




Welcome to the New Academic Year
2020/2021

Over the summer I've led a project reviewing the **constitutional powers of the Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales**. The report that I produced with Prof Maurice Sunkin from the Essex School of Law, and Dr Ruth Lamont from the Manchester Law School, will be used by Dame Vera Baird, the current commissioner, to inform her case for introducing a new Victims' Law to enhance accountability in the criminal justice system and, we hope, better enforce victims' rights under the current Victims' Code.

I've also led an Essex team conducting the **initial evaluation for a Public Health England** (*at least before it was abolished mid-project!*) funded initiative to establish a national community of practice to reduce recurrent family justice care proceedings, involving 40 local services around the UK. Linked to that work, I've co-edited (with colleagues from the Essex School of Health and Social Care) a special issue of the journal *Societies* on innovations in family justice which should be published in a few weeks.

On the historical front, I'm **co-authoring a book**, *Victims: A Critical History* for Oxford University Press as one of the outputs of my ESRC Victims' Access to Justice grant - the grant that, along the way, first led me to work with the Victims' Commissioner a couple of years ago. I was very pleased to escape to Ibiza for a couple of weeks in June - a welcome break from the view from my living room window. **Believe it or not**, I've enjoyed my first two months as HoD. It's been nothing if not memorable.



Welcome to our new
Head of Department
Prof Pamela Cox



Dr Tara Mahfoud joined the Department of Sociology at the University of Essex as a Lecturer in July 2020. Before that, she was as a Research Associate in the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at King's College London where she worked with Nikolas Rose in the Ethics and Society division of the Human Brain Project – a 10 year project funded by the European Commission to build a digital research infrastructure for neuroscience, medicine, and computing. In 2019, she was also a Visiting Research Fellow in the Science, Technology and Society programme at Harvard University. Trained in sociology and anthropology, her work explores the intersections between science, technology and medicine. She conducts multi-sited qualitative research on the cultural, social, and political contexts and implications of developments in the neurosciences, primarily in Europe. She will be teaching on The Sociological Imagination and Researching Social Life during the 2020-2021 academic year.



From Prof Linsey McGoey

In June, I was an invited speaker at the online **Virtual Progress summit**, an Australian conference sharing new ideas in political economy and social and environmental justice with 2000 attendees. In July, I appeared on **BBC's Thinking Allowed** with Laurie Taylor for a discussion about my new book, **The Unknowers: How Strategic Ignorance Rules the World (Zed)**. In September, the website The Philosopher's Salon, part of the LA Review of Books, published a short debate between myself and Slavoj Žižek on 'The Philosopher's Ignorance.' → <http://thephilosophicalsalon.com/the-philosophers-ignorance-with-a-response-by-slavoj-zizek/>

Recent publication: McGoey, L. 2020. 'Micro-Ignorance and Macro-Ignorance in the Social Sciences' **Social Research: An International Quarterly** 87(1): 197-217
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000ktyc>

Dr Valentin Danchev joined the Department of Sociology in July 2020, and since then has enjoyed the opportunity of writing about himself in third person. He completed his DPhil at the University of Oxford and held postdoctoral positions at Stanford University and the University of Chicago, but is yet to figure out how to avoid namedropping. Somehow by accident, Valentin's background is interdisciplinary, giving him a license to study any fun problem he (or funders, really) is currently interested in. If you would like to chat about data, networks, Python, R, reproducibility, bias and fairness, or any other cool data science stuff, do get in touch with Valentin. Rather conveniently for this bulletin, Valentin's co-authored manuscript on randomised clinical trials treating Covid-19 (on what else one could publish these days?) was just published in the beginning of October—a good way to start the academic year. Not all of Valentin's work in submission has been that successful—in fact, he recently received a request to provide suggestions for reviewers regarding a manuscript on research data sharing he submitted some months ago. Like a proper academic, he is trying not to take it as a bad sign and is still hopeful.



From Prof Nigel South

Over the summer I read through a mass of applications for the Philip Leverhulme Prizes as a member of the Sociology and Social Policy judging panel. All were incredibly impressive. I am also still involved with the UNODC Panel on Wildlife and Environmental Crime Education, with wildlife markets and trafficking rising up the global crime and public health agendas due to greater awareness about virus transmission routes. The pandemic also meant re-focusing our Global Challenges Research Fund project to look at 'Health Justice: Covid impacts on Colombian Indigenous communities'. Current PhD student, Sarkar Faroque and I have a paper on 'Challenges, responses and collaborations concerning environmental crimes and harms in Bangladesh' accepted in a special issue of the *International Journal of Comparative Criminology and Offender Therapy* edited by former PhD student Bill McClanahan, now Assistant Professor at Eastern Kentucky University. I guarantee the proper peer review procedure was followed!

