



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Institute of Criminology
Violence Research Centre



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Introduction

to the Violence Research Centre

The Violence Research Centre (VRC) conducts research to promote the understanding of the causes, consequences, and prevention of interpersonal violence. The VRC takes a strong interest in advancing quantitative methodologies for the study of violence by conducting longitudinal studies, programme evaluations, epidemiological surveys, and cross-national comparative studies.

The Violence Research Centre was officially launched during the Global Violence Reduction Conference on 18 September 2014, organized by the University of Cambridge and the World Health Organization. The event brought together 150 leading representatives from academia, policy-making and civil society to discuss potential strategies to reduce violence by 50% in the next 30 years. Since its foundation, the Centre has hosted multiple other events and launched both policy and academic publications.

Key Research Projects from 2015-16

I. Completed and Ongoing Research

Zurich Project on the Social Development of Children

Manuel Eisner, Denis Ribeaud, Michael Shanahan, Aja Louise Murray, Katrin Muller-Johnson, Margit Averdijk, Ingrid Obsuth

Research aims

The Zurich Project on the Social Development of Children (z-proso) is an on-going longitudinal cohort study of 1,300 children in Zurich, Switzerland. Z-proso is focused on examining and understanding the development and consequences of pro- and anti-social behaviour throughout childhood and adolescence.

Methods and findings

Data have been collected from teachers, children and their parents annually in the first three waves of data collection (ages 7, 8 and 9) from grade 1 to 3 between 2004/5 and 2006/7. Data continued to be collected annually from the teachers up to grade 11, and bi-annually from children. Retrospective information about the parents' and childrens' experiences prior to age 7 was also collected from the parents via Life History Calendars. Therefore, information is available about each child throughout their lifespan. Over the waves, the study included, amongst others, assessments of risk-seeking behaviour, friendship networks, scenario-based measures on judgment and decision-making, pubertal development, resting heart rate, alongside a wide range of behaviours, as well as behavioural and mental health problems. The study also included the implementation of two universal early prevention programmes (Triple P and PATHS) between ages 7 and 9.

To date the project team and the wider network of collaborators have disseminated findings examining a wide range important topics, such as the effects of peer victimisation on internalising and externalising behaviour problems, the variability of sex differences in aggression between children of different immigrant backgrounds, and many others. Below are three examples of the most recent z-proso research.

Topic 1: Impact of Teacher-Student Relationship

A recent study (Obsuth, Murray, Malti, Sulger, Ribeaud & Eisner, 2016) utilised non-bipartite propensity score matching to find pairs of children who at age 10-11 differed on their quality of relationship with their teacher. However, they were otherwise similar on a set of 106 characteristics – including behaviour problems, bullying and victimisation, school achievement, parenting, etc. Following successful matching, the authors found that students who reported better relationships with their teachers and whose teachers reported better relationships with them evidenced fewer problem behaviours concurrently and up to 4 years later. There was also evidence for an analogous effect in predicting prosocial behavior.

Topic 2: Understanding Poly-Victimisation

Another recent study working with the z-proso sample (Obsuth, Mueller-Johnson, Murray, Eisner, Ribeaud, submitted) studied victimisation of adolescents, focusing on youths who experienced multiple types of violence (poly-victimisation). The study examined victimisation from a range of violent behaviors that adolescents may experience at school, in the community and at home from age 11 through 17, such as bullying, corporal punishment, assault and others. Using a technique called longitudinal latent class analysis, the researchers identified three separate groups of youths based on their experiences of victimisation over a four-year period – those least likely to be victimised, a peer poly-victimisation group and a mixed poly-victimisation group over time. Youths in the two latter groups had different mental health outcomes, suggesting that different types of poly-victims may experience different types of problems and therefore require different types of attention. The findings also showed that both victimisation and poly-victimisation are relatively common, with at least 75% in each age group experiencing at least one type of victimisation.

Topic 3: Poly-Victimisation and Service Use

A related investigation (Mueller-Johnson, Obsuth, Eisner, 2016) explored service use and poly-victimisation. The findings suggested that adolescents who have experienced poly-victimisation, compared to those who are not poly-victims:

- are more likely to experience mental health difficulties,
- are more likely to use professional support (therapists/counsellors, school social workers and psychologists).

