

Abstracts from financed projects / NSfK Research Grants 2018

Janne Kivivuori et al:

Nordic Homicide from Past to Present: Explaining Stability and Change in Lethal Violence (research grant)

The project aims to (a) create a digital dataset which enables compatible analyses of historical and modern homicide, and (b) conduct comparative analysis of contemporary homicide patterns in the Nordic countries. Combining the analysis of contemporary and historical criminology, the resulting analysis will be groundbreaking for Nordic criminology as it harnesses digital humanities and social sciences to the study of violence. The project will open new theoretical perspectives in the research of interpersonal violence in terms of explaining homicide booms and busts. Representing hard core historical and social science criminology, the project builds the fundamental knowledge base for violence prevention policies in Scandinavia.

Project team:

Professor Janne Kivivuori (PI), Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy, University of Helsinki.

Ms Guðbjörg S. Bergsdóttir, National commissioner of the Icelandic police.

Dr Linda Ferrante, Norwegian Institute of Public Health.

Dr Sven Granath, Swedish Police Authority.

Mr Jónas Orri Jónasson, Reykjavik Metropolitan Police.

Professor Petri Karonen, University of Jyväskylä.

Dr Anu Koskivirta, University of Jyväskylä.

Dr Martti Lehti, Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy, University of Helsinki.

Professor Dag Lindström, University of Uppsala.

Ms Sofie Mulvad-Reinhardt, Danish Ministry of Justice.

Dr Jeppe B. Netterstrøm, University of Aarhus.

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Synøve Andersen et al:

Maintaining the Policy-Relevance of Criminology by Improving Research Integrity: A Nordic Collaboration with Register Data (research grant)

Summary: The purpose of this project is to facilitate Nordic collaboration in policy-relevant criminological research using register data. There is a concentration of strong scholars pursuing this line of research in Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden. The idea is to pool these resources in an effort to advance a research agenda that combines two important methodological movements that have had limited impact in criminology thus far: the open science movement and the identification revolution. Scholars from each country will pursue research topics that aim at the identification of causal effects following pre-registered and transparent research designs. The long-term objective is to establish a Nordic program of research that embraces the principles of high-integrity research in social science. We believe that in order for policy-makers to pay attention to criminological research, we must adhere to the standards of high-integrity research. Failure to do so could undermine our ability to participate effectively in the Nordic discourse on crime and justice.

Expected final results: This project is expected to (1) generate multiple peer reviewed articles in high quality journals, (2) train emerging post-doctoral scholars in advanced methods of causal analysis, (3) increase collaboration among Nordic scholars with an interest in policy-relevant research, (4) assert the influence of Nordic scholarship in the criminological literature, (5) generate credible knowledge about the impact of policy solutions to crime and public safety, and (6) stimulate novel research questions to be pursued with the help of large-scale research proposals.

Participants:

Denmark: Lars H. Andersen (Rockwool Foundation)

Finland: Sasu Tyni & Jukka Savolainen (University of Helsinki)

Norway: Synøve Andersen (Statistics Norway) & Torbjorn Skardhamar (University of Oslo)

Sweden: Olof Bäckman, Anders Nilsson, Fredrik Sivertsson (Stockholm University)

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Rune Ellefsen:

Countering violent extremism in the Nordic countries: Learning from experiences in Norwegian and Swedish municipalities (CVENC-LENS)

(research grant)

CVENC-LENS explores a Nordic trend in state efforts to counter radicalization and violent extremism. These efforts are formulated in national action plans (2012-2015) which give new responsibilities to social services, schools and civil society actors at the municipal level, and direct them to cooperate with each other, and with the police and security services. The project sets out to study how these actors jointly work locally to implement national action plans in Swedish and Norwegian municipalities.

CVENC-LENS aims to contribute to research on the prevention of radicalization and political violence. Through a comparative study of how different authorities and organizations handle these issues and collaborate on them in Sweden and Norway, CVENC-LENS will contribute new knowledge about how the national action plans, their key concepts and associated modes of thinking are interpreted, negotiated and implemented in practical activities – and about what concrete consequences they have for the identification of target groups and the choice of responses to them. In the Nordic context, and even internationally, such research is rare, and this type of comparison has not so far been carried out.

The results of CVENC-LENS will be valuable for the practitioners involved, the general public and several government bodies, in Norway and Sweden particularly, but also for the whole Nordic region, as the findings relate to a broader shift towards multi-agency and pluralized efforts to prevent radicalization and counter violent extremism. This trend is also found internationally (e.g. the UK's Prevent programme).

The Norwegian section of the project – which the applicant is seeking NSfK grants to realize – will produce one article in English for publication in an international peer-reviewed journal, such as *Terrorism and Political Violence*. It will also involve co-authoring one peer-reviewed paper (with comparative analysis) with the Swedish research team, the dissemination of findings at the American Society of Criminology conference, and at another international conference (e.g. the conference of the European Consortium for Political Research), and by publishing two scholarly blog posts (e.g. at www.politicalviolenceataglance.org) and articles in Norwegian newspapers. The overall CVENC-LENS project will also result in several publications in international peer-reviewed journals in the area of counter-radicalization and policing/governance, as well as a

Swedish report more accessible to the general public, meetings with practitioners and more. The research team consists of Associate Professor Mattias Wahlström (SE; project leader), Associate Professor Magnus Wennerhag (SE), Dr Jan Jämte (SE), and Research Fellow Rune Ellefsen (NO).

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Carolina Øverlien:

Working group meetings: Development of a research proposal on intimacy and sexual violence in young people's lives

(grant for a working group meeting)

The aim of the meeting is twofold. First, to share knowledge on the state of the art of research on young people and sexual violence in the Nordic countries and how Nordic scholarship connects to international research