

The Stockholm Criminology Symposium 2012

Program & Abstracts

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Photo: Pawel Flato (s 5), Liselotte van der Meijs (s 7),

Printing: Edita Norstedts Västerås 2012
© 2012 The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå)
ISBN 978-91-86027-90-2
URN:NBN:SE:BRA-471

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Session: WED03

Social action groups – Strategic collaboration between municipalities, the police and others

Theme: Contemporary Criminology

Speaker: *Peter Lindström*

Presentation title: Youth crime in Stockholm and Sweden – an overview

Speaker: *Christina Kiernan*

Presentation title: Social cooperation aimed at reducing juvenile crime – working against recruitment and facilitating defection

Speaker: *Johan Ljunggren*

Presentation title: Social media and the police

Speaker: *TBA*

Presentation title: Evaluating our work to reduce youth crime

Session: WED04

Perspectives and legislation on crime victimization

Theme: Focusing on victims of crime – Comparing crime patterns and improving practice

Speaker: *Anita Heber*

Presentation title: Crime victims and criminals in Swedish criminal justice bills

This study analyses how Swedish politicians discuss victims and criminals in political bills. The aim is to understand how crime victims and criminals are constructed and to see what kind of victims and criminals are acknowledged (and not) in the bills. The analysis also includes the politicians' views on punishment, rehabilitation and how criminals should redress their wrongdoings towards their victims. The study explores the strict division between victims and offenders that exists within crime policy and theorizes about why this separation is present in the political bills.

Speaker: *Nina Peršak*

Presentation title: Emotions and criminal law: Legislation practices triggered by victims

In the USA, a recent case involving a parent who reported their missing daughter Caylee not sooner than 31 days after her disappearance, has spurred legislators to propose a statute (Caylee's law) prohibiting parents' failure to report their missing child within 24 hours. In the UK, in the aftermath of a missing Madeleine McCann, an organisation peti-

tioned for ‘Madeleine’s law’, appealing to the Prime Minister to pass a law making it a criminal offence to leave children under 12 on their own, without a reasonable excuse.

Legislation, bearing the name of the victim whose victimisation triggered it, is not rare, as examples of Megan’s law, Jessica’s, Ethen’s, Caylee’s law, Chelsea’s law etc. attest to. It may be considered as an appropriate social response in terms of paying respects to the victim and doing something about the victimisation that happened to her in order to prevent such cases in the future. It may also be construed as a problem, however, if or when such criminalisation represents a knee-jerk emotional reaction to a complex situation or an overreaction to an atypical problem that rarely occurs.

Considering that legislation named after victims or based on a concrete, single case of victimisation is often emotion-driven and passed in the heat of the moment, the presentation will address the question whether there is a place for emotions in criminal policy and, if yes, which emotions should drive criminalisation and to what extent. Moreover, should frequency of the harmful conduct also feature among considerations for and against criminalisation? The presentation will, further, juxtapose the legitimacy and scope of such criminalisation against some traditional grounds for criminalisation and discuss its wider criminological and victimological implications.

Speakers: *Wendy Schrama* and *Teun Geurts*
Presentation title: Damage compensation for victims of crime in The Netherlands: The importance of the civil procedure

Victim support policy in the Netherlands aims to promote damage compensation for crime victims. There are a number of ways through which crime victims can recover damages, for instance via the criminal procedure, State compensation and the civil procedure. This study is the first to examine the importance of the civil procedure for damage recovery by crime victims. This research also explores problems victims may experience with the civil procedure and possible solutions.

The importance is assessed by examining case files from 17 out of the 19 district courts and by comparing compensation via the civil procedure with other ways for damage recovery. Problems and solutions are assessed by interviewing professionals (six judges, five solicitors and two legal scientists).

Our results indicate that of all civil court cases closed in 2010, about 483 were started by crime victims for compensation from the offender. About 73% of these victims were legal entities (predominantly energy