However, poly-victimised adolescents are likely to be using these services for reasons other than for the victimisation, such as for family problems or learning difficulties. This suggests that mental health professionals should be aware of possible multiple victimisation experiences adolescents bring with them, despite the specific reason for referral.

Key publications in 2015/16

Averdijk M, Malti T, Eisner M, Ribeaud D, Farrington DP (2016) A Vicious Cycle of Peer Victimization? Problem Behavior Mediates Stability in Peer Victimization Over Time. *Journal of Developmental and Life-Course Criminology*, 1-20.

Averdijk M, Zirk-Sadowski J, Ribeaud D, Eisner M (2016) Long-term effects of two childhood psychosocial interventions on adolescent delinquency, substance use, and antisocial behavior: a cluster randomized controlled trial. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*:1-27.

Mueller-Johnson, K., Obsuth, I & Eisner, M. (2016) Poly-victimisation, mental health outcomes and service use. Paper presented at the 5th biennial congress of the European Association for Forensic Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Psychology and other involved Professions (EFCAP), Porto, Portugal, May 11th -13th 2016.

Murray AL, Eisner M, Ribeaud D (2016) The Development of the General Factor of Psychopathology 'p Factor' Through Childhood and Adolescence. *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*: 1-14.

Murray, A. L., Eisner, M., & Ribeaud, D. (2016). Development and Validation of a Brief Measure of Violent Thoughts The Violent Ideations Scale (VIS). *Assessment*, 1073191116667213.

Murray, A. L., Obsuth, I., Zirk-Sadowski, J., Ribeaud, D., & Eisner, M. (2016). Developmental relations between ADHD symptoms and reactive versus proactive aggression across childhood and adolescence. *Journal of attention disorders*, 1087054716666323.

Obsuth, I., Murray, A. L., Malti, T., Sulger, P., Ribeaud, D., & Eisner, M. (2016). A Non-bipartite Propensity Score Analysis of the Effects of Teacher–Student Relationships on Adolescent Problem and Prosocial Behavior. *Journal of youth and adolescence*, 1-27.

van Gelder J-L, Averdijk M, Eisner M, Ribaud D (2015) Unpacking the Victim-Offender Overlap: On Role Differentiation and Socio-psychological Characteristics. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 31(4), 653-75.

Organised Crime, Illegal Governance and Communities

Paolo Campana and Federico Varese

Research aims

This on-going research project is seeking to explore the nature and activities of organised crime groups operating in a variety of locales – with a specific focus on Europe. Crucially, this project seeks 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. Furthermore, the project combines the novel theoretical framework with advanced statistical techniques, mainly in the area of network analysis, to gain a full in-depth understanding of the mechanisms underpinning organised crime activities.

Key research questions:

- How can we interpret (and measure) organised crime?
- What makes communities/territories vulnerable to the emergence of illegal governance?
- How are organized crime operations structured?
- How do offenders cooperate?

Methods and findings

As part of this broader project, researchers have empirically reconstructed the structure and activities of a large-scale human trafficking network operating between Nigeria and Europe (Campana, 2016a). Working with a set of novel data sets that were manually coded and analysed using network analysis techniques, this work has shown that high trafficking capacity (i.e. higher number of victims) is associated with a high level of externalisation of trafficking activities (i.e. conducted outside an organisation). In the ring under scrutiny, a large number of offenders acted as independent agents, in a similar way to contractors. The trafficking ring adopted a rather clear division of labour and role specialisation.

