



24th Annual Conference  
of the European Society of Criminology  
11-14 September 2024, Bucharest

**Criminology goes East**



**EUROCRIM2024**

**BOOK OF ABSTRACTS V1**

**11.09.2024**

**- to be updated -**

**BUCHAREST - ROMANIA**

**001. Pre-conference meetings - See in the abstract all the details**

ESC

Pre-Conference Meeting

8:00 to 4:30 pm

*Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest: Front Courtyard*

ISRD Steering Committee WG Meeting 09:00-12:30 Room 1.05 ISRD WG Meeting 13:30-16:00 Room 1.05 WG Meeting Working Group on Radicalization, Extremism, and Terrorism 14:00-16:00 Room 1.09 Organized Crime and Criminal Networks WG Meeting 12:00-16:00 Room 0.11 Working Group on Restorative Justice Meeting 15:30-16:30 Room 1.13 Meeting of the European Network for Open Criminology 15:00-16:30 Room 2.10 ESC Victimology WG Meeting 15:00-16:30 Room 2.20 Community Sanctions WG Meeting 15:30-16:30 Room 0.22 Policing WG Meeting 09:00-16:00 Room 1.17 Pre-ESC seminar - Environmental crime, crisis and conflict (registration needed: <https://www.eur.nl/en/events/environmental-crime-crisis-conflict-2024-09-11>) 09:00-16:30 Room 1.30

**002. Opening plenary & Awards**

ESC

Plenary Session

5:00 to 7:00 pm

*Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest: Aula Magna*

Chair:

**Klaus Boers**, University of Muenster

Discussants:

**Răzvan Dincă**, The Dean of Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest

**Marian Preda**, The Rector of University of Bucharest

Participants:

 Evolution and state of the European Criminology: a study with topic modelling *Josep Tamarit, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya*

 Criminology goes East. How and what we research in Romania *Andra Roxana Trandafir, University of Bucharest*
**003. Opening Concert**

ESC

Social Events

7:00 to 8:00 pm

*Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest: Aula Magna*

The opening concert performed by Traffic Strings will take place on September 11, in the Aula Magna, after the Opening Plenary. On this occasion, we will enjoy together the good music from all the meridians of the globe, just like the participants of this conference. About Traffic Strings TRAFFIC STRINGS project was initiated by the musician Lucian Moraru and has in its composition some of the most talented instrumentalists of the moment in Romania. TRAFFIC STRINGS practices music that does not belong to any musical style or period. Hence the name of the ensemble, which suggests the constant leaps that they make through the musical genres. Classical, tango, jazz, folk, pop, they go through the filter of their instruments everything that inspires and considers them valuable. The musicians who are part of TRAFFIC STRINGS play with sensitivity and virtuosity. They approach each musical genre with exquisite feeling. Their orchestrations are innovative yet true to the original compositions. The manner in which TRAFFIC STRINGS perform is both profound and authentic. TRAFFIC STRINGS appeal to each and every music lover. Whether you enjoy listening to the rich heritage of Romanian folklore or to Bach and Vivaldi or to a cocktail of sound and rhythm in their tango, jazz, or instrumental pop/rock concerts, TRAFFIC STRINGS are sure to enthrall you. Their concerts are bound to fill you with energy. Once you have taken a pill of TRAFFIC STRINGS, your life will be much more beautiful. <https://www.eurocrim2024.com/concert>

**004. Welcome Reception & Cocktail - moved inside, Groundfloor**

ESC

Social Events

8:00 to 9:00 pm

*Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest: Front Courtyard*
**005. Changes in Prison Officers' Professional Roles within the Shifting Lithuanian Custodial Sentencing Policy and Practice**

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

Pre-arranged Panelzzzz

8:00 to 9:15 am

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

The session is based on a research project founded by the Lithuanian Research Council that ran from 2023 to 2025. Using qualitative data methods (semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions), this study analyses and elaborates on the transitions of prison officers' roles and duties under changing conditions in Lithuanian prison settings. The study acknowledges that officers' activities and the environment in which they pursue their professional goals necessarily generate contradictions and internal conflicts. Prison officers are forced to continually balance and reconcile their use of authority and control with the goals of assisting and resocialising offenders (Bruhn et al. 2010; Liebling 2011). Contemporary correctional systems place a major emphasis on social work and care-based correctional work. Nevertheless, this orientation fails to guarantee the possibility of reconciling the officers' divergent and contradictory responsibilities with the accompanying duties. Constant efforts to reform the Lithuanian prison system, and the inherited Soviet-era methods of sentence execution, which is marked by a significant degree of supervision, control, and punishment (Sakalauskas et al. 2020), exacerbate the difficulty of carrying out the professional role, and responsibilities of prison officers. The goal of the presentations in this session is to explain the obstacles that Lithuanian prison officers face while striving to carry out their professional roles, as well as to examine how these roles have evolved in light of recent reforms.