From Dr Carlos Solar

Carlos' article titled 'Trust in the armed forces in post-authoritarian societies', has been accepted for publication at *Current Sociology*.

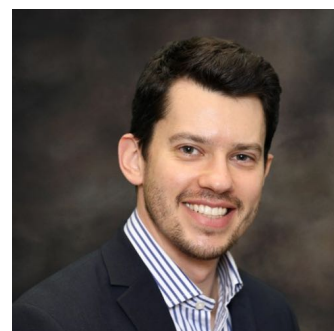
A second article titled, 'Cybersecurity and cyber defence in the emerging democracies' is forthcoming at *Journal of Cyber Policy*.

A third article titled, 'Introducing change in public service organisations under austerity: The complex case of the governance of the defence in the UK', was published in *Politics & Policy*, 2020, 48(4), 700-726, open access at <https://doi.org/10.1111/polp.12368>

Carlos co-authored a report titled *Chilean Military Culture* with retired army general Javier Urbina and Alex Crowther at Florida International University for the U.S. Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) academic partnership available at <http://repository.essex.ac.uk/28772/>

Two of his current projects include a coedited volume with Carlos Perez Ricart at CIDE-Mexico entitled *Crime, Violence and Policy: Themes and Trends in Latin America*, and a sole edited book titled *Governing the Military in Chile*. Fingers crossed they come back from peer-review with success!

An article co-authored with Markus Hochmüller at Oxford University titled 'Men of honour or traitors of *la patria*: Corruption in the armed forces in Latin America', was on its way to submission as this bulletin went to print.



Dr Carlos Solar (PhD York) joins the Department and the Centre for Criminology as Lecturer arriving Oxford University where he was a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow at the Latin American Centre. Previously, he was a research fellow and associate lecturer at York where he led research on mental health and policing. His broad research interests are democratic governance, policing, and military studies. He is the author of *Government and Governance of Security* (Routledge, 2018) and is writing-up his second monograph entitled *Cybersecurity Governance: States and Digital Space in Latin America*. His peer-review articles have been published in *Global Crime*, *British Politics*, *Policy Studies*, and *Contemporary Politics*, among other outlets. In the 2020-21 academic year he will be contributing to Introduction to Crime, Law and Society; Policing, Punishment and Society; Global Security Challenges; and, Organised Crime: Global and Local.

From Dr Anna Sergi

I have spent my summer writing **my next book** between the sea and the mountains of Calabria, Southern Italy, The book is currently finished in its first draft!

I wrote a report as an **Expert Witness** for the South Australia Director of Prosecutions Office, for an Australian trial starting in October.

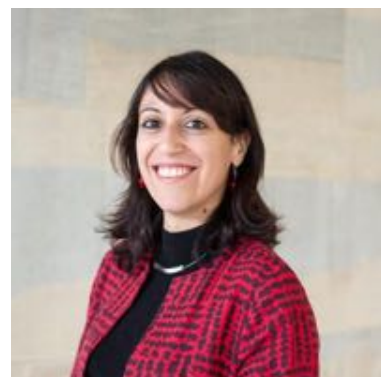
I gave training for **Interpol** - I-CAN Project (Interpol Cooperation Against the 'Ndrangheta) on the 29th of July 2020 on the Calabrian mafia around the world. And I have joined the **Global Initiative** Network Against Organized Crime as an expert.

I have signed a contract for a new book in the "Research Briefs" series of Bristol University Press co-authored with Dr Luca Storti (University of Turin), Alexandria Reid (RUSI, London), Prof Marleen Easton (Ghent University) provisionally titled "**Port, Crime and Security**". With Luca Storti I also published an **article** in the International Journal of Law, Crime and Justice in August, titled "**Survive or perish: Organised crime in the port of Montreal and the port of New York/New Jersey**"

I have been invited to be a Keynote Speaker for the **Bundeskriminalamt** (BKA, German Federal Police) annual conference on organized crime, talking about Clan-based criminality and 'ndrangheta dynasties on 5-6th October 2020.

ALSO....I have commented various **news**, for example for the Toronto Star on the recent mafia murders in Hamilton, Ontario; I have been interviewed by **The Financial Times** on the interests of the 'ndrangheta in healthcare bonds in the UK (<https://www.ft.com/content/8850581c-176e-4c5c-8b38-debb26b35c14>)

I have written, together with Colonel Claudio Petrozziello (Italian Guardia di Finanza) an article for the magazine 'The Fence' about the '**ndrangheta in the UK** (or lack of it...) - <https://www.the-fence.com/issues/issue-4/on-the-trail-of-the-ndragheta>



From Alexandra Neag



Following my participation in the Cross-border Crime Colloquium in 2019, I have published a chapter in the book 'Criminal defiance in Europe and beyond: From organised crime to crime-terror nexus' (ed.). My chapter traces the process of organised crime policy transference and the way it has shaped legislation in Romania. In the same book, there is also a chapter by Dr Anna Sergi on her research agenda on ports and organised crime. Great Supervisor-Supervisee team presence!