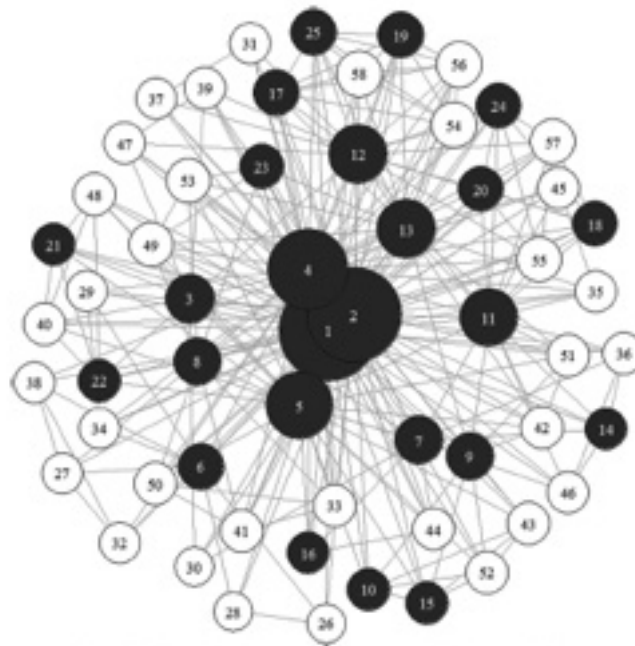


FIG. 1 The Nigerian trafficking ring (All actors: offenders and victims).
Note Node colour is as follows: offenders are grey and victims are white. Size of a node indicates its degree centrality. The layout is based on the Kamada-Kawai algorithm.

Figure from Campana (2016a).

This work also highlighted the central role played by communities during the exploitation stage of the trafficking process. Contrary to the received wisdom, which stresses the transnational and mobile nature of human trafficking, this work has emphasised the continuing relevance of local communities. Key actors are often highly entrenched in their local community, particularly in destination countries (i.e. the exploitation stage). Finally, this work has put into question the idea that transnational crime is invariably best fought transnationally.

Some methodological reflections were also developed as part of the project, and included in Campana (2016b). This work has discussed two distinct perspectives on networks, namely a substantive approach that views networks as a distinct form of organisation, and an instrumental one that interprets networks as a collection of nodes and attributes. It then contended that the instrumental approach is better suited to test hypotheses as it does not assume any structure a priori but derives it from the data. Furthermore, this work cautioned against an over-reliance on structural measures alone when interpreting real-world networks, and stressed the need to complement these measures with additional qualitative evidence.

Key publications in 2015/16

Campana, P. and Varese, F. (2016). Exploitation in Human Trafficking and Smuggling, *European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research*, 22, 89-105.

Campana, P. (2016a). The structure of human trafficking: Lifting the bonnet on a Nigerian trafficking network, *British Journal of Criminology*, 56, 68-86.

Campana, P. (2016b). Explaining Criminal Networks: Strategies and Potential Pitfalls. *Methodological Innovations*, 9, 1-10.

How Effective Are School Interventions in Reducing Exclusions?

Sara Valdebenito, Manuel Eisner, Maria Ttofi, Alex Sutherland

Research aims

School exclusion, also known as suspension, is defined as a disciplinary sanction imposed by a responsible school authority in reaction to student behaviour. Exclusion entails the removal of pupils from regular teaching for a period of time during which they are not allowed to be present in the classroom or, in more serious cases, on school premises. Most of the available research has found exclusion to be associated with negative effects on developmental outcomes. Suspension of students seems to increase the likelihood of failure in the academic curriculum, aggravate antisocial behaviour, and also increase the chances of involvement with punitive social control institutions. In the long-term, opportunities for training and employment seem to be considerably reduced for those who have repeatedly been excluded.

This study investigates which school-based interventions for reducing exclusions are effective by conducting a systematic review and meta-analysis of previous research. By bringing together many different studies, the researchers are able to produce a rigorous statistical summary of interventions in this area. The research questions underlying this project are:

- o Do school-based programmes reduce the use of exclusion in schools?
- o Are some school-based approaches more effective than others in reducing exclusion?
- o Do any characteristics of the participants, interventions, implementation or study methodology affect the impact of these school-based programmes on exclusion?

This review is registered with the Campbell Collaboration, leading international network producing high quality systematic reviews of social and economic interventions. This 2-year study is supported by a grant from the Nuffield Foundation.

