



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

60th

• 1959 - 2019 •

Anniversary of the founding of the
Institute of Criminology



Violence Research Centre REPORT

2016-2018

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Foreword

Prof Manuel Eisner
VRC Director

The Violence Research Centre (VRC) conducts research to promote the understanding of the causes, consequences and prevention of interpersonal violence and intentional harm-doing including violence against children, bullying, gang violence, sexual violence, violence in institutions, as well as organised crime and corruption.

The VRC takes a strong interest in high-quality, innovative and empirical research that is theoretically founded. Our researchers aim to advance the study and prevention of violence through systematic reviews, evaluations, experimental studies, surveys, longitudinal studies and qualitative research. We have strong links to national and international stakeholders in the field, and we engage in a wide range of international and interdisciplinary research collaborations.

This report provides an overview of the research activities of the members of the VRC during the two academic years 2016-17 and 2017-8. The VRC was officially launched during the Global Violence Reduction Conference on 18 September 2014, which was organised by the University of Cambridge and the World Health Organization. We are looking forward to celebrate our fifth anniversary in the next academic year, alongside our parent organisation's, the Institute of Criminology, 60th birthday.

Manuel Eisner

Key Research Projects

- Organised Crime, Illegal Governance and Communities (i-Gov)
- Zurich Project on the Social Development of Children (z-proso)
- School-based Interventions for Reducing Disciplinary School Exclusion
- 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

Public engagement



The Violence Research Centre organises public seminars during the academic year. Turn to page 17 to read about our 2016-2018 events.

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

Dr Paolo Campana (investigator) and Prof Federico Varese (co-investigator), University of Oxford
www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch/illegal-governance



Study

This on-going project is seeking to explore 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. Furthermore, it 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 continued support.

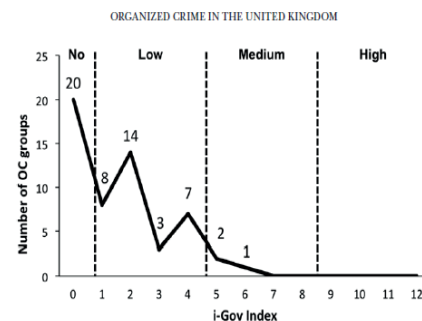


FIG. 2 i-Gov Index (Derbyshire Constabulary)

Key publications

- Campana, P. (2018). Unravelling child trafficking routes, N&V, Nature Sustainability, 1(5), 216-217.
- Campana, P. (2018). Out of Africa: The Organization of Migrant Smuggling Across the Mediterranean, European Journal of Criminology, 15(4), 481-582.
- Campana, P. and Varese, F. (2018). Organized Crime in the United Kingdom: Illegal Governance of Markets and Communities. British Journal of Criminology, doi.org/10.1093/bjc/azx078.
- Campana, P. (2017). The Market for Human Smuggling into Europe: A Macro Perspective. In Policing, 11:4, 448-456.
- Campana, P. (2017). "Macro trends in the smuggling of migrants into Europe: An analytical exploration", European Police Science and Research Bulletin, 16, 57-64

Zurich Project on the Social Development



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.

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 20.

Over the waves, the study included, amongst others, experimental assessments of risk-seeking behaviour, the administration of an event

history calendar, measures of friendship networks, scenario-based measures on judgement and decision-making, assessments of pubertal development and measures of resting heart rate.

The study also has extensive repeated measures on aggression, bullying, victimisation, and self-reported offending. It now also comprises data on official youth justice records of the study 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 for the study since 2003. From 2017 to 2020, z-proso is mainly funded by the SNSF as a national research infrastructure.

For updates, visit www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch/z-proso and www.jacobscenter.uzh.ch/en/research/zproso.html

of Children (z-proso)

Academic collaborators: Dr Margit Averdijk, Research Associate, Jacobs Center, University of Zurich, Switzerland; Dr Aja Murray, Research Associate, University of Cambridge, UK; Dr Ingrid Obsuth, Lecturer in Clinical Psychology, University of Edinburgh, UK.



