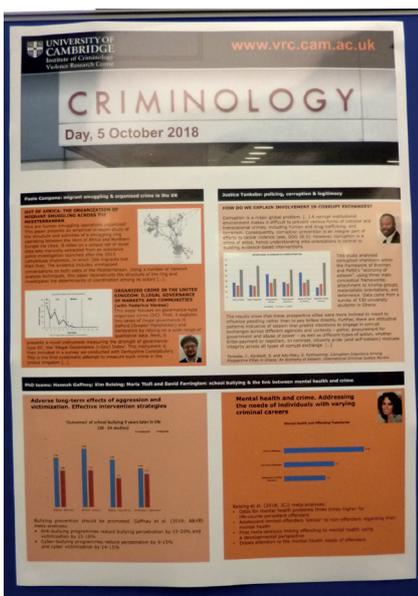
# Criminology Day 2018



Prof Manuel Eisner with our poster displays (left). Above: two of our PhD students who offered to help - Ms Munshey and Ms Reising

On Friday 5 October, the Institute of Criminology welcomed prospective PhD and Mphil students as part of induction week. The VRC displayed research posters visualising our main projects and we answer students' questions.

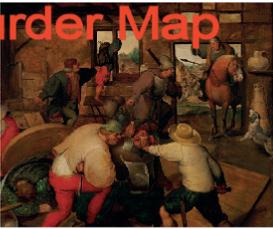
Our research projects, summarised in this report, are available on the VRC website. You can also find out about updates and new initiatives through our News portal. We are looking forward to welcoming the new intake of students in the next academic year.



# VRC Seminar Series & 2019 Symposium



## The London Medieval Murder Map



**Prof Manuel Eisner**  
Director of the Violence Research Centre,  
Institute of Criminology

Please register your interest through Facebook event:  
[www.facebook.com/events/2278278633724574/](http://www.facebook.com/events/2278278633724574/)  
Page: [www.facebook.com/ViolenceResearchCentre](https://www.facebook.com/ViolenceResearchCentre)  
Or scan the QR code with your mobile phone



Wednesday, 28 November 2018, 5:00 - 7:00pm

## The London Medieval Murder Map

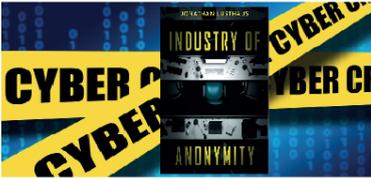
On Wednesday 28 November 2018, we launched a new research project centred on a murder map of medieval London. Prof Manuel Eisner presented the interactive map at a public event, which was filmed - you can view the talk on our YouTube channel. The Map was a runaway success and nearly broke our website - in the first week of January 2019 we still had around 20,000 visitors. The project was covered by national and international publications, including UK broadsheets like *the Guardian*, *Times* and *Telegraph*, all the tabloids and broadcast channels like the BBC, ITV and CNN.

## Inside the Business of Cybercrime

On 27 February 2019, the VRC hosted *Industry of Anonymity: Inside the Business of Cybercrime*, a talk by Dr Jonathan Lusthaus, director of the Human Cybercriminal Project at the University of Oxford. The talk was based on the homonymous book, published by Harvard University Press. The research behind the book included seven years of fieldwork from Eastern Europe to West Africa, aiming to understand what drives individuals to this dark industry and how we can fight back this increasing threat. Dr Lusthaus argued that cybercrime is invisible because its provenance is hidden by impenetrable layers of sophisticated technology. Lone hackers are a thing of the past, 21st-century operators are organised like a business, driven by profit and globally interconnected.