Methods and findings

The authors conducted a comprehensive search to locate relevant studies reporting on the impact of school-based interventions on exclusion. To be eligible for the review, studies needed to have: evaluated school-based interventions or school-supported interventions intended to reduce the rates of suspension; seen the interventions as an alternative to

exclusion; targeted school-aged children from four to 18, in mainstream schools irrespective of nationality or social background; and reported results of interventions delivered from 1980 onwards. The review included randomised controlled trials only, with at least one experimental group and one control or placebo group. The authors have screened 42,749 titles, with 37 of the studies kept for inclusion in final meta-analysis.

Currently, the review is nearly completed. The evidence suggests that school-based interventions are effective at reducing school exclusion immediately after and for a few months after the intervention. Some types of interventions show more promising results than others, namely those involving mentoring and monitoring, and those targeting skill training for teachers. However, the quality of the evidence and the number of studies involved in some of the calculations make this evidence inconclusive.

Key publications in 2015/16

Valdebenito, S., Eisner, M., Farrington, D., Ttofi, M., and Sutherland, A. School-based interventions for reducing disciplinary school exclusion: A systematic review. Title and protocol. (2015). Retrieved from <https://www.campbellcollaboration.org/library/school-based-interventions-for-reducing-disciplinary-school-exclusion-a-systematic-review.html>

Resilience against Offending and Violence

Maria Ttofi, David P. Farrington, Alex R. Piquero, Matthew DeLisi

Research aims

Why do people refrain from crime? Resilience is defined as the dynamic process encompassing positive adaptation within the context of significant adversity. The concept of resilience has shaped criminological thinking about why individuals abstain from crime in spite of childhood adversities. Resilience and desistance models have also shaped our criminological thinking on 'turning points' that enable individuals to escape their delinquent lifestyles later in life.

In a 2016 edited volume in the *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 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.

Methods

Research teams from eleven major prospective longitudinal studies investigated protective mechanisms – at the individual, family, school, and community levels – which confer resilience to youth against childhood adversities and which protect youth from following a delinquent path later in life. The project initiated coordinated research on this topic, based on secondary data analyses from USA, Canada, Europe, and Australia, thus enabling investigation of cross-cultural comparisons. Information on the findings from individual studies can be found [here](#).

Key publications in 2015/16

Ttofi, M. M., Farrington, D. P., Piquero, A. R., & DeLisi, M. (Eds.) (2016). Protective factors against offending and violence: Results from prospective longitudinal studies. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 45, 1-100.

II. Early-stage Projects

Evidence for Better Lives Study

Manuel Eisner, Aja Louise Murray, Christopher Mikton, Pasco Fearon, Joseph Murray, Claire Hughes, Maria Jose Oomen, and colleagues

Research aims

The 2030 Sustainable Development Goals call upon the global community to end abuse, exploitation and all forms of violence against children. To achieve this scale of prevention, a sea change is needed in the understanding of violence and its causes. The most significant challenges are faced in developing countries. Yet only 5% of all evaluations of effective violence prevention have been conducted outside wealthy western societies. The planned “Evidence for Better Lives” Study (EBLS) is a response to these challenges, designed by the members of the Violence Research Centre and other collaborators.

The Violence Prevention Unit of the World Health Organization, the Global Partnership for Ending Violence against Children, UNODC, UNICEF HQ and the UNICEF Research Unit support the study as part of their global violence reduction efforts.

Methods

Evidence for Better Lives Study will involve innovative multi-site birth-cohort study with a focus on large cities in low income countries across the world. In each city, 2,000 children born in selected neighbourhoods will be followed for at least five years. The researchers plan to focus on exposure to violence and adversity in the family and the community, and on children’s socio-emotional skills and conduct problems during the first years of life.



Sao Paulo Project on the Social Development of Children

Maria Fernanda Peres, Manuel Eisner, Renata Bertazzi Levy, Catarina Machado Azeredo, Leandro Fórniás Machado de Rezende

Research aims

Brazil has exceptionally high levels of interpersonal violence, including youth violence and victimization. Most of the evidence on risk and protective factors for violence currently available in research literature comes from high-income countries. However, risk and protective factors may vary in different settings with distinct cultural norms, social organization and violence levels. This project aims to conduct a cross-sectional school-based survey with a representative sample of 14-15 year-old adolescents in Sao Paulo Brazil. This project will use the methodology used in the Zurich Project on the Social Development of Children (z-proso) and the Montevideo Project on the Social Development of Children (m-proso) to provide knowledge on the risk and protective factors for violent behavior and victimization in Brazil in a comprehensive and comparative perspective.