Key publications

2018

Murray, A., Booth, T., Ribeaud, D., & Eisner, M. (2018). Disagreeing about development: An analysis of parent-teacher agreement in ADHD symptom trajectories across the elementary school years. *International Journal of Methods in Psychiatric Research*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1002/mpr.1723>

Murray, A., Booth, T., Eisner, M., Obsuth, I., & Ribeaud, D. (2018). Quantifying the strength of general factors in psychopathology: A comparison of CFA with maximum likelihood estimation, BSEM and ESEM/EFA bi-factor approaches. *Journal of Personality Assessment*, Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00223891.2018.1468338>

McKenzie, K.; Murray, A. L.; Murray, G. C.; Maguire, A.; Eisner, M.; & Ribeaud, D. (2018). Validation of the English language version of the Violent Ideations Scale (VIS). *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, Advance online publication. DOI: 10.1177/0886260518757227

2017

Murray, A.; Eisner, M.; Obsuth, I.; & Ribeaud, D. (2017). No evidence that normative substance use causes ADHD symptoms in adolescence. *Journal of Drug Issues*, 47(3), 405–410. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022042617697018>

Murray, A.; Eisner, M.; Obsuth, I.; & Ribeaud, D. (2017). Situating violent ideations within the landscape of mental health: Associations between violent ideations and dimensions of mental health. *Psychiatry Research*, 249, 70–77. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2017.01.005>

Nivette, A.; Eisner, M.; & Ribeaud, D. (2017). Developmental predictors of violent extremist attitudes: A test of general strain theory among a sample of Swiss youth. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 54(6), 755–790. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022427817699035>

Obsuth, I.; Müller-Johnson, K.; Murray, A.; Eisner, M.; & Ribeaud, D. (2017). Violent poly-victimisation over time: A longitudinal examination of the prevalence and patterns of physical and emotional victimisation throughout adolescence (11-17 years). *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jora.12365>

Obsuth, I.; Murray, A. L.; Malti, T.; Sulger, P.; Ribeaud, D.; & Eisner, M. (2017). A non-bipartite propensity score analysis of the effects of teacher–student relationships on adolescent problem and prosocial behavior. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 46(8), 1661–1687. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10964-016-0534-y>

van Gelder, J.-L.; Averdijk, M.; Ribeaud, D.; & Eisner, M. (2017). Punitive parenting and delinquency: The mediating role of short-term mindsets. In: *British Journal of Criminology* 58(3), S. 644-666. DOI: 10.1093/bjc/azx042

School-based Interventions for Reducing Disciplinary School Exclusion: A systematic review

PhD candidate Sara Valdebenito, Prof Manuel Eisner, Prof David P. Farrington, Dr Maria Ttofi, Dr Alex Sutherland



Study

School exclusion, also known as suspension, is a disciplinary sanction imposed by a 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 are considerably reduced.

This project, supported by a grant from the Nuffield Foundation, investigated which school-based interventions for reducing exclusions have been effective by conducting a systematic review and meta-analysis of previous research. By bringing together many different studies, the researchers were able to produce a statistical summary of interventions in this area. The review, now complete, was registered with the Campbell Collaboration, a leading international network producing high quality systematic reviews of social and economic interventions. 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 promise than others, namely those involving mentoring and monitoring, alongside those targeting skill training for teachers.

www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch/school-exclusion

Key publication

Valdebenito, S., Eisner, M., Farrington, D., Ttofi, M. and Sutherland, A. School-based interventions for reducing disciplinary school exclusion: a systematic review (2018). DOI: 10.4073/csr.2018.1 https://campbellcollaboration.org/media/k2/attachments/0235_CJCG_Valdebenito_-_School_exclusions.pdf

