



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

Institute of Criminology  
Violence Research Centre



# Violence Research Centre REPORT

2019-2020

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## Foreword

**Prof Manuel Eisner**  
VRC Director

As I write, Covid-19 still dominates the headlines. From March 2020 until the end of the academic year and throughout the summer, the Centre has been operating remotely, while we all faced personal and professional challenges. The pandemic has, however, brought us all together in solidarity and inspired new international, collaborative research projects to understand its effects on interpersonal violence, crime and societal well-being.

In September 2019, we celebrated the Centre's 5th birthday at the Institute of Criminology. In the past year, we have further strengthened our international research networks linked to our main inter-disciplinary studies, Evidence for Better Lives (EBLS) and the Zurich Project on the Social Development from Childhood to Adulthood (z-proso).

November 2019 saw the culmination of EBLS's foundational stage, with an international symposium at Jesus College, Cambridge, which launched two films and a key report called *Addressing Violence Against Children: Mapping the Needs and Resources in Eight Cities across the World*.

On the z-proso front, at the second international seminar in Cordoba, Spain, in early February 2020, we launched the English translation - and update - of a violence prevention report previously published in Switzerland, entitled *Effective Violence Prevention: an Overview of the International Evidence*.

This report provides an overview of the research activities of VRC members and affiliated researchers for the academic year 2019-2020. For updates on our research projects and to download our reports, please visit our news page and our research section at [www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk](http://www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk). We also have a dedicated Covid-19 page, accessible from the home page.

Manuel Eisner

# Current Research Projects

- Organised Crime, Illegal Governance and Communities (i-Gov)
- Zurich Project on the Social Development from Childhood to Adulthood (z-proso)
- Mental Health Challenges and Compromised Quality of Life among Offenders
- Cyberaggression and Cybervictimisation in Canada
- Crime & Networks Group
- São Paulo Project on the Social Development of Children (sp-proso)
- Evidence for Better Life Study (EBLS)
- Covid-19 and the Psychological Wellbeing of Police Officers and Health Workers in Ghana
- Legitimacy and Counter-terrorism Policing
- Crime during the Covid-19 Crisis: A Global Analysis

# Public Engagement



Turn to page 19 to read about our 2019-2020 events. During this academic year, we have co-hosted a number of events with the Institute of Criminology, as part of its Thursday Seminar Series. Due to the outbreak of Covid-19, we have continued our dissemination activities by hosting virtual events via zoom.

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

**Investigators: Dr Paolo Campana, Prof Federico Varese (PIs);**  
affiliate member: Dr Ben Bradford (University College London);  
PhD student: Alyssa Knisley.



Phil Heating, Unsplash



The Illegal Governance (i-Gov) project aims to identify and explore instances of illegal governance in local communities across the United Kingdom. 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. Such an aspiration requires investments in a special set of resources, which are not necessarily available to illegal producers and traders.

Illegal governance of communities is a phenomenon traditionally associated with regions of the world with a high density of Mafia-like organisations, like Sicily, Russia, Hong Kong, or more recently, Latin America. Yet the governance dimension of organised crime is not just a feature of mafias and cartels, it is also undertaken by criminal groups in territories outside of the conventional settings. It is operationalised through the i-Gov Index based on indirect measures, including the ability of an organised crime group to:

- generate fear in a community
- coerce legal businesses
- influence public officials
- control illicit markets
- play a role in community activities.

*Find out more at [www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch/illegal-governance](http://www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch/illegal-governance)*

## Key publications

**Campana, P.** and Varese, F. (2020). "Studying organized crime networks: data sources boundaries and the limits of structural measures". *Social Networks*, online first: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socnet.2020.03.002>

**Campana, P.** (2020). "Human Smuggling: Structure and Mechanisms". *Crime & Justice*, online first: <https://doi.org/10.1086/708663>

Baika, L. and **Campana, P.** (2020). "Centrality, Mobility and Specialization: A Study of Drug Markets in a Non-metropolitan Area in the United Kingdom". *Journal of Drug Issues*, 50:2, 107-216.

# Zurich Project on the Social Development



**Investigators:** Prof Manuel Eisner, Principal Investigator, University of Cambridge, UK and University of Zurich, Switzerland; Dr Denis Ribeaud, Co-principal Investigator, University of Zurich, Switzerland; Prof Michael Shanahan, Co-principal Investigator, University of Zurich, Switzerland. Find out the whole list of collaborators at [www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch/z-proso](http://www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch/z-proso) and [www.jacobscenter.uzh.ch/en/research/zproso](http://www.jacobscenter.uzh.ch/en/research/zproso)



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The Zurich Project on the Social Development from Childhood to Adulthood (z-proso) is an internationally important longitudinal study that investigates the life-course of 1,675 children since their admission to the first year of Zurich's primary schools in the autumn of 2004.

z-proso studies the social development of children and youths, with a particular focus on aggressive and delinquent behaviour, but also of prosocial characteristics. In doing so, it investigates how individual, family, school and situational factors work together in the development of aggression and other problem behaviour. Children have been regularly followed since 2004 and the eight wave of data collection was carried out in 2018 at age 20.

Over the waves, the study included experimental assessments of risk-seeking behaviour, measures of friendship networks and assessments of pubertal development. 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

# from Childhood to Adulthood (z-proso)



(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.