Chair:

**Arturas Tereskinas**, Law Institute of the Lithuanian Centre for Social Research

Participants:

 Prison Officers' Roles and the Negotiation of Prison Order: Transitioning from Carceral Collectivism to Care-based Correctional Work *Ruta Vaiciuniene, Law Institute of the Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences*

The prison order in Eastern European countries with specific features of post-Soviet penalty undergoes shifts that have an impact on prison daily life, but most notably on prison officers' perceptions of their professional roles and prison power. The prison systems of the majority of post-Soviet states continue to exhibit characteristics of carceral collectivism, such as understaffing issues where officers transfer a control and power to prisoners and a deeply institutionalized underworld of prisoner society (Piacentini and Slade, 2015; Slade and Azbel, 2022; Symkovich, 2018 and 2023; Vaičiūnienė and Tereškinas 2017; Vaičiūnienė et al. 2023). In recent decades, substantial reforms have been enacted in the legal framework, administration, and modernization of prisons. These changes have necessitated a re-evaluation of prison operations, the roles and responsibilities of prison officers, the reorganization of prison rules and daily life. The purpose of this presentation is to show how prison order is renegotiated and reconfigured in the context of evolving policy and practices. By conducting interviews with correctional officers who have daily contact with inmates, this study demonstrates how recent changes have affected perceptions of the duties and responsibilities of prison officers, as well as the social climate and power dynamics within correctional facilities.

 Professional Roles of Lithuanian Probation and Prison Officers in the Context of Shifting Correctional Policy and Practice *Simonas Nikartas, Law Institute of the Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences*

This paper examines the professional roles and role conflicts experienced by probation and prison officers in Lithuania. Research literature demonstrates that correctional officers are consistently tasked with balancing and reconciling their exercise of power, control, and supervision to assist and rehabilitate offenders (Bruhn et al., 2010; Liebling, 2011). The balancing of contrasting rehabilitative and controlling roles presents a challenge for Lithuanian probation and prison officers due to ongoing reforms,

necessitating their adaptation to evolving objectives, ideologies, and regulations in their daily duties. Drawing on data from two qualitative studies conducted in 2018 and 2024, this paper compares the experiences of roles and role conflicts of probation and prison officers in adapting to reforms and reorganisations in their interactions with clients and management.

**The Nature and Quality of Staff-inmate Relationship in Lithuanian Prisons: Correctional Officers' Perspective** *Liubovė Jarutienė, Vilnius university*

A professional and positive staff-inmates relationship during prison sentence is suggested to be one of the key elements of the quality of prison life (Lieblieng & Arnold, 2004). The introduction of dynamic security methods in Lithuanian prisons also presumes the necessity to shift daily officers' practices from control and supervision to building professional rapport and responding to inmates' daily needs. However, recent studies revealed a low level of trust in correctional staff among inmates (Sakalauskas et al., 2019) and the lack of proper training about dynamic security practices in Lithuanian prisons (Uscila, 2020). This study aims to reveal correctional officers' perspective on the quality and nature of staff-inmates relationship in Lithuanian prisons. The insights provided by the correctional officers during semi-structured qualitative interviews draw attention to the practical challenges of adopting dynamic security methods and defining correctional officer's professional role in Lithuanian penal service system.

**The Emotional Labor of Prison Officers: A Lithuanian Perspective** *Arturas Tereskinas, Law Institute of the Lithuanian Centre for Social Research*

The prison is a specific emotional field that influences the identities of prisoners and officers and creates specific emotional geographies. Impression management, central to subcultures of prisoners and prison staff, further highlights the primacy of emotions in prisons. The language of emotions serves as a crucial means of conveying what it is like to live and work in a prison. Based on twenty-five semi-structured interviews with officers of different Lithuanian prisons, this presentation focuses on how Lithuanian prison officers, female and male, manage their emotions as well as the emotions of prisoners. What emotional competencies are necessary to work in a Lithuanian prison? What strategies of emotion management are most often employed by prison officers? How do altering and suppressing emotions directed towards inmates and co-workers affect various situational behaviors in prison? Besides answering these questions, the presentation also examines the recent developments in Lithuanian prison policies and their impact on officers' emotional labor in this institution.