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 publications

Reising, K., Ttofi, M. M., Farrington, D. P., & Piquero, A. R. (2018). Depression and anxiety outcomes of offending trajectories: A systematic review of prospective longitudinal studies. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, in press. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2018.05.002>

Reising, K., Ttofi, M. M., Farrington, D. P., & Piquero, A. R. (2018). The impact of longitudinal offending trajectories on mental health: Lifetime consequences and intergenerational transfer. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, in press. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2018.04.003>

Farrington, D. P., Ttofi, M. M., & Crago, R. V. (2017). Intergenerational transmission of convictions for different types of offenses. *Victims & Offenders*, 12(1), 1-20.

Farrington, D. P., Gaffney, H., Lösel, F., & Ttofi, M. M. (2017). Systematic reviews of the effectiveness of developmental prevention programs in reducing delinquency, aggression, and bullying. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 33, 91-106.

Farrington, D. P., Gaffney, H., & Ttofi, M. M. (2017). Systematic reviews of explanatory risk factors for violence, offending, and delinquency. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 33, 24-36.

Valdebenito, S., Ttofi, M. M., Eisner, M., & Gaffney, H. (2017). Weapon carrying in and out of school among pure bullies, pure victims and bully-victims: A systematic review and meta-analysis of cross-sectional and longitudinal studies. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 33, 62-77.

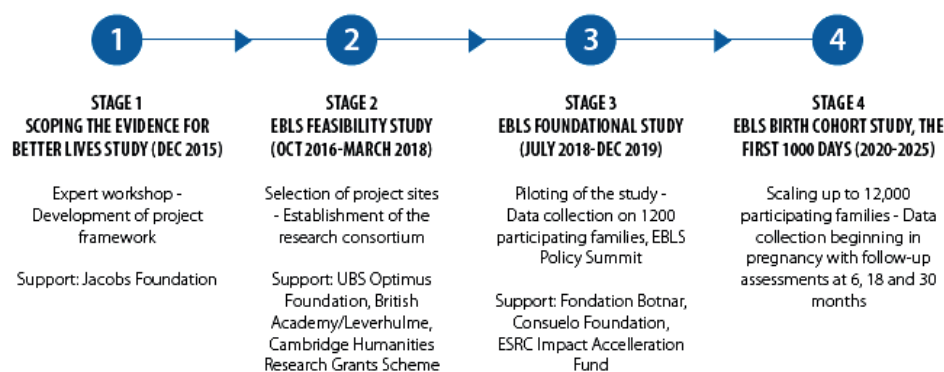
Zych, I., Ttofi, M. M., & Farrington, D. P. (2017). Empathy and Callous-Unemotional Traits in Different Bullying Roles: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, in press, DOI: 10.1177/1524838016683456

Evidence for Better Lives Study (EBLS)



Research consortium: Prof Manuel Eisner, University of Cambridge, UK; Dr Aja Murray, Research Fellow, University of Cambridge, 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; Dr Joseph Osafo, University of 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 contexts will be tracked. The project 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 efforts to introduce and evaluate multi-sectoral prevention packages that can help young children to achieve their full developmental and learning potential.

The VRC organised two main events connected with this study:

1. In early August 2017 a conference was held at Sidney Sussex College, University of Cambridge, entitled *Evidence for Better Lives: A Global Initiative for Research on Child Psychosocial Well-being and the Prevention of Violence against Children*. This conference provided an overview of the results of the EBLS's feasibility study. It introduced the participating sites and partner teams, and outlined the contributions that it could make to research, prevention policy and capacity building. It also brought together members of the research consortium, representatives of supporting international organisations and other stakeholders. The conference was followed by a two-day workshop, for the site teams and the research consortium, held at the Institute of Criminology. The workshop discussed the EBLS study in more detail, including project management, scientific innovation, data collection and policy-impact strategies.