## 2nd International Seminar, University of Cordoba, Spain

On 6-8 February 2020, affiliated researchers Izabela Zych and Vicente J. Llorent, at the University of Cordoba, organised an international seminar involving the whole research team. Researchers from all over the world met to share the latest findings and plan ahead.



The Seminar was preceded by a Violence Prevention Day, which involved senior police officers, including the Captain of the Delinquent Behaviour Analysis Department, José Manuel Quintana Touz.



The z-proso seminar, introduced by our director, Prof Manuel Eisner and Dr Denis Ribeaud, was followed by talks by Prof Eisner, University of Cambridge, Dr Margit Averdijk, University of Zurich (on violent situations), Dr Amy Nivette, University of Utrecht (z-proso around the world, including countries like Uruguay and Brazil) and our own Dr Sara Valdebenito, who explored the issue of school punishment.

Prof Manuel Eisner and Prof Izabela Zych (above, right) talking at the Violence Prevention Day; group of delegates from the Seminar (below, left)



Manuel Eisner (centre) with Seminar organisers Vicente J. Llorent and Izabela Zych. Bottom right: the Effective Violence Prevention report was introduced at the Seminar and later presented at the Youth Endowment Fund's expert meeting in July

The following days featured talks, among others, by members of ZIREN (the international research network): Prof Boris Quednow, University of Zurich, Prof Lilly Shanahan, University of Zurich, Prof Noemi Pereda, University of Barcelona, Dr Ingrid Obsuth, University of Edinburgh and the hosts, Prof Izabela Zych and Prof Vicente J. Llorent from the University of Cordoba.

## Key publications

- Averdiijk, M.; Ribeaud, D.; **Eisner, M.** (2020). Longitudinal predictors of selling and buying sexual services among youths in Switzerland. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 49, 1279-1290. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-019-01571-3>
- Murray, A.; Booth, T.; Auyeung, B.; **Eisner, M.**; Ribeaud, D.; Obsuth, I. (2020). Outcomes of ADHD symptoms in late adolescence: Are developmental subtypes important? *Journal of Attention Disorders*, 24(1), 113-125. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1087054718790588>
- Murray, A.; **Eisner, M.**; Ribeaud, D. (2020). Within-person analysis of developmental cascades between externalising and internalising problems. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 91(6), 681-688. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcpp.13150>
- Neaverson, A.; Murray, A.; Ribeaud, D.; **Eisner, M.** (2020). A longitudinal examination of the role of self-control in the relation between corporal punishment exposure and adolescent aggression. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 49(6), 1245-1259. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10964-020-01215-z>
- Nivette, A.; **Eisner, M.**; Ribeaud, D. (2020). Evaluating the shared and unique predictors of legal cynicism and police legitimacy from adolescence into early adulthood. *Criminology*, 58(1), 70-100. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9125.12230>
- Nivette, A.; Trajtenberg, N.; **Eisner, M.**; Ribeaud, D.; Tourinho Peres, M. F. Assessing the antecedents of legal cynicism in São Paulo, Zurich, and Montevideo. *Journal of Adolescence*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.adolescence.2020.06.007>
- Shanahan, L.; Steinhoff, A.; Bechtiger, L.; Murray, A.; Nivette, A.; Hepp, U.; Ribeaud, D.; **Eisner, M.** (2020) Emotional distress in young adults during the COVID-19 pandemic: Evidence of risk and resilience from a longitudinal cohort study. *Psychological Medicine*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S003329172000241X>
- Steinhoff, A.; Ribeaud, D.; Kupferschmid, S.; Raible, N.; Quednow, B.; Hepp, U.; **Eisner, M.**; Shanahan, L. (2020). Self-injury from early adolescence to early adulthood: Age-related course, recurrence, and services use in males and females from the community. *European Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00787-020-01573-w>
- Zych, I.; Farrington, D. P.; Llorent Garcia, V. J.; Ribeaud, D.; **Eisner, M.** (2020). Childhood risk and protective factors as predictors of adolescent bullying roles. *International Journal of Bullying Prevention*, advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42380-020-00068-1>
- Zych, I.; Llorent Garcia, V. J.; Ttofi, M. M.; Farrington, D. P.; Ribeaud, D.; **Eisner, M.** (2020). A longitudinal study on stability and transitions among bullying roles. *Child Development*, 91(2), 527-545. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.13195>



# Mental Health Challenges and Compromised Quality of Life among Offenders

Dr Maria Ttofi, Prof David P. Farrington, Dr Alex R. Piquero and Dr Tara R. MGee



Warren Wong, Unsplash



This is a programme based on international coordinated research among Principal Investigators of prospective longitudinal studies from across the world. Earlier research looked at mental health levels for ‘criminal offenders’ but it was heavily flawed into treating all offenders as one homogeneous group.

This resulted into a distorted image on issues of mental health, based on aggregate levels of social problems that did not reflect the true level of adversities faced by specific antisocial individuals. ‘Criminals’ may also be seen as victims, as individuals in need.

Addressing the true levels of mental health problems faced by long-term career offenders is a meaningful way for promoting a health reintegration of this vulnerable group back into society. This is also the case for individuals facing long-term imprisonment.