**006. Community policing a digitalized society**

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

Pre-arranged Panel

8:00 to 9:15 am

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

In an era of rapid digitalization, police forces worldwide are navigating the complexities of integrating technological advancements. In that respect, it is not only important to regularly reflect on how police use technology, but also what impact technology has on police operations and on the public. This panel aims to delve into the academic dimensions of this relationship, with a focus on understanding the implications of technology on community policing. We focus on how technology fundamentally reshapes community policing. Contributions in this panel answer the questions: (1) 'How does technology mediate the relationship between the police and society?', (2) 'What are the ethical and socio-political implications of these various technologies?', (3) 'What are the views and perceptions of police officers towards the adoption of technologies?'

Chair:

*Jasper De Paepe, Leiden University & Ghent University*

Participants:

The dynamics of technology and community policing *Jasper De Paepe, Leiden University & Ghent University; Marleen Easton, Universiteit Gent*

In this presentation, we focus on the relationship between

community policing and technology. This relationship is particularly interesting because there is an apparent contrast between both components. Community policing emphasises personal involvement and human relationships (See Corder, 1997, 2014; Reisig, 2010), while technology at times gives the impression of reducing this human dimension in policing (e.g. Terpstra & Salet, 2022). Terpstra and Salet describe how policing is being 'dehumanised' within the context of the 'abstract police'. They refer to how social interactions have been pushed into the background and have largely been replaced by artificial (digital) systems and procedures, leaving less room for police officers to provide tailor-made services. We present the state of the art in community policing and technology, based on a scoping review of the literature published since 2000. We find that there is some optimism about the contribution of technology to community policing, suggesting that it can promote transparency and facilitate citizen-police interaction. However, research shows that police organisations are struggling to meet these high expectations, and optimism is tempered by practical experience and empirical research. The ongoing discourse about technology and community policing highlights the necessity of customizing technology to suit particular contexts, considering both physical and social dimensions. It has become evident there is the need for a tailored approach that acknowledges the diversity of communities and the characteristics of police forces. In that sense, this state of the art is provoking a reflection on the core principles of community policing.

**Social Media Practices by Police Football Units in England and Wales** *Liam Ralph, Northumbria University; Paul Robinson, Northumbria University; Adam Aitken, University of Salford*

The policing of football matches remains deeply contested across the globe. To this end, numerous studies have emerged over the years that have attempted to show how the police can and should engage with fans. Many of these studies have pointed to the need for closer and more personal engagement between officers and fans, and the need to avoid, when possible, more authoritative and tougher policing models. In England and Wales, Police Forces have attempted to repair their relationship with fans through dedicated Police Football Units. Their role involves engaging with fans before, during, and after football matches to maintain their trust, whilst also ensuring their compliance in and around stadiums. Our study examined how five Police Football Units used the social media platform X (formerly known as Twitter) across the 2022/23 football season. In total, we analysed 1,027 posts. Our findings point to three key tactics. First, X was used by Police Football Units to communicate 'softly' with fans and by way of talking about congenial subject matter. Second, Police Football Units attempted to control the movement of fans on X. Third, X served instrumental outcomes for Police Football Units, as they sought to both prevent crime and further highlight that the police were equipped to deal with any disorder. Our paper finishes by discussing the implications of these tactics on where and how the police go from here to better engage with fans.

**"The computer made me do it": A consideration of technology as an actor in police-citizen encounters** *Megan O'Neill, University of Dundee; Estelle Clayton, Edinburgh Napier University; Will Andrews, Keele University; Aston Liz, Edinburgh Napier University; Helen Wells, Keele University; Ben Bradford, University College London*

Recently, UK police forces have introduced various technologies that alter the methods by which they interact with the public in face-to-face encounters. This includes devices such as body-worn video (BWV), mobile data terminals (MDT) and smart phones. Using data from in-depth ethnographic observations of response, community and traffic policing units in three UK police forces, as well as focus groups with the public, we will demonstrate how digital technologies are perceived and navigated during these in-person encounters. Through employing an Actor Network Theory framework to these data, we will demonstrate that police officers will give agency to technology, such as by using it as a tool of coercion and power ('The technology is telling me you are wanted') and being directed by technology (sometimes in error) to stop people or vehicles ('The system says you don't have a license'). Further, officers have identified that BWV gives them a sense of safety when encountering 'problem' members of the public and can