2. On 10 May 2018 the VRC hosted *Evidence for Better Lives: Cohort Studies as a Vehicle for Improving Global Child Psychosocial Health* at the Institute of Criminology, in partnership with the Centre for Family Research, University of Cambridge. Professor Manuel Eisner presented the EBLs study, while other experts from three major cohort studies talked about their projects:
 - Dr Marta Favara - From Infancy to Young Adulthood: An Overview of Young Lives Data Research
 - Dr Rosie McEachan - The Born in Bradford Journey: From Cohort Study to 'City of Research'
 - Professor Johnathan Hill - The Wirral Child Health and Development Study: Understanding Early Risks Associated with Child Conduct Problems.

In 2017 the Fondation Botnar agreed to fund an 18-month pilot study (1200 pregnant mothers, 150 in each site). This is an interdisciplinary impact initiative that aims to enhance the life-chances, health, and wellbeing of children and their families in low resource contexts. It will establish a global network of academics who will work with international, national and local partners to contribute to effective policies that protect children. It will be supported by a study of child development in eight medium-sized cities, chosen to reflect the diversity of social and cultural conditions across the globe. It will also include a training workshop for academics from partner sites in Cluj, Romania in December 2018. Additionally, we will conduct needs and resource assessments in each site and continue to build partnerships with local, national and international stakeholders.

Led by the VRC at the University of Cambridge, project partners include the University of the West Indies (Jamaica), The University of Ghana, the University of Cape Town (South Africa), the University of Stellenbosch (South Africa), the Babes-Bolyai University (Romania), the Health Services Academy (Pakistan), the University of Kelaniya (Sri Lanka), Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy (Vietnam), the University of the Philippines, the University College London (UK) and the Queensland University of Technology (Australia).

The project has been 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.

For updates on this project, please visit www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch/EBLS

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. Most of the evidence on risk and protective factors in research literature comes from high-income countries. However, risk and protective factors may vary in different settings with distinct cultural norms, social organisation 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 São Paulo, Brazil.

This project 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. This three-year project is funded by a British Academy grant (the Newton Advanced Fellowship). It aims to estimate the prevalence of violence perpetration and victimisation among adolescents and to investigate the association between socio-demographic, individual, relational (family and peer), school and neighbourhood factors with violence perpetration and victimisation.

A cross-sectional, school-based survey was conducted in a sample of 9th-year students of state and private schools in São Paulo. The students are in the last year of the secondary mandatory school cycle. The sampling strategy followed the steps used in Montevideo and Zurich: a stratified cluster-randomised approach having the schools as primary sampling units and classes as secondary sampling units. Questionnaires were translated and adapted to Portuguese and pre-tested. Data collection ended in December 2017.

In July 2017 the first international workshop was held in São Paulo, involving education stakeholders from the public administration and private schools. Prof Manuel Eisner and Dr Nico Trajtenberg, from the Universidad de la Republica de Uruguay, were present with other Brazilian academics to discuss topics related to determinants and prevention of school violence. Local programs were presented and Municipal and State Educational board representatives from São Paulo shared with their experiences on Violence and Bullying prevention in schools. All the 119 schools sampled to participate were invited. As a result of the study, the researchers plan to develop a violence prevention intervention and a training module – both aiming to control and reduce violence levels in Brazil. *Updates at www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch/sp-proso/sp-proso-brazil*

Understanding Corrupt Exchanges in Ghana

Dr Justice Tankebe, PhD Candidate Sarah Adu-Poku and Prof Susanne Karstedt



Study

Corruption matters because of its 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 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 future elites as many will go on to 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, how future elites perceive corruption, and the factors that explain their willingness to support anti-corruption practices. This project aims to address this gap in our knowledge with an empirical focus on final-year university students in Ghana. The project is also meant as an exploratory study for a planned longitudinal study of the development of corrupt behaviour at the individual level.

Surveys were administered in a classroom setting 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
- 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.