## Key publications

Reising, K., **Ttofi, M. M.**, Farrington, D. P., & Piquero, A. R. (2019). Depression and anxiety outcomes of offending trajectories: A systematic review of prospective longitudinal studies. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 62, 3-15.

Reising, K., **Ttofi, M. M.**, Farrington, D. P., & Piquero, A. R. (2019). The impact of longitudinal offending trajectories on mental health: Lifetime consequences and intergenerational transfer. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 62, 16-22.

Gaffney, H., Farrington, D.P., Espelage, D.L., **Ttofi, M. M.** (2019). Are cyberbullying intervention and prevention programs effective? A systematic and meta-analytical review. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 45, 134 – 153.

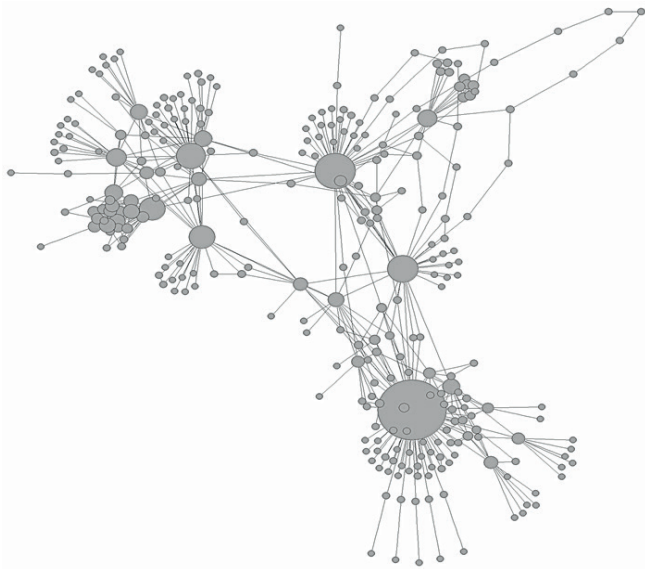
## Cyberaggression and Cybervictimisation in Canada

Dr Maria Ttofi with Drs Zych, Farrington & Gaffney. Supported by the Canadian Government (Contract No: 723453)

Investigating the profile of individuals who are bullied online via threats for sharing private sexual content/materials (i.e. issues of sextortion or sextism); or victimized individuals due to their sexual orientation (homophobic victimization); or due to wider bullying victimization in the school or university setting via social network sites. The project includes ‘Mapping out’ the profile of potential offenders/perpetrators.

# Crime & Networks Group

**Dr Paolo Campana, Group Leader;** PhD researchers: Sophie Dixon, Vincent Harinam and Alyssa Knisley; Collaborators: Dr Alberto Caimo, Technological University Dublin, Dr Andrea Giovannetti, University of Technology Sydney, Dr Isabella Gollini, University College Dublin, Dr Nynke Niezink, Carnegie Mellon University



*Migrant smuggling network (Campana 2018)*

Crime & Networks  
Group 



The Crime & Networks Group is a group of researchers working on the application of social network analysis techniques to model and understand the mechanisms underpinning a range of illegal phenomena including violence, organised crime groups and illegal markets (e.g. drugs, human trafficking, migrant smuggling). *Find out more at <https://www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch/crime-networks-group>*



Bermix Studio, Unsplash

## Key publication

Gollini, I., Caimo, A. and **Campana, P.** (2020). “Modelling interactions among offenders: A latent space approach for interdependent ego-networks”. *Social Networks*, online first: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socnet.2020.07.001>

# 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 São Paulo (Principal Investigator), Prof Manuel Eisner, University of Cambridge (Co-investigator),** Dr Renata Bertazzi Levy, Dr Catarina Machado Azeredo, Dr Leandro Fórniás Machado de Rezende, Dr Marília Pontes Sposito, Dr Márcia Thereza Couto Falcão



Jonathan Borba, Unsplash

Brazil has exceptionally high levels of interpersonal violence, including youth violence and victimisation. This 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 Development from Childhood to Adulthood (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.

The project has a dedicated Brazilian website at <https://sites.usp.br/sp-proso>. In November 2019, a report entitled *Violence, Bullying and Repercussions on Health* was published. You can find the project's publications in English and Portuguese at <https://sites.usp.br/sp-proso/pagina-2/>. The research has gained considerable media coverage in Brazil.

# Evidence for Better Lives Study (EBLS)



**Consortium:** Prof Manuel Eisner/Prof Claire Hughes, 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 Bernadette Madrid, University of the Philippines, The Philippines; Dr Joseph Osafo, University of Ghana, Ghana; Prof Assad

Hafeez/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.



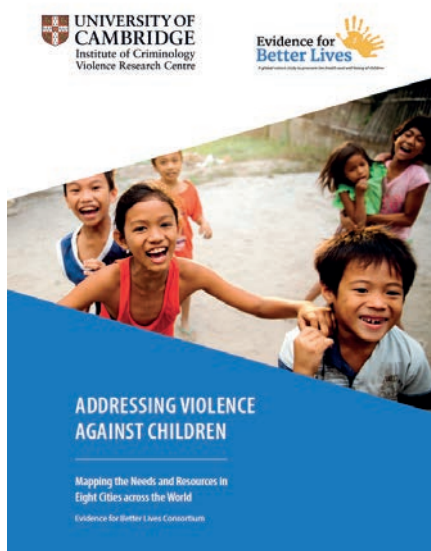
The Evidence for Better Lives Study (EBLS) is an innovative global birth-cohort study in eight cities across the world. EBLS aims to examine exposure to violence and other adverse experiences while also striving to illuminate how families in different cultures raise and support their children. In 2017 the Fondation Botnar agreed to fund an 18-month pilot study (1200 pregnant mothers, 150 in each site).

