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Criminology goes East



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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS *- final version -*

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BUCHAREST - ROMANIA

Assessment of Drug-Related Serious and Organised Crime in the Netherlands 2024. The aim of this report is to provide an overview regarding the scope and nature of drug-related organised crime in the Netherlands and the criminal networks and subjects involved. The study of young career makers in drug-related organised crime in the Netherlands is part of this research-project.

Cocaine Transiting at the Port of Gioia Tauro: A Case for Reemphasis on 'Ndrangheta Organized Crime of Calabria
Vincent Chris Figliomeni, F.F. Social Science Research Center

According to the Italian Minister of Interior (MOI) Annual Crime Report 2017, cocaine is one of the most preferred distributed illicit drugs. Analysis of its major seizures provides insights into the locations, quantities, and overall volume of its distribution. In 2017 alone, 1912.22 kg, which is equal to 80.98% of the overall maritime border seizures, were seized at the Southern Italian Port of Gioia Tauro (MOI Annual Report 2017:26). In May 2023, Italian authorities seized over 2.7 tons of highly pure cocaine at this same hub (ANSA 16 May 2023). According to the ORGANIZED CRIME AND CORRUPTION REPORTING PROJECT Report of 26 January 2017, “‘Ndrangheta made more money than Deutsche Bank and McDonald’s put together with a turnover of €53 billion (US\$ 70.41 billion) mostly from drug trafficking.” This enormous quantity of illicit wealth is tied to the container seaport of Gioia Tauro in Calabria, which is heavily influence by ‘Ndrangheta organized crime operatives. It serves as the main entry point for South-American cocaine in Italy. A cause for concern is a current initiative by the Italian government to invest 50 million Euro as part of its Special Economic Zone (Zona Economica Speciale - ZES) which includes the Port of Gioia Tauro as part of the overall plan (see Bartoloni 2018). This study is a call to action for using a multidisciplinary approach among policy makers and Law Enforcement Agencies’ subject matter experts, as well as those from the academic community to create a dedicated organized crime task force in order to focus on the Port of Gioia Tauro and the ‘Ndrangheta cocaine transiting problem set. Qualitative and quantitative data are presented and analyzed in order to draw conclusions and make recommendations in an effort to neutralize the impact of ‘Ndrangheta and its lucrative illicit drug trafficking activities.

156. Prison Working Group: Prison climate and quality of life

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Imprisonment, Prisons, Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment (Prisons WG)
Paper Session

5:30 to 6:45 pm

Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest: Floor Ground floor - Amphitheater 1 „Paul Negulescu”

Chair:

Nicholas Blagden, University of Derby

Participants:

With Dignity for All: Human Dignity as “Win-Win” in Correctional Settings *Arthur Rizer, Oxford University Centre for Criminology*

Correctional officers (“COs”) are unique in the way they have regular and one-on-one contact with those in prison, and those routine interactions with incarcerated individuals make correctional officers a critical element in shaping the culture behind bars. Unfortunately, prison workers by and large report profound dissatisfaction with their jobs. Prison work is often stigmatized and correctional officers are often overworked and underpaid. It is no surprise, then, that these conditions manifest in COs’ cynicism about the incarcerated. In many correctional settings, a negative feedback loop is created and persists: job-related stress and subpar working conditions lead to CO cynicism about the goals and purposes of incarceration, which helps to worsen conditions behind bars. This paper proposes that attention

to the human dignity of those behind bars is not opposed to or at odds with efforts to recognize the dignity, and improve the condition of, those who work in correctional institutions. Many corrections officers believe otherwise: They assert that efforts to improve prison conditions are bought at the expense of their pay, security, and prestige. They oppose rehabilitative-focused prison reforms as unnecessary, wasteful, dangerous, and above all without any benefit for them. But research suggests the opposite: Evidence suggests that correctional officers who endorsed more rehabilitative attitudes had lower levels of job stress, while those who endorsed more punitive attitudes had higher levels. And in the United States, the history of the implementation of the Prison Rape Elimination Act over the past two decades strongly supports the thesis that reforms focused on the human dignity of those behind bars has direct benefits for COs and other prison workers, as well. This suggests that a focus on human dignity and improved conditions in prisons is not an “either-or,” but a “both-and” situation.