From Dr Isabel Crowhurst



Thaddeus Blanchette (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro) and I have been awarded an **Academy of Medical Sciences Global Challenges Research Fund Networking Grant** entitled “*Challenging urban sex workers’ multiple exclusions in Brazil: a network to share knowledge, confront stigma, and promote community-led responses*”

I was awarded a small **ESRC Impact Acceleration Account grant** to organize an event and start work on a project entitled ‘Sex Work & Financial Exclusion’ with colleagues at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

I have a new **co-authored book** coming out in November entitled *The Tenacity of the Couple-Norm. Intimate Citizenship Regimes in a Changing Europe*, coauthored by Sasha Roseneil, Isabel Crowhurst, Tone Hellesund, Ana Cristina Santos, and Mariya Stoilova, UCL Press, Open Access available from November 5th on <https://www.uclpress.co.uk/products/166273>

From Prof Nick Allum

New **article** in PLoS ONE with **former undergraduate student Chris Jacobi** and our own **Dr Darren Thiel**. The paper is based on Chris’s undergraduate dissertation project, which itself emerged from a work placement Chris did with Essex County Council. → Jacobi CJ, Thiel D, Allum N (2020) Enabling and constraining successful reablement: Individual and neighbourhood factors. PLoS ONE 15(9): e0237432. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0237432>



I have an article coming out in Nature on 12th October that provides a good summary of what we are doing in my EU project on research integrity (www.sops4ri.eu) so watch out for that! Abigail Reid has joined the department working on this project as Senior Research Officer. Abi was previously a Masters student in the department.

I also have a new MUSIC album just released! An example review : <https://nickbob.com/2020/09/16/the-apartments-in-and-out-of-the-light-review/> and the streaming channels e.g. https://open.spotify.com/album/6YHsRDMQRHQNER20RIbNyy?si=uWjADEW3RRClmXV_Tc-mRw

From Prof Pete Fussey

One paper published: Sandhu, A., and Fussey, P. (2020) 'The "uberization of policing"? How police negotiate and operationalise predictive policing technology', *Policing and Society*,

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10439463.2020.1803315>

Two further papers accepted for publication: Fussey, P., Davies, B., and Innes, M. (2020 in press) "Assisted" Facial Recognition and the Reinvention of Suspicion and Discretion in Digital Policing', *British Journal of Criminology* AND Fussey, P., and Sandhu, A. (2020 in press) 'Surveillance Arbitration in the Era of Digital Policing', *Theoretical Criminology* in press

Pete was also invited to provide a **chapter** to AI NOW's (NYU) global review of the social and rights implications of biometrics technology: Fussey, P., and Murray, D. (2020) 'Policing Uses of Facial Recognition in the UK', in A. Kak (ed.) *Regulating Biometrics: Global Approaches and Urgent Questions*, AI NOW: AI NOW/New York University

Pete was invited to join an *amicus curiae* submission to the Court of Appeal for the Liberty-led case challenging the legality of police uses of automated facial recognition technology. The August court ruling reflected many of these arguments, stating that the legal basis for this technology was insufficient to protect from arbitrary rights interferences, and a change in the law now seems likely.

He contributed to evidence review for Government Office for Science & ESRC working group on research-led post-pandemic resilience, led by Sir Patrick Vallance, UK Chief Scientific Advisor.

MORE FROM PETE AND HIS MEDIA PRESENCE

Commented in Financial Times, "Revamped NHS tracing app gets off to promising start", 24 Sept, <https://www.ft.com/content/c0c42341-4dda-4c89-9a28-8d14d129c8b2>

Commented on, The New Statesman, "The Met Police didn't check if facial recognition tech was racist before trialling it", 2nd September, <https://tech.newstatesman.com/public-sector/the-met-police-didnt-check-if-facial-recognition-tech-was-racist-before-trialling-it>

Commented in the New Statesman, "What facial recognition technology means", 9th September, <https://www.newstatesman.com/science-tech/security/2020/09/what-facial-recognition-technology-means>



From Dr Anna Di Ronco

During the summer, **James Allen-Robertson** and I published our **research** on the representations of environmental protest on the ground and in the cloud, which was funded by the BA/Leverhulme Trust. This article advances knowledge on environmental activist technosocial practice by studying the realities and representations of on-the-ground environmental resistance and their intersections with visual representations of protest on Twitter.