This 3-year project is funded by British Academy grant (Newton Advanced Fellowship).

Methods

This study aims to estimate the prevalence of violence perpetration and victimization among adolescents and to investigate the association between socio-demographic, individual, relational (family and peer), school and neighborhood factors with violence perpetration and victimization. A cross-sectional school based survey will be conducted in a sample of 9th year students of both public and private school in Sao Paulo. The students are 14-15 years-old and are in the last year of the secondary fundamental mandatory school cycle. Sampling strategy will follow the steps used in Montevideo and Zurich: a stratified cluster-randomized approach having the schools as primary sampling units and classes as secondary sampling unit. Questionnaires used at z-proso and m-proso will be translated and adapted to Portuguese and pre-tested.

As a result of the study, the researchers plan to develop a violence prevention intervention and a training module on youth violence prevention – both aiming to prevent, control and reduce violence levels in Brazil.

Understanding Corrupt Exchanges in Ghana

Justice Tankebe, Sarah Adu-Poku, and Susanne Karstedt

Research aims

Corruption matters because of its established consequences for economic development, the rule of law, democratic governance, and human rights. Research on public attitudes on corruption tends to focus on general populations. However, given the general understanding of corruption as the abuse of power for personal gain, those without power lack opportunity to engage in corruption. It is therefore potentially fruitful to focus on current and future elites. University students fall under the latter group. Many will occupy positions of influence in public and private institutions. They will have discretionary power over the allocation of resources. However, discretion provides the space to engage in corruption or to act against corruption. Yet, we do not know, in any systematic way, (i) how these future elites perceive corruption, (ii) what they are willing or unwilling to do to tackle corruption. This project aims to address this gap in our knowledge, with an empirical focus on final year university students in Ghana.

Methods

The fieldwork has been completed and data are currently being analysed. A strategic and non-random sample was drawn at one of the major public universities in Ghana, with final year students from core courses in Business and Sociology being selected to cover prospective careers in the private and public sector. The in-class surveys were conducted between February and March 2016. Overall, a total of 574 individuals were invited to participate in the study; out of these, 530 responded, resulting in a response rate of 92.3 percent. As usual, potential participants were informed that their participation was voluntary, and that their responses were completely anonymous, and that they reserved the right to refuse participation or withdraw from the study at any point without giving a reason for their decision.

Legitimacy and Counter-Terrorism Policing

PROTON network (Justice Tankebe)

Research aims

This project aims to understand views about the legitimacy of police counter-terrorism activities. 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. Hence 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.

This 3-year study is a part of a larger project – *Modelling the recruitment PROcesses leading to organized crime and TerrOrism Networks* (PROTON) – involving multiple parties and co-ordinated by Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Milan). 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 organized crime (including cyber related offenses), and terrorist networks and their impact on social cohesion*.

Methods

The fieldwork will take place in London and focus on in-depth interviews with Muslims. A non-random sample of about 150 people will be drawn from mosques across London. It is expected that the sample will include general members of these communities, but may also involve those who have had direct experiences of counter-terrorism policing (such as being stopped and searched, or arrested under counter-terrorism powers). Key themes from the interviews will form the basis for designing survey instruments for a future quantitative study on the legitimacy of counter-terrorism practices among Muslim communities.