A global research network, led by a Consortium, was set up to liaise with international, national and local partners to contribute to effective policies that protect children. During 2018 and 2019, the Consortium implemented a pilot version of EBLS in eight low- and middle-income countries (LMICs): Ghana, Jamaica, Pakistan, the Philippines, Romania, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. The pilot's data included 1,208 pregnant women who were assessed during the third trimester of their pregnancy and when their child was around three months old.

The questionnaire for participating women was translated into nine languages. Measures obtained from mothers included mental and physical health, attitudes to corporal punishment, adverse childhood experiences, pre-natal intimate partner violence (p-IPV), substance use and social/community support. Hair and dry blood spot (DBS) samples were collected from the pregnant women to measure stress markers. To explore research participation among fathers, EBLS recruited 300 fathers in the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

The research partners of each site liaised with local and national policy makers, NGOs and international organisations to diffuse knowledge and foster policy impact. Needs and resources in each site were assessed through interviews with experts, local government officials and practitioners, following WHO's INSPIRE framework.

The knowledge and data generated by the pilot study were documented in a report entitled *Addressing Violence Against Children: Mapping the Needs and Resources in Eight Cities Across the World*, which was launched at the Second EBLS Symposium in November 2019, held at Jesus College, Cambridge. Two films, created with



the support of the ESRC Impact Acceleration Account fund, to ensure impact of EBLs to policymakers and general audiences, were also premiered. The report and the films are available at [www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch/EBLS](http://www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch/EBLS). An impact report was produced in June 2020, available to download on the EBLs page.

The pilot study created a set of impact activities that have contributed knowledge towards the promotion of Valenzuela, one of the cities in EBLs, as a Pathfinder city in the prevention of violence. It also developed a rapid and low-cost qualitative method that can help countries around the world to reach a shared understanding of what is required to implement effective strategies to reduce violence.

International and local events allowed the Consortium to establish collaborations with community and international stakeholders. The pilot generated 21 scientific publications, which are at different editorial stages, with a few already published in academic journals. An early career network and fieldworker training contributed to the professional development of a number of younger researchers, who were involved in data collection, analysis and writing.

Find out more at <https://www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch/EBLS>



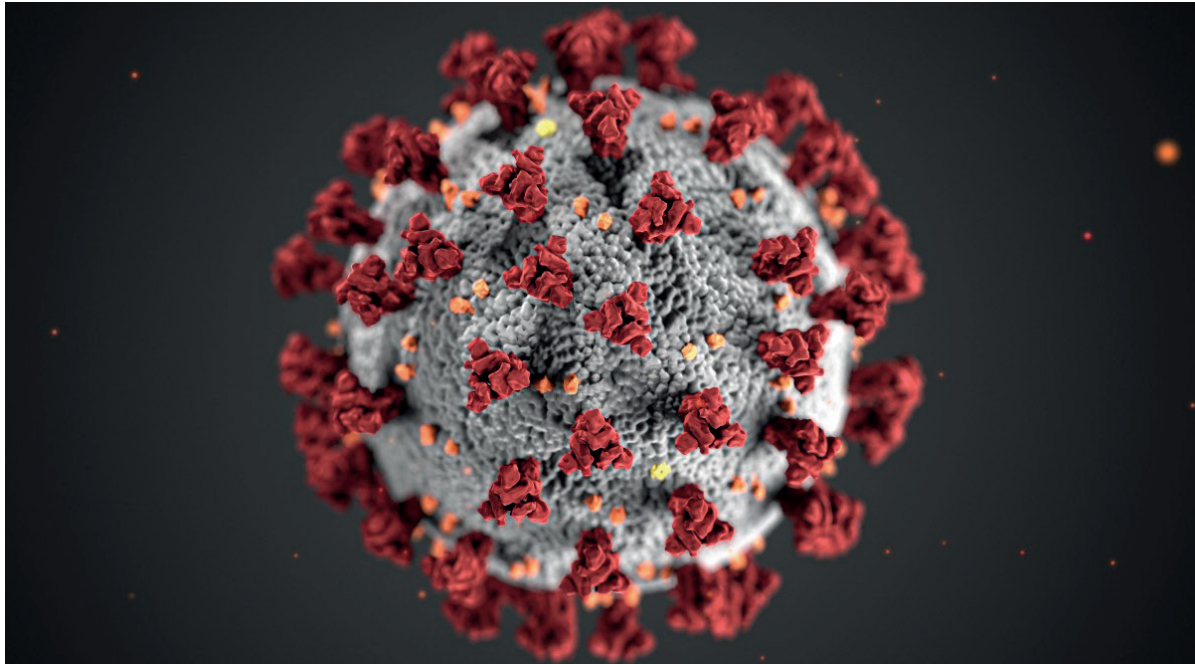
*Findings from the Evidence for Better Lives Study's Foundational Study were presented on the 25 November 2019 Symposium at Jesus College Cambridge (pictured below), where two short films and a key report entitled Addressing Violence against Children. Mapping the Needs and Resources in Eight Cities across the World were launched.*