A number of papers are expected from the data, including: moral economy and corruption intentions (Justice Tankebe, Susanne Karstedt and Sarah Adu-Poku); legitimacy, deterrence and support for anti-corruption practices (Justice Tankebe).

Legitimacy and Counter-terrorism Policing

PROTON network - Dr Justice Tankebe



Study

This project aims to understand views about the legitimacy of police counter-terrorism activities. In the UK, 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 three-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, 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.



Photo: West Midlands Police - Flickr

Key publications

Sowatey, A.E. & Tankebe, J. (2018). Doing research with police elites in Ghana. *Criminology and Criminal Justice*. 10.1177/1748895818787022.

Tankebe, J. (2018) In their own eyes: an empirical examination of police self-legitimacy, *International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice* (2018). DOI: 10.1080/01924036.2018.1487870

Ariel, B. & Tankebe, J. (2018) Ethnic Stratification and Multiple Outcomes in Police Stops and Searches. *Policing and Society* 28(5): 507–525

Bottoms, A.E. 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

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

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 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

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

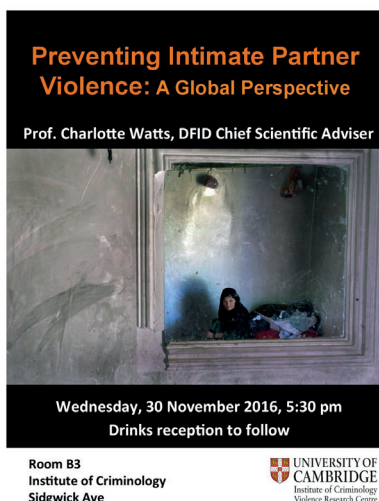
Rebecca Raffan Gowar

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

VRC Seminar Series



Intimate Partner Violence: A global perspective

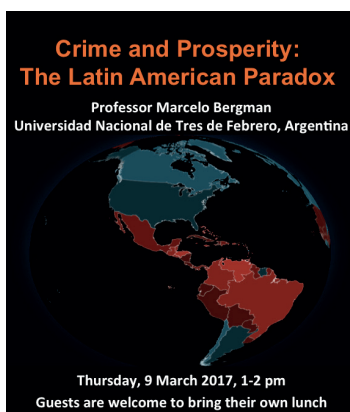
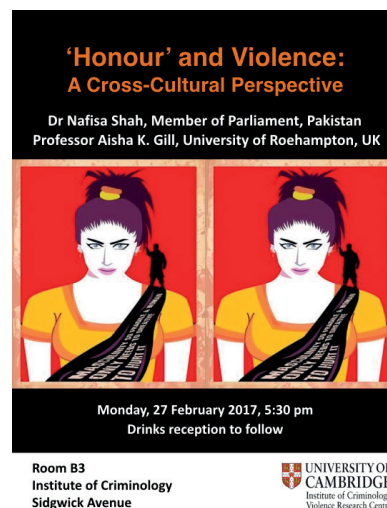
On 30 November 2016, Prof Charlotte Watts joined the VRC Director, Prof Manuel Eisner, in a discussion on strategies for the elimination of intimate partner violence, in light of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Professor Watts, Chief Scientific Adviser at the Department for International Development (UK Government), with 20 years of experience in international HIV and violence research, offered a global, multi-disciplinary perspective to this complex challenge.

Honour and Violence: A cross-cultural perspective

On 27 February 2017, the VRC hosted a discussion by Dr Nafisa Shah, an MP in Pakistan, and Professor Aisha K. Gill, Prof of Criminology at the University of Roehampton, UK, on honour-based violence in Pakistan and the UK. Over 11,000 cases of honour crimes were recorded by UK police in 2010-14, while 1100 women were killed by their families in the name of honour in Pakistan in 2015.