Prison climate and work experience in the context of job differentiation *Elodie Schils, NICC - National Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology; Luc Robert, INCC - Institut National de Criminologie et de Criminologie; Eric Maes, INCC - Institut National de Criminologie et de Criminologie; Elien Goossens, National Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology*

The Law of 23 March 2019 provides for the introduction of a new surveillance method in Belgian prisons. This new working method is aimed primarily at prison staff responsible for surveillance. It defines a differentiation of tasks between security assistants and detention supervisors. Currently, this new working method is only being established in some prisons, before being extended more widely. Prior to the extension of this new working method, an evaluation of the practice is being carried out in four Belgian prisons (two applying the differentiation of tasks and two not yet applying it) through a study of the living climate of inmates and the working climate of prison staff. The aim of this study is to compare the experience of these two groups of prisons in order to determine: how living conditions in prison are perceived by inmates in prisons with and without job differentiation and to study how the working climate is perceived by staff in prisons with and without job differentiation. This presentation will focus on the results of the survey carried out among inmates concerning the prison/living climate within the four prisons. To achieve this purpose, a questionnaire has been developed based on the ‘Prison Climate Questionnaire’ (PCQ). The next stages of the project will also be presented. The research started in November 2023 and will run until mid-2025.

Staff-Prisoner Relationships and Quality of Life in Serbian Prisons: Preliminary Research Findings *Milena Milićević, Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research; Ljeposava Ilijić, Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research; Olivera Pavićević, Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research*

The study reports preliminary findings on the impact of the prison regime, staff-prisoner relationships, and individual quality of life on the well-being and development component of the quality of prison life (QPL) among Serbian convicts within the PrisonLIFE project (No. 7750249, Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia). The study involved 520 male convicts from Serbia’s four largest penitentiary facilities, mean age of 40 years (SD=10.17; range 20–73), with an average sentence length of 16 years 10 months (SD=8 years, range 1–40 years). Most participants were Serbian nationals (98%), single (54%), had a secondary school education (66%), denied drug use before imprisonment (51%), and had prior prison sentences (57%). The majority (56%) received sentences ranging from 3 to 10 years, with 74% being assigned to closed prison wards and 55% incarcerated in the same prison for over two years. Offences against property accounted for 35% of convictions,

followed by offences against human health (31%) and life and limb (20%). Data were collected using MQPL and WHOQOL-BREF surveys. Analysed via hierarchical multiple regression, findings reveal that staff-prisoner relationships ($\beta=.59$) as the most influential predictor, highlighting positive interactions, trust, and support. Environmental factors ($\beta=.21$), such as safety and recreation opportunities, psychological aspects like self-esteem ($\beta=.14$), and factors related to physical health ($\beta=.10$), including mobility and pain management, also significantly impact QPL. While the prison regime (closed/semi-open) showed significance, it was less influential compared to other factors ($\beta=.06$). Surprisingly, social relationships among prisoners showed no significant impact, suggesting their lesser role. Trusting, fair, and honest interactions between staff and prisoners, alongside supportive environments within the prison setting, are crucial for enhancing QPL. Interventions should target improving staff-prisoner relationships, ensuring physical safety, providing recreation and skill development opportunities and access to health and social care, and addressing inmates' physical and mental well-being.

The Quality of Prison Life in Serbia: Criminological and Penological Characteristics *Nikola Vujičić, Union University, Law School Belgrade, Serbia; Ivana Stevanović, Institute of Criminological and Sociological Research, Serbia; Sanja Čopić, University of Belgrade – Faculty for Special Education and Rehabilitation, Serbia*

The paper discusses findings of the empirical study on the quality of prison life (QPL) in Serbia. The study is part of a national three-year research project entitled PrisonLIFE, supported by the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia (No. 7750249), which aims to improve the understanding of the QPL of convicts in Serbia. The data was collected with the use of a Serbian version of the Measuring the Quality of Prison Life (MQPL) survey. The study was conducted from May 2022 to January 2023 on a sample of 650 convicts (559 male and 91 female) who served prison sentence in four Correctional Facilities for Men and one Correctional Facility for Women. The samples average age was 39.84 (SD = 10.27, range 20-74), with an average length of a prison sentence of 95.46 months (SD = 100.64, range 2-480 months). More than two thirds of respondents were recidivists, where about half of them have previous prison experience. 28.2% of the sample was imprisoned for drug-related offences, then for robbery 13.7% and aggravated homicide 11.2%. On a 5-point scale, respondents evaluated the dimensions of the quality of prison life as follows: Harmony Dimensions (M = 3.12; SD = 0.80, range 1.07-4.95); Professionalism Dimensions (M = 2.92; SD = 0.84, range 1.00-4.86); Security Dimensions (M = 3.31; SD = 0.70, range 1.27-5.00); Conditions and Family Contact Dimensions (M = 3.45; SD = 0.89, range 1.00-5.00) and Wellbeing and Development Dimensions (M = 3.45; SD = 0.76, range 1.11-5.00). The findings indicate that professionalism received the lowest ratings within the sample, averaging below the acceptable threshold of three. Data on the QPL will be analyzed in relation to certain criminological and penological characteristics of the sample. At the end, the authors will indicate the possible ways to improve the QPL in Serbia.