*The work of the Evidence for Better Lives Study has been supported by Fondation Botnar, the Jacobs Foundation, UBS Optimus Foundation, the Consuelo Zobel Alger Foundation, the British Academy, the Cambridge Humanities Research Grants Scheme, the ESRC Impact Acceleration Account Programme, a Queensland University of Technology Postgraduate Research Award, Higher Degree Research Student Supplementary Research Funding from Queensland University of Technology, the University of Edinburgh College Office for the College of Arts, the Humanities and Social Sciences SFC ODA Global Challenges Internal Fund, the University of Cambridge GCRF Quality Research Fund, and the Wolfson Professor of Criminology Discretionary Fund.*

# Covid-19 and the Psychological Wellbeing of Police Officers and Health Workers in Ghana

Dr Justice Tankebe, University of Cambridge & Dr Samuel Adjorlolo, University of Ghana



The Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund Covid-19 Emergency Awards awarded funds in spring 2020 for the new research project: ‘Covid-19 and the Psychological Wellbeing of Frontline Workers in Ghana’. This research project is co-led by Dr Justice Tankebe, VRC and Dr Samuel Adjorlolo, Department of Mental Health, University of Ghana.

Since its outbreak in Wuhan (China) in December 2019, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), has become a global pandemic. Throughout this time, governments have continued to take various measures to control the spread of the virus. These measures include physical distancing and lockdown - both aimed at limiting contacts with potential carriers of the virus. For health workers and police officers, being in daily contacts with patients and the general public means potentially heightened anxiety.

This research project aims to explore the psychological wellbeing of these frontline professionals in Ghana. It will involve repeated surveys and in-depth interviews over 12 months to track changes in wellbeing and coping strategies during these difficult times. The study promises crucial data on the effects of responding to Covid-19, the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, on response groups, providing evidence for early interventions to improve the wellbeing of these individuals.



Photo: Ghana Police Service

# Legitimacy and Counter-terrorism Policing

PROTON network - Dr Justice Tankebe

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. 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.



Meridith Nails, CC

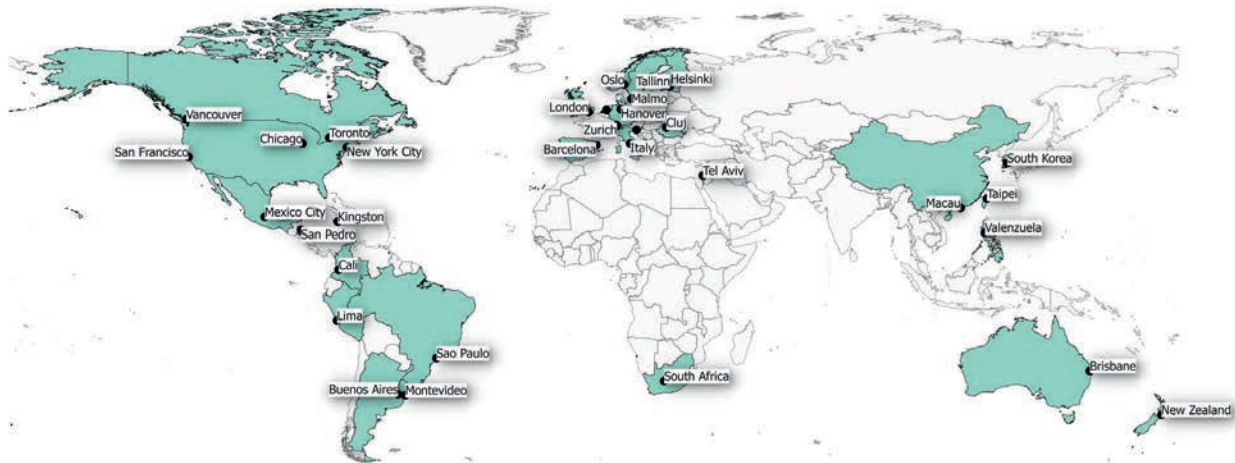
This study is a part of a larger project - Modelling the recruitment PROcesses leading to organised crime and TerrOrism Networks (PROTON) - coordinated by Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Milan, Italy). Funding comes from the European Union through its H2020 Work Programme 2014-2015, Secure Societies, 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. Analysis of the data is ongoing and it is expected to yield a few journal articles.

## Key publication

Tankebe, J. (2020). “Unintended negative outcome of counter-terrorism policing: procedural (In) Justice and Perceived Risk of Recruitment into Terrorism”. In D. Weisburd, E. Savona, B. Hasisi, & F. Calderoni (Eds.), *Understanding recruitment to organized crime and terrorism*. New York: Springer

# Crime during the Covid-19 Crisis: A Global Analysis

Initiated by Prof Manuel Eisner, VRC, Dr Amy Nivette (University of Utrecht) and Prof Maria Fernanda Peres (University of São Paulo). For a full list of collaborators, visit <https://www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/covid-19-research/crime-during-covid-19-crisis-global-analysis>



## Research Questions

The emergency measures imposed during the Covid-19 pandemic constitute a unique set of interventions that deeply affect daily routines of people across the globe. Evidence is emerging that crime levels fell for many types of crime during the crisis. However, it is currently unclear:

- Whether the extent and the pattern of decline were similar across societies with different social and economic conditions;
- Whether there is systematic variation in what types of crime declined and the extent to which the decline is associated with characteristics of the regimes imposed on populations during the pandemic (e.g. complete lockdown, partial curfews, prohibition or limitation of alcohol sale, behaviour tracking, etc).