My article on local-level prostitution policies and practices and their effects on sex workers also got published this summer. This study – which was funded by the Sociological Review Foundation Kick Start Grant – critically analysed the exclusionary effects that policies and practices in the cities of Catania and Antwerp have had on sex workers, and especially on the migrant women among them.

Earlier in September, I attended the **online** edition of the **European Society of Criminology Conference**, presenting a paper on ‘Technosocial green resistance: the uses of digital communication technology in activist practice’.

Currently, I **am co-editing a book** titled ‘Harm and Disorder in the Urban Space: Social Control, Sense and Sensibility’, which will be published by Routledge early in 2021. The book addresses important criminological issues lying at intersection between urban space, incivilities and harm. It includes one chapter by **Nigel South** and colleagues, and two chapters by me. I look very much forward to presenting this book at the first departmental seminar!

Centre for Criminology - Series of Seminar for Autumn 2020 (keep an eye for our emails!)

October 22 – Alex Vitale, Brooklyn College: “The end of policing”. 4-6pm on Zoom.

November 12 – Alexandra Cox (Essex), Ben Crewe & Susie Hulley (Uni of Cambridge), Serena Wright (Royal Holloway), Paula Harriott & Zahid Bashir (Prison Reform Trust): “Life imprisonment from young adulthood”. 4-6pm on Zoom.

December 3 – John Preston & Firth Rhiannon (University of Essex): “Coronavirus, Class, and Mutual Aid in the United Kingdom”. 4-6pm on Zoom.

From Prof Colin Samson

With current PhD student Nawel Hamidi and former PhD student Pierrot Ross Tremblay (now Canada Research Chair at the University of Ottawa) I co-authored a **blog piece** about the dishonesty of Canada's Aboriginal land claims policies, specifically its hidden use of extinguishment in the new Wet'suwet'en agreement. It is in **The Rabble** [here](#) - This has led to interest from the Meiyoo Keyoh of British Columbia in working with the three of us.

I composed a **blog/short commentary** for the Human Rights Centre about my book [The Colonialism of Human Rights](#) that has just been published this month. It is [here](#):

I presented a **paper** and participated in 'Global Leadership Crisis, Rising Inequalities, and Culture Wars: Contestations of the Liberal Script in North America' Online Conference at the University of Wyoming and the Freie Universität Berlin, Germany, and Laramie WY, Sept. 14-16, 2020. The title of my paper is 'Standing Rock, Liberalism and the Violable Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples' and is based on my participation in the DAPL conflict at Standing Rock in 2016 and my writings about the history of Sioux dispossession. The programme is [here](#):



From Chris Cunningham

Prof Colin Samson and I wrote short opinion piece in the **Times Higher Education supplement at the end of July**. The link is [here](#): This piece was in response to announcements made by government ministers at the beginning of July which advocated a redirecting away from universities for 'disadvantaged' students, towards more skills-based further education and apprenticeships. The article draws upon findings from my PhD research, which analyses the relationship between higher education and the concept of social mobility, along with Colin's experiences as a long-standing cross-national scholar with expert insight to changes occurring within universities that have been spurred on by neoliberal policy making, and which have subsequently helped to create a marketised higher education 'sector'.

From Dr Sandya Hewamanne

I received the **Independent Social Research Foundation (ISRF) political economy fellowship** for the year 2020/21. I will be working on The twitter announcement is attached. *'Rethinking 'grassroots' economic justice: Measured intervention, feminist political economy and global assembly lines.'*

My third **book** *'Restitching Identities in Rural Sri Lanka: Gender, Neoliberalism and the Politics of Contentment,'* was published by the University of Pennsylvania Press in September 2020. (book page link:

<https://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/book/16132.html>

I have re-purposed my **GCRF-British Academy research grant** to conduct research impact activities in Sri Lanka. I have held two research methods training workshops and one workshop on occupational health (my participation via zoom) in June and July 2020. The remainder of the research funds will be spent on two workshops on occupational health within the Katunayake Free Trade Zone in early December 2020.



CRESI (Centre of Research for Economic Sociology and Innovation) – Series of Seminars for Autumn 2020 (keep an eye for our emails!)

Thursday, October 29th. 4.00 to 5.30. CRESI Seminar. Professor Grégoire Mallard, Graduate Institute, Geneva. 'Gift Exchange: The Transnational History of a Political Idea.' Zoom.

Thursday, November 19th, 4.00 to 5.30. Dr. Sandya Hewamanne, University of Essex. Joint CRESI-ESARN seminar. 'Restitching Identities in Rural Sri Lanka: Gender, Neoliberalism, and the Politics of Contentment.' A book discussion on Dr. Hewamanne's latest book, from Penn University Press. Zoom.