



15^o Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology "Criminology as unitas multiplex: theoretical, epistemological and methodological developments"

The 15th Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology took place in Porto, Portugal, from 2 to 5 September 2015 and it was hosted by the European Society of Criminology and School of Criminology, Faculty of Law of the University of Porto. (<http://www.eurocrim2015.com/>)

The conference entitled "**Criminology as unitas multiplex: theoretical, epistemological and methodological developments**" attracted more than 1400 renowned and young criminologists (experts in different scientific areas) and offered an excellent opportunity for networking and building collaborations.

In the last three decades, the criminological field has revealed clear signs of increasing crosstalk between elements that had remained separated for a long time. So, the questions that formed the nuclear core of this conference was whether the multiplicity of different scientific areas (behavioral/social/biological sciences, theoretical/empirical research, quantitative/qualitative research, experimental/clinical methods, scientific knowledge/social action), will be an insurmountable obstacle to the unity or might it otherwise be the condition for a complex unity (*unitas multiplex*) which makes Criminology a singular science? And finally, how do these theoretical, epistemological, and methodological developments converge towards the enlightenment of contemporary criminological problems?

Specifically, the content of the speeches was structured into four thematic sections:

- i. Criminology as unitas multiplex
- ii. Communicational bridges between biological and social sciences: The relevance of biosocial approaches in contemporary criminology
- iii. Social Experimentation and Drug Policies
- iv. Empirical and theoretical research integration in security issues.

The main speakers of the conference (plenary sessions) were: Cândido da Agra, full professor of Criminology at the Faculty of Law, University of Porto, (*Can Criminology become an unitas multiplex? Philosophical, methodological and pragmatic issues*), Richard Tremblay, professor at the School of Public Health, University College Dublin (Ireland) and Emeritus

professor of Pediatrics and Psychology at the University of Montreal (Canada), (*Developmental origins of chronic physical violence: Why environment and genes matter*), John Paul Wright, professor of criminal justice at the School of Criminal Justice at the University of Cincinnati (USA) (*The Humanity of Biosocial Criminology: Building a Relevant Science for Positive Change*), Jorge Quintas, assistant professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Porto, (*Portuguese decriminalization of drug use and law enforcement: Impact and perceptions of its effectiveness*), Sveinung Sandberg, professor of Criminology at the University of Oslo, (*What is the impact of drug policy? Insights from narrative criminology*), Katja Franko, professor of Criminology at the University of Oslo (*Criminology and the nation state: globalization, migration and sovereignty*) and finally Hans-Jörg Albrecht, professor Dr. h.c. and Director at the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law in Freiburg (Germany), (*Security and Pre-Crime Criminology – New Perspectives?*). Also, several presentations were presented at numerous workshops, covering a wide range of criminology issues.

Regarding the annual Awards of the European Society of Criminology, the European Criminology Award was awarded to Sonja Snacken, professor of Criminology, Penology and Sociology of Law at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium), for her valuable contribution in European Criminology while ESC Young Criminologist Award was awarded to Dr. Daniel Seddig, research Assistant at the Institute of Sociology of the University of Zurich.

A significant number of Greek speakers from Universities of Greece and foreign universities participated in the conference. Specifically, **Mrs. Christina Zarafonitou**, professor of Criminology and Director of the Programme of Postgraduate Studies in Criminology (M.A.) at the Panteion University of Athens, presented a research entitled "*Punitive attitudes among the university students and feelings of insecurity*" which edited also by **Dr. Anastasia Chalkia**.

From the Panteion University were also participated, **Mrs. Effi Lambropoulou**, professor of Criminology (*Women behind bars in Greece*), **Mrs. Vicky Vlachou** assistant professor of Criminology (*Contemporary criminal phenomenon in the light of historical development of criminological theories*). In addition **Mrs. Vasiliki Artinopoulou**, professor of Criminology and **A.Kalogeraki, M.E. Doufexi-Kaplani, S. Verda and A.Koufouli**, were participated with a presentation entitled "*Domestic violence: a non-ending phenomenon*". Also **Mrs. Vasiliki Artinopoulou** and **I. Georgiadi, C. Ioannou, A. Koufouli** gave a presentation titled "*Sexual victimization in Greece: police underreporting and the victim offender relationship*" and presented a poster titled "*Hate violence and youth victimization: the issue of under reporting in Greece*" in association with **M.E. Chalkia, D.V. Kalampali, A. Koufouli, P. Kokoliou**. Finally **Ms. Eleni Kontopoulou**, Dr. of Criminology at the Panteion University was participated in the conference giving a keynote address on "*The official labeling of juveniles and the effect of such a labeling on secondary deviance*".

At last, **Mrs. Maria Anagnostaki**, PhD candidate at the University of Athens, Faculty of Law, participated in the conference with the presentations "*The Greek Probation Service. Findings of a survey*" and "*Legitimacy, Fairness and Justice in the Breach Process: Comparative Perspectives?*".

The next conference of the European Society of Criminology (ESC) will take place in Münster, Germany from 21 to 24 September 2016.