## The Study - Scientific and Policy Value

We aim to answer the research questions by taking a global perspective. More specifically, we aim to document and analyse crime levels before, during and on the way out of the emergency regimes in a large number of cities or urban areas worldwide. We focus on large cities because they are more likely to be comparable and have up-to-date police data. We plan to examine the timing of changes in crime patterns, the differences in trends between types of crimes and the extent to which cities differ in their patterns. The data will shed light on the similarities and differences in the ways police-recorded crime responded to the emergency measures taken by governments. It will help to better understand what lessons can be learned from pandemic experiences in many cities across the world.

## Research Network

One or two specialists in each city/country were invited to partner in the study, contribute to the data collection and co-author scientific papers. We aim to organise webinars to discuss our findings internationally.



A report commissioned by the HF Guggenheim Foundation, available on the Covid-19 page

# 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

## **Guy Skinner**

*Mental Health and Offending: Inter-generational Relationships and Casualty in the Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development.* Supervisors: Maria Ttofi and David Farrington

## **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

## **Laura Campo**

*Social Support and Gender Role Factors Moderating the Effects of Adolescent Dating Violence Victimization.* Supervisor: Manuel Eisner

## **Sarika Dewan**

*What is the Association between Maternal Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence and Child Malnutrition? Evidence from Low- and Middle-income Countries and Post-conflict Uganda.* Supervisor: Manuel Eisner

## **Klea Ramaj**

*The Albanian Cycle of Victimization: Exploring the Pathways between Maternal Exposure to Violence and Early Child Development.* Supervisor: Manuel Eisner

## **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 Cryptomarket.* Supervisor: Paolo Campana

## **Alyssa Knisley**

*Young people and Weapon Carrying.* Supervisor: Paolo Campana

## **Sophie Dixon**

*Child Sexual Exploitation Networks in the UK* Supervisor: Supervisors: Paolo Campana & Loraine Gelsthorpe



Surface, Unsplash

# Criminology Day - October 2019



On Friday 11 October 2019, the Institute of Criminology opened its doors to prospective students and researchers to showcase its projects. The VRC, alongside other research centres, contributed with posters and speakers. Our posters featured an overview of research projects and three specific studies: EBLs, z-proso and cyberbullying, the latter provided by affiliated researchers Prof Izabela Zych and Prof Vicente J. Llorent, a project headed by Prof David Farrington of the Institute of Criminology.

Dr Justice Tankebe (top left) was the chair of the early afternoon panel, which featured Dr Paolo Campana (top right), our expert on smuggling and organised crime. Other speakers included Dr Beth Hardie, Prof

Lorraine Gelsthorpe, Director of the Institute, and Dr Caroline Lanskey.

Dr Campana, Dr Tankebe and Prof Eisner met their PhD students during the lunch break. The afternoon panel's Q&A, chaired by Dr Ben Crewe, was a lively discussion. Speakers included Prof Alison Liebling, Prof Larry Sherman and Prof Manuel Eisner (above left).



Top left, clockwise: VRC posters and Annual Report; Dr Tankebe with PhD student Mr Sowatey; the afternoon panel with Prof Liebling, Prof Sherman, Dr Crewe and Prof Eisner; Dr Campana and Prof Eisner with a group of PhD students

# Public Events at the Institute of Criminology

The VRC hosted a number of events for the Institute of Criminology (IoC). During lockdown, the VRC and IoC events continued as webinars, attracting large audiences internationally - up to over 500 registrations for popular topics. Talks were filmed and slides are available.

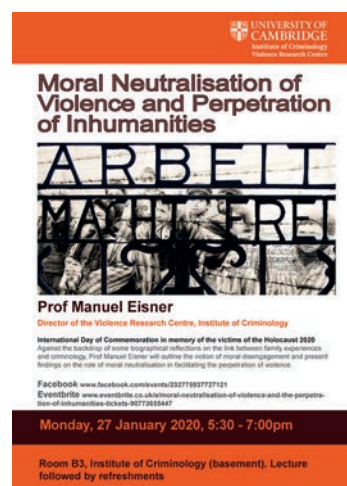
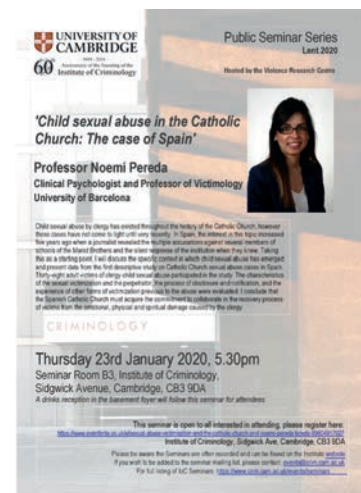