Dr Shah's work draws connections between state law and customary practice, which can help policy makers and activists to understand the power dynamics that allow honour killings to persist in Pakistan. Professor Gill discussed the theory, policy and practice of honour-based violence among South Asian communities in the UK, offering a cross-cultural comparative perspective to the complex global challenge of addressing violence against women.



Crime and prosperity: The Latin American paradox

On 9 March 2017, the VRC hosted a lunchtime session on the homonymous book by Prof Marcelo Bergman, a sociologist at the Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the founding director of the Center for the Study on Violence and Insecurity (CELIV).

Countries in Latin America have some of the highest homicide rates in the world. Approx. 33% of the world's homicides occur in Latin America and the Caribbean - home to 8% of the global population. The region presents a paradox with high levels of crime, while also experiencing an economic boom.



Photo: Sir Cam, University of Cambridge

Rebel Law: Insurgents, Courts and Justice in Modern Conflict

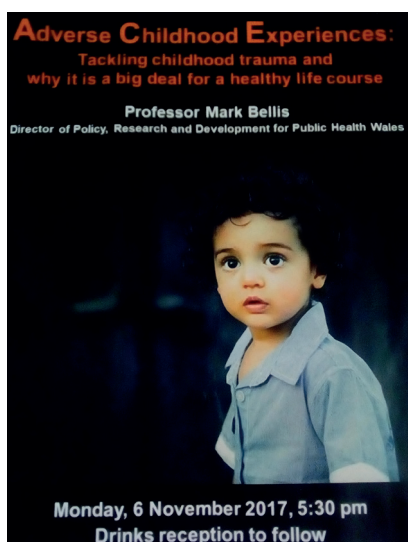
On 6 June 2017, the VRC presented a discussion delivered by Dr Frank Ledwidge, based on his homonymous publication. Dr Ledwidge served in Bosnia, Kosovo and Iraq as a military intelligence officer and in Afghanistan as a civilian justice advisor. He teaches at the Royal Air Force College and is also a former barrister.

Rebel Law examines how justice is used by insurgent groups, such as the IRA, the Taliban and ISIS. Insurgent courts bleed legitimacy from the government, decide cases and enforce judgments on the battlefield itself. Astute counterinsurgents in ‘ungoverned space’ can ensure that they retain the initiative. Dr Ledwidge also described French, Turkish and British colonial ‘judicial strategy’ and contrasted these experiences with the chaos of more recent ‘stabilisation operations’ in Iraq and Afghanistan, drawing lessons for contemporary counterinsurgents.

Crime, Policing and the Second World War

On 25 October 2017, the VRC invited Professor Clive Emsley and Dr Mark Roodhouse for a discussion on this theme. Under the title *Bobbies and Mafiosi: When ‘the best police in the world’ went to war*, Professor Emsley, a historian and criminologist, gave an account of British police officers serving in the Army but acting in police roles in Austria and Italy.

In *Britain’s Bootleggers: Black markets and organised crime in austerity Britain*, Dr Roodhouse, Senior Lecturer in Modern British History at the University of York, questioned histories that liken the effect the Second World War had on British crime to that of Prohibition in the USA. Did a wartime boom in gambling, prostitution and black marketeering lead to syndication on American lines as criminologists and true crime writers suggest?



Adverse Childhood Experiences

On 6 November 2017, the VRC hosted a lecture called *Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs): Tackling trauma and why it is a big deal for a healthy life course*, delivered by Professor Mark Bellis, Director of Policy, Research and International Development for Public Health Wales, UK Focal Point to the World Health Organization (WHO) for

Violence and Injury Prevention and alcohol lead for the UK Faculty of Public Health. ACEs are an increasing international concern. There is a growing body of evidence that our experiences during childhood can affect health throughout the life course. Individuals who experience stressful and poor-quality childhoods are more likely to adopt health-harming behaviours during adolescence, which can then lead to mental health illnesses and diseases such as cancer, heart disease and diabetes later in life. Experiencing ACEs means individuals are more likely to perform poorly in school, more likely to be involved in crime and less likely to be productive members of society.