Prison Climate and Rehabilitation of Men with Sexual Convictions: The relationship between prisoner-staff relationships, readiness and compassion *Nicholas Blagden, University of Derby*

Prison-based treatment for men with sexual convictions is contested. Mews and colleagues (2017) found the rate of overall sexual reoffending was larger in treated men with sexual convictions. This is perhaps not surprising, especially for prison-based interventions, given that prison may not be the ideal place for rehabilitative work. This presentation will unpack a series of empirical studies that have explored rehabilitative prison climate and its impact on intervention. It explores the relationship between

prisoners and staff, treatment motivation and readiness and beliefs about change. A key finding is that rehabilitative climate mediated the relationship between prisoner-staff relationships and readiness for treatment. The implications for this and for the ideal conditions for prison-based interventions are discussed. The core argument in this presentation extends the recent focus of compassion-focused therapy in forensic interventions (see Hocken & Taylor, 2021; Kolts & Gilbert, 2018) and argues that a possible way forward for correctional practice more broadly is to adhere more closely to principles of compassion in order to promote more meaningful self-change (Blagden et al, in 2023).

157. Governing the Effects of Climate Change: Local policing adaptations, impacts and implications

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

5:30 to 6:45 pm

Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest: Floor Ground floor - Amphitheater 2 „Nicolae Titulescu”

It is now widely accepted that the climate crises presented by the Anthropocene may well be among the biggest, and perhaps the biggest, threat humankind has ever faced. Both the direct and indirect impacts of these climatic events are having far-reaching and profound effects that are changing everyday lives across the globe – with effects varying considerably across spacio-temporal contexts. These new ‘harmscapes’ have also had a direct impact on localised policing and security responses and criminological scholarship has already begun to recognise the increasing role of police, local communities and the private sector acting as first responders to climate disasters and climate-related harms. Yet there is still much to be learnt as to the ways in which everyday policing and localised responses to climate-related harms is taking place with respect to new adaptations, the impacts on current practices, and the implications for the development of new roles, mentalities and partnerships. This panel considers the evolving nature of state and non-state policing responses to climate change impacts through a discussion on practices occurring in diverse geographic contexts, thereby engaging with northern and southern perspectives on the issue, as well as reflecting on the specific roles of public, private and community entities, whilst also acknowledging the increasing plurality of localised responses to climate harmscapes.

Chair:

Ali Malik, University of Leeds

Participants:

Private security governance responses to climate-related harmscapes *Julie Berg, University of Glasgow; Clifford Shearing, University of Cape Town*

This paper reflects on the proliferation of novel forms of private security governance assemblages, specifically the roles of private auspices and providers in responding to contemporary climate-related socio-material ‘harmscapes’. The authors use the lens of climatic harms and associated discursive shifts in understandings of the relationship between humans and ‘nature’ to draw attention to: climate gating adaptations; assemblages of powers and capacities being mobilised in response to emerging harmscapes; the logics and technologies underpinning these developments’ the roles of established security agents and novel security professionals; and, the use of resilience as a conceptual framing.

90 Seconds to Midnight - Capacity Building Processes for Environmental Law Enforcement during Permacrisis *Anna Matczak, The Hague University of Applied Science*

Despite the growing recognition of environmental crimes as a pressing policing matter, the enforcement of existing environmental laws, amplified by emerging climate-related legislation, will require significant changes in the structure, prioritisation, resource allocation, and operational processes of police services. The EU landscape in this regard has been for example shaped by the introduction of the European Green Deal,