## The Past, the Present and Future of Violence Research

This seminar was an opportunity to celebrate our fifth birthday with academic colleagues, students and the general public. Before the talks started, a slideshow shared pictures from past VRC events and our research networks. Prof Eisner focused on three topics: From neurons and (epi)genes to societies; From milliseconds to centuries and From morality to atrocity. Dr Tankebe's talk was entitled *Policing Violence* and analysed police impact on reducing violence. Dr Paolo Campana shared research on gang violence and criminal networks. Read more about this event and see the video at [www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/news/vrc-hosts-institute-criminologys-thursday-seminar](http://www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/news/vrc-hosts-institute-criminologys-thursday-seminar)

## Child Sexual Abuse in the Catholic Church: The Case of Spain

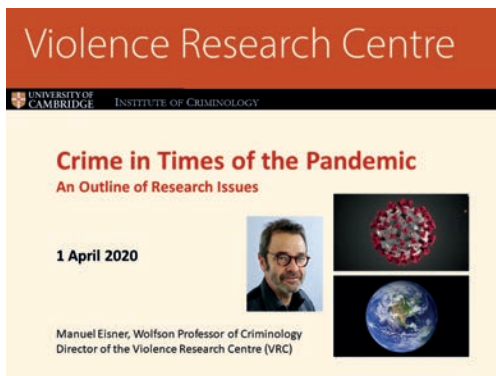
On 23 January 2020, the VRC hosted an event for the IoC featuring affiliated researcher Prof Noemí Pereda from the University of Barcelona. The talk covered the resurgence of interest in the topic following a media reportage on accusations against members of schools run by the Marist Brothers. Prof Pereda explained the characteristics of the sexual victimization and the perpetrator, the process of disclosure and notification, and the experience of other forms of victimization previous to the abuse. You can view the talk and download the slides at [www.crim.cam.ac.uk/events/watchandlistennew](http://www.crim.cam.ac.uk/events/watchandlistennew)



## Moral Neutralisation of Violence and Perpetration of Inhumanities

On 27 January 2020 - International Holocaust Remembrance Day - the VRC hosted a public lecture by Prof Manuel Eisner weaving biographical reflections on the link between family experiences and theories on moral disengagement with criminology topics. He presented findings on the role of moral neutralisation in facilitating the perpetration of violence. You can read more about this event and watch the video here: [www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/news/moral-neutralisation-violence-holocaust-remembrance-day-lecture](http://www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/news/moral-neutralisation-violence-holocaust-remembrance-day-lecture)

# Public Events – continued



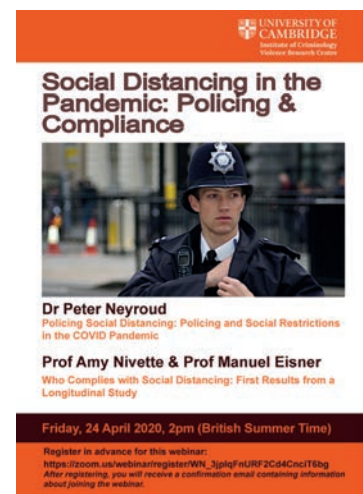
## Crime in Times of the Pandemic

In the first of a series of VRC public webinars, Prof Eisner shared his insights on what happens to crime during a health emergency and how research can help societies and make a meaningful contribution to policy and prevention challenges. This talk preceded the launch of an international research network on Covid Crime and a dedicated Covid-19 research page ([www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/news/vrc-during-covid-19-introducing-two-new-research-pages](http://www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/news/vrc-during-covid-19-introducing-two-new-research-pages)). You can listen to the podcast and download the slides at [www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/VRCconferences](http://www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/VRCconferences).

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

## Social Distancing in the Pandemic: Policing & Compliance

On 24 April 2020, the VRC invited Dr Peter Neyroud, Institute of Criminology, to share his research on policing challenges during Covid-19. Affiliated researcher Prof Nivette from Utrecht University and Prof Eisner presented their results from a longitudinal study on how young adults complied with social distancing measures. You can listen to the podcast and download the slides at [www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/VRCconferences](http://www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/VRCconferences)



## Webinars hosted for the Institute of Criminology

These summer webinars were hosted by the VRC on behalf of the IoC. Videos and slides are available at [www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/events/watchandlistennew](http://www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/events/watchandlistennew). Podcasts and slides are at [www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/VRCconferences](http://www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/VRCconferences)



## June-July 2020

- **Targeting American Policing: Rogue cops or Rogue Culture?**  
Prof Lawrence Sherman, Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge
- **Legal Estrangement, Policing and the Problem of Segregation in America**  
Prof Monica Bell, Yale Law School
- **Legal Estrangement, Policing and the Problem of Segregation in America**  
Dexter Dias QC, International Human Rights Lawyer

# EBLS - 2nd International Symposium



In the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations called on the global community to end child abuse, exploitation and all forms of violence, and to promote children's mental health and well-being. The Evidence for Better Lives Study (EBLS) is our response to this challenge.

On 25 November 2019, the 2nd EBLs International Symposium - *Addressing Violence against Children in Eight Cities across the World: Lessons Learned from the EBLs Foundational Study* - brought together academics, experts and other stakeholders from around the world to discuss core findings from the pilot study and its policy implications within the global agenda of ending violence against children.