The Paradise Papers

On 13 February 2018, the VRC organised a talk involving Luke Harding and Professor Jason Sharman entitled *The Paradise Papers: Tax havens and offshore financing*. Luke Harding is a *Guardian* foreign correspondent who has reported from Delhi, Berlin and Moscow and covered wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya. He published *Collusion: How Russia Helped Trump Win the White House* and co-authored *WikiLeaks: Inside Julian Assange's War on Secrecy*. He is part of the newspaper's team behind the Panama Papers and the Paradise Papers. Professor Jason Sharman is the Sir Patrick Sheehy Professor of International Relations in the Department of Politics and International Studies at the University of Cambridge. His research interests range from the study of

international corruption, money laundering and tax havens, to the global politics of the early modern world.

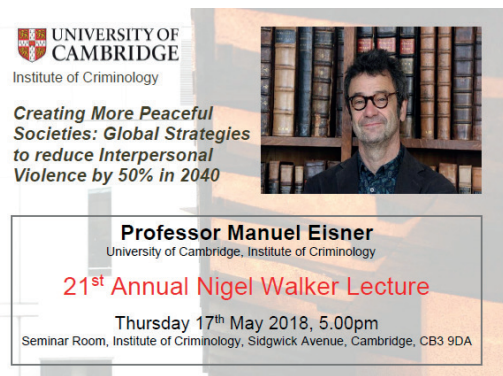
Institute event

Creating More Peaceful Societies: Global Strategies to Reduce Interpersonal Violence by 50% in 2040

On 17 May 2018, the Institute of Criminology invited our Director, Professor Manuel Eisner, to be the keynote speaker for this prestigious annual lecture. The 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) put violence reduction at the heart of global efforts to create sustainable societies. Goal 16 of these goals is devoted to the promotion of peaceful societies and the rule of law; target 16.2 sets the aim of ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against children.

The SDG agenda is a window of opportunity to make significant progress towards reducing all forms of interpersonal violence. However, it also poses challenges. Achieving population-level reductions across the world within less than two decades presents a task for policy and research at a scale for which no precedent exists.

Professor Eisner outlined the scientific knowledge needed to meet this challenge and argued the need to understand the mechanisms that drive population-wide declines such as the violence drop in many high-income countries over the past 20 years. Major violence declines across the world suggest that specific violence prevention programmes play a subordinate role in violence reduction. A more comprehensive approach should integrate knowledge about the effects of public health policies, for example in the field of the prevention and treatment of mental health.



A big THANK YOU from the VRC team!

We would like to thank all the researchers who provided information for this report, the Institute of Criminology and the University of Cambridge for their support and all our funders and sponsors, old and new. During the time covered by this report, the VRC team has grown in size to assist with the increase of research projects and stakeholder engagement. **Welcome** to Simone Castello (VRC Administrator/Webmaster) Laura Campo



(EBLS Research Coordinator) and Dr Carolyn Brechin (EBLS Data Manager). **Goodbye** to Dr Aja Murray - gone to Edinburgh University but not forgotten - she is now an affiliate member of the VRC and still contributing to the EBLs study. The new team held a leaving-do picnic in Grantchester in July 2018. Last, but not least, our warm congratulations to Sara Valdebenito, who joined the VRC as Research Associate in 2017 and was officially awarded her PhD at a ceremony

in Senate House (pictured with Prof Manuel Eisner, her supervisor).



Honours and Awards

- The European Society of Criminology awarded Prof Manuel Eisner the 2017 ESC European Criminology Award in recognition of his lifetime contribution to European criminology. The Awards Ceremony took place in Cardiff in September 2017.
- The Institute of Criminology announced that Prof Manuel Eisner is the new Wolfson Professor of Criminology, as of 1 October 2017.





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The Violence Research Centre, part of the Institute of Criminology,
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