Other Recent Publications by VRC Members

- o Ariel, B., & Tankebe, J. (2016). Racial stratification and multiple outcomes in police stops and searches. *Policing and Society*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10439463.2016.1184270>
- o Bottoms, AE and Tankebe, J (2017) Police Legitimacy and the Authority of the State. In A. du Bois-Pedain, M. Ulväng and P. Asp (eds.) *Criminal Law and the Authority of the State*. Oxford: Hart Publishing
- o Campana, P. (2016), When rationality fails: Making sense of 'the slippery slope' to corporate fraud, *Theoretical Criminology*, 20(3), 322-339.
- o Eisner, M., Humphreys, D. K., Wilson, P., & Gardner, F. (2015). Disclosure of Financial Conflicts of Interests in Interventions to Improve Child Psychosocial Health: A Cross-Sectional Study. *PLoS one*, 10(11), e0142803.
- o Farrington, D.P., Ttofi, M.M., & Lösel, F. (2016). Developmental and Social Prevention. In Weisburd, D., Farrington, D.P., & Gill, C. (Eds.), *What Works in Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation: Lessons from Systematic Reviews* (pp. 15 – 76). New York: Springer Series on Evidence-Based Crime Policy.
- o Tankebe, J., Reisig, M. D., & Wang, X. (2016). A multidimensional model of police legitimacy: A cross-cultural assessment. *Law and human behavior*, 40(1), 11–22
- o Theobald, D., Farrington, D.P., Ttofi, M.M., Crago, B. (2016). Risk factors for dating violence versus cohabiting violence: Results from the third generation of the Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development. *Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health*, 26, 229 – 239.
- o Ttofi, M. M. (2015). Adolescent bullying linked to depression in early adulthood: Evidence supports early intervention. *British Medical Journal*, 350, h2694.

- o Ttofi, M. M., Farrington, D. P., Lösel, F., Crago, R. V., & Theodorakis, N. (2016). School Bullying and Drug Use Later in Life: A Meta-Analytic Investigation. *School Psychology Quarterly*, 31(1), 8 – 27.
- o Ttofi, M.M., Farrington, D.P., Piquero, A.R., & DeLisi, M. (2016). Editorial. Protective factors against offending and violence: Results from prospective longitudinal studies. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 45, 1 – 3.
- o Ttofi, M.M., Farrington, D.P., Piquero, A.R., Lösel, F., DeLisi, M., & Murray, J. (2016). Intelligence as a protective factor against offending: A meta-analytic review of prospective longitudinal studies. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 45, 4 – 18.
- o Valdebenito, S., Ttofi, MM., & Eisner, M. (2015). Prevalence rates of drug use among school bullies and victims: A systematic review and meta-analysis of cross-sectional studies. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 23, 137 – 146.
- o Zych, I., Ttofi, M.M., & Farrington, D.P. (accepted). Empathy and callous-unemotional traits in different bullying roles: A systematic review and meta-analysis. Paper accepted in *Trauma, Violence and Abuse*.

PhD Research Projects Ongoing in 2015-16

Rebecca Raffan-Gowar

"Cost-benefit analyses of crime prevention programmes"

Supervisors: Maria Ttofi and David Farrington

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

Aimee Neaverson

"Exploring the Cycle of Violence: Resiliency and Protective Factors in Relation to Abuse and Sexual re-victimisation"

Supervisor: Manuel Eisner

Yulia Shenderovich

"Process Evaluation of an Evidence-Informed Parenting Support Programme in Eastern Cape, South Africa"

Supervisors: Manuel Eisner and Lucie Cluver

Nicolas Trajtenberg

"The idea of causality and explanation in criminological theory"

Supervisor: Manuel Eisner

Sara Valdebenito

"School punishment and antisocial behaviour: explanations, effects and prevention"

Supervisor: Manuel Eisner

Sergio Triana Enemocon

"Understanding the effect of reintegration and crime prevention programs on crime rates, evidence from Colombia"

Supervisor: Manuel Eisner

Menaal Safi 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

Katrin Pfeil
"Effectiveness of an interviewing technique called the Self-Administered Interview for Older Witnesses"
Supervisor: Katrin Mueller-Johnson

Tom Olphin
"Solving crime: targeting factors that predict clearance of offences"
Supervisor: Katrin Mueller-Johnson

David Leeney
"Breach of the PEACE: a development of the police PEACE interview model to facilitate recall in context for front-line investigations of crime"
Supervisor: Katrin Mueller-Johnson

Ross Hendy
"Understanding How Routinely Unarmed Police Officers Resolve Interpersonal Conflict"
Supervisor: Justice Tankebe