The Symposium launched the *Addressing Violence against Children* report with endorsements by WHO, UNODC and the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children. This key report presented findings of the pilot study and reviews of the needs and resources of each study site: Kingston in Jamaica,



## Talks & Panels

**Welcome (Dr David Good, Cambridge Global Challenges Group)**

### **Panel 1. EBLs AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**The Evidence for Better Lives Study: An Introduction (Prof Pasco Fearon). Panelists: Prof Frances Gardner, Prof Michael Dunne, Dr Alex Butchart**

### **Panel 2. BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS**

**The EBLs Foundational Study - Findings and Lessons Learned (Prof Manuel Eisner). Panelists: Alessandra Guedes, Prof Asvini Fernando, Dr Sarah Skeen, Prof Adriana Baban**

### **Panel 3. GENERATING POLICY IMPACT**

**Addressing Violence against Children: A Needs and Resources Assessment in Eight LMIC Cities - Findings and Recommendations (Dr Sara Valdebenito, Huyen Do). Panelists: Dr Kati Maternowska, Dr Bernadette Madrid, Prof Vo Van Thang, Dr Patricia Akweongo**

### **Panel 4. ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE**

**What Questions for a New Generation of Cohort Studies - and How Does EBLs Address Them? (Dr Aja Murray). Panelists: Prof Marinus Van IJzendoorn, Prof David Farrington, Dr Diana Taut**

**How could EBLs Contribute to the Global Understanding of Child Development? Concluding Reflections (Prof Terrie Moffitt). Closing Remarks (Prof Manuel Eisner)**

Top: delegates from the study sites and members of the Cambridge team. Bottom: Prof Eisner discusses key findings from the Foundational Study

## EBLS Symposium - continued

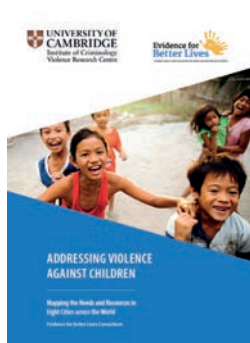


Hue in Vietnam, Koforidua in Ghana, Worcester in South Africa, Cluj-Napoca in Romania, Tarlai Kalan in Pakistan, Ragama in Sri Lanka and Valenzuela in the Philippines. It examined exposure to violence and other adverse experiences while also striving to illuminate how families in different cultures raise and support their children. It then introduced the planned main study and its significance in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Throughout the day, the EBLs co-investigators participated in panel discussions about the lessons learned from the pilot study and the next steps towards the realisation of the main study. The Symposium also launched two short films - one for the general public and another for policymakers - to raise awareness of the Study's aims and vision.



The event was preceded by a workshop at the Institute of Criminology, which brought together the investigators and members of the EBLs advisory board. The workshop reviewed the lessons learned, established a publication plan to diffuse findings in academic publications and enabled participants to share experiences on policy impact activities in the eight EBLs cities. You can find out more about EBLs on our website. A number of talks were filmed on the day, visit our YouTube channel to view them - a link is on our home page.



Top: One of the panel discussions. Middle: the VRC team poses with delegates. Bottom, from left: Prof Farrington, Prof Moffitt and Prof Eisner. The key report. Dr Alex Butchart and Prof Eisner. Photos: Lucinda Price Photography

## A big THANK YOU from the VRC team!

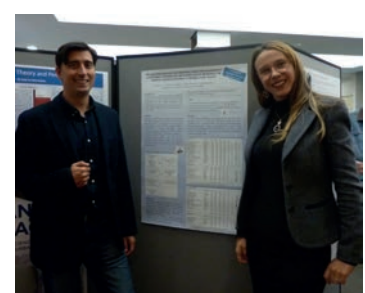
We would like to thank all the researchers who provided information for this report, our international collaborators, the Institute of Criminology, the University of Cambridge and all our funders and sponsors.

It has been a challenging year, yet fruitful, with stimulating projects and a healthy number of publications. We have continued improving our website and social media presence - you will find a dedicated section on Covid-19 research projects ([www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/covid-19-research](http://www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/covid-19-research)) and a section covering all the research projects ([www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch](http://www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch)).



In March 2020 we learned how to bring physical events online when lockdown led to the closure of the Institute of Criminology. We hosted a number of internal talks for staff and students, organised a series of public webinars, while working from home and keeping in touch virtually. If you want to view any of our talks, visit our YouTube channel (link on the home page); public webinars are accessible on our event page: [www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/VRCconferences](http://www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/VRCconferences).

Last but not least, our congratulations and best wishes to Laura Campo, who stepped down as EBLs coordinator to start her PhD degree - she is still with the VRC, supervised by Prof Eisner. As customary, here is a selection of amusing photos of the team and our collaborators.



Above: Criminology Day - Simone, Sara, Laura and Manuel; Vicente and Izabela pose by their poster. Left: The VRC team at our 5th birthday event. Below: Manuel and Noemi, who gave a talk in the Lent term; keeping in touch with zoom.



Above: delegates at the EBLs Symposium take selfies during the coffee break. Right: picnic in Grantchester with our PhD students.



# UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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Violence Research Centre**

**Professor Manuel Eisner**

Director of the Violence Research Centre

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The Violence Research Centre, part of the Institute of Criminology,  
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*Report compiled by Dr Simone Castello, VRC Administrator/Webmaster.*

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