## Inside the Business of Cybercrime

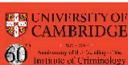


**Dr Jonathan Lusthaus**  
Director of The Human Cybercriminal  
Project, University of Oxford

Institute of Criminology, Room B3 (basement)  
Info: [www.facebook.com/events/2188372264737430/](https://www.facebook.com/events/2188372264737430/)



Wednesday, 27 February 2019, 5:30 - 7:00pm



## The Real Gold Standard: Measuring Counterfactual Worlds that Matter Most to Policy



Hosts: **Violence Research Centre @ Institute of Criminology**  
Prof Loraine Gelsthorpe - Prof Manuel Eisner - Prof Lawrence Sherman - Dr Paolo Campana

Guest speakers: Prof Daniel Nagin - Prof Robert Sampson - Prof Anna Vignoles - Prof Susanne Karstedt

Tuesday, 14 May 2019, 3:00 - 7:00pm



## The Real Gold Standard: Measuring Counterfactual Worlds That Matter Most to Policy

On 14 May 2019, *The Real Gold Standard* symposium explored the themes of methodology in the context of violence prevention. Experts from criminology, education and social sciences discussed the interplay between counterfactual worlds and policy. The talks were filmed - videos are on our YouTube channel. Speakers, in order of appearance, included: Prof Daniel Nagin, Carnegie Mellon University, USA & Prof Robert Sampson, Harvard University, USA; Prof Lawrence Sherman, University of Cambridge, UK; Prof Anna Vignoles, University of Cambridge; Prof Manuel Eisner, University of Cambridge; Prof Susanne Karstedt, Department of Criminology, Griffith University, Australia.

## Other public events



### University of Cambridge's Festival of Ideas

On 20 October 2018, the Institute of Criminology was represented at the University's Festival of Ideas by an expert panel event held at the Faculty of Law. Entitled *Extremes in violence: what can we learn from violent and peaceful societies and places?* it investigated why some societies, institutions and places are highly violent, while others succeed to promote cooperation and mutual respect.

Prof Manuel Eisner talked about the reasons why some societies are more violent than others. Prof Alison Liebling, Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge, analysed prisons with higher instances of violence. Dr Graham Denyer Willis, University of Cambridge, discussed what makes some neighbourhoods more violent than others. Dr Alex Sutherland, RAND, focused on violent places. Visit our website to find the links to the video and the slides of all the speakers.

# Happy 5th Birthday to us!

On 18 September 2014 the Violence Research Centre was launched at the Global Violence Reduction Conference, which was jointly organised by the Prevention of Violence Unit of the World Health Organization and the VRC, through the Institute of Criminology. The conference convened 150 global experts in violence prevention from academia and major international and philanthropic organisations. Here are a few photos of our milestones.



The international Global Violence Reduction Conference, featuring renowned criminologists and experts, including Steven Pinker, held in September 2014



Prof Manuel Eisner at the Keeping Young People in School conference, March 2015



The EBLS research consortium and researchers meet in Cambridge, August 2017



The Gold Standard's Q&A panel, May 2019

# A big THANK YOU from the VRC team!

We would like to thank all the researchers who provided information for this report, our international collaborators, the Institute of Criminology, the University of Cambridge and all our funders and sponsors. We would also like to thank Dr Carolyn Brechin, former EBLS Data Manager, for her hard work and wish her well in her new job.

It has been a fruitful year, with stimulating projects and a big variety of publications and reports. We also revamped our website and built on our social media presence to reach all our audiences. Most of our seminars and public talks are on our YouTube channel, so if you missed out on an interesting topic, you can easily catch up wherever you are.



The VRC team welcomes the new PhD and MPhil students in October 2018



The Gold Standard symposium, May 2019. Manuel does IT, while Simone and Jennifer do hospitality. The dinner at Pembroke College



The hard life of academia taking its toll...



Grantchester, end-of-year picnic with MPhil students, June 2019





# UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

**Institute of Criminology  
Violence Research Centre**

**Professor Manuel Eisner**

Director of the Violence Research Centre

Email: [mpe23@cam.ac.uk](mailto:mpe23@cam.ac.uk)

**Violence Research Centre (VRC)**

Institute of Criminology

University of Cambridge

Sidgwick Avenue

Cambridge CB3 9DA

United Kingdom

[www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk](http://www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk)

The Violence Research Centre, part of the Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge is a non-profit organisation. The University of Cambridge is an exempt charity under Sch 3 of the Charities Act 2011.

*Report compiled by Dr Simone Castello, VRC Administrator/Webmaster.*

*Email: [sc780@cam.ac.uk](mailto:sc780@cam.ac.uk)*