Michael Bryden
"Blue Knights and their Quest for Self-Legitimacy"
Supervisor: Justice Tankebe

Faryal Shafi
"Mariticide Prisoners in Pakistan"
Supervisor: Justice Tankebe

Michael Long Siu
"Legitimacy and Public Order Policing in Hong Kong"
Supervisor: Justice Tankebe

Violence Research Centre Seminar Series

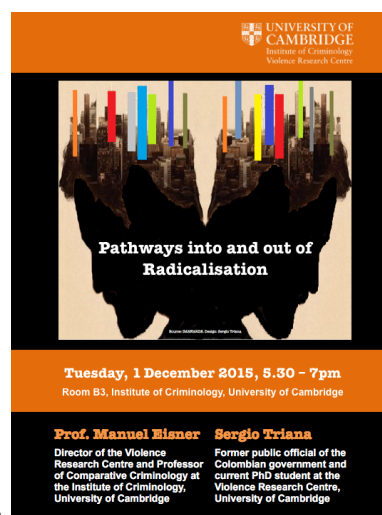
Pathways into and out of Radicalisation

1 December 2015

Prof. Manuel Eisner- Director of the Violence Research Centre and Professor of Comparative Criminology, University of Cambridge

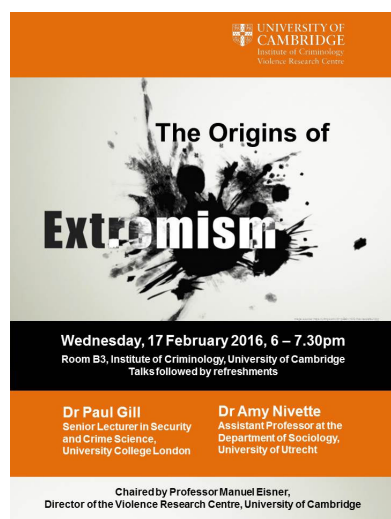
Sergio Triana - Former public official of the Colombian government and current PhD student at VRC

How do radical ideas evolve in individuals and what is the best way to achieve de-radicalisation? This question is at the core of understanding terrorist acts around the world and developing strategies to combat them. The speakers explored the pathways of radicalisation and de-radicalisation.



The Origins of Extremism

17 February 2016



Dr Paul Gill - Senior Lecturer in Security and Crime Science, University College London

Dr Amy Nivette - Assistant Professor at the Department of Sociology, University of Utrecht

There is a lot of speculation about the long-term and short-term mechanisms leading to violent extremism and actual involvement in terrorist acts. Amy Nivette examined prospective developmental risk factors for violent extremist beliefs in a large ethnically mixed cohort study. Paul Gill presented findings from his path-breaking study on the motivations and antecedent behaviours of Lone Actor Terrorists.

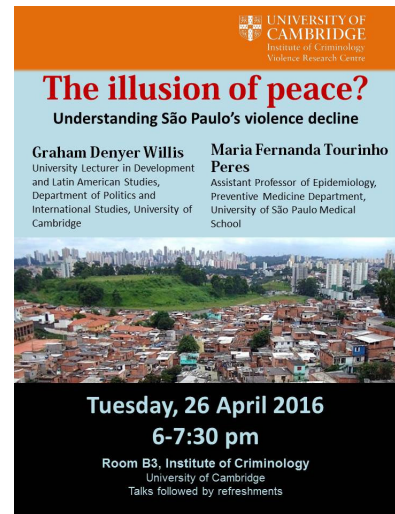
The illusion of peace? Understanding São Paulo's violence decline

26 April 2016

Dr Graham Denyer Willis - University Lecturer in Development and Latin American Studies, University of Cambridge

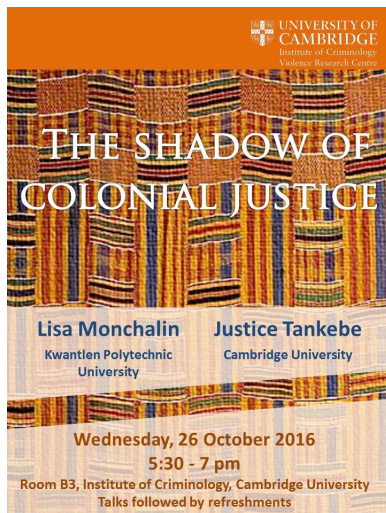
Dr Maria Fernanda Tourinho Peres - Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, University of São Paulo Medical School

In Sao Paulo, deaths from homicide have fallen by whopping 74% between 2001 and 2008. There is much debate about what might lie behind this surprising drop. In this seminar, two experts shared their views on what lies behind this surprising violence decline in São Paulo and drew potential lessons for policy making.



The Shadow of Colonial Justice

26 October 2016



Dr. Lisa Monchalin - Professor at the Department of Criminology, Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Dr. Justice Tankebe - University Lecturer in Criminology, University of Cambridge
There is a lot of speculation about the long-term and Colonialism has shaped the history of the modern world. Does colonialism continue to influence crime and justice today? Two experts shared their views on how colonialism has shaped the criminal justice systems in Canada and Ghana.

Policy Consultations by VRC Members

Justice Tankebe

Working with National Offender Management Service on translating the evidence on *procedural justice* to practice. This process will involve a series of workshops in 2017 with about 150 officials from community providers of probation services in England.

Manuel Eisner

Professor Eisner is a member of the UNODC Expert Group on Life Skills for Youth Crime Prevention Through Sports, Consultant to the World Bank for an assignment relating to global homicide trends for the 2017 World Development Report, and member of the Advisory Board for Parenting for Lifelong Health (PLH). PLH is a multi-partner international effort to develop an evidence-based and affordable suite of parenting programmes to prevent child maltreatment and other forms of violence in low-resource settings. Professor Eisner contributed to the International Forum on Crime Prevention launched by the thinktank MexicoEvalua on 25 and 26 February 2016. He was also a member of the Expert Group on “Crime and Governance Statistics” convened in Merida by UNODC, OECD, and INEGI on 6 June 2016.

Media Coverage of VRC Research

Effects of Teacher–Student Relationships on Adolescent Behavior

- o Australian Teacher Magazine <https://itunes.apple.com/au/podcast/teacheracer/id899419616?mt=2&ignmpt=uo%34>
- o Daily Mail (9 Aug 2016): [The power of a good teacher](#)
- o The Telegraph (9 Aug 2016): [Teachers who inspire children create long-term good behaviour](#)
- o Science Daily (9 Aug 2016): Positive teacher-student relationships boost good behavior in teenagers for up to 4 years
- o Medical News Today (9 Aug 2016): [Positive teacher-student relationships boost good behaviour in teenagers for up to four years](#)

Disclosure of Conflict of Interest for Psychosocial Interventions

- o Medical Journal Australia (30 Nov 2015): [Psychosocial COI concerns](#)
- o Medical Express (25 Nov 2015): [Two-thirds of studies on ‘psychosocial’ treatments fail to declare conflicts of interest](#)
- o PsychoCentral (30 Nov 2015): [Commercial Counseling Programs often Lack Evidence of Effectiveness, Show Conflict of Interest](#)
- o Examiner.com (25 Nov 2015): [Psychosocial programs shown to have high rate of conflict of interest](#)
- o preventionaction.org (09 Dec 2015): [Playing catch-up: what trials of psychosocial interventions can learn from drugs trials](#)
- o El Pais (11 Dec 2015): [Dos tercios de los estudios psicosociales no reconocen sus conflictos de interés](#)

Other VRC Updates

This year, Violence Research Centre hosted its first visiting researcher – Maria Fernanda Tourinho Peres - Assistant Professor of Epidemiology at the University of São Paulo Medical School, Preventive Medicine Department.

The Violence Research Centre has also released its first working paper – “From the Savannah to the Magistrate’s Court: The Roots of Criminal Justice in Evolved Human Psychology” (Manuel Eisner, Aja Louise Murray, Denis Ribeaud, Margit Averdijk, Jean-Louis van Gelder). The paper tries to answer the question: do criminal justice institutions have universal features that are rooted in psychological mechanisms, shaped by human evolution? The paper is available for free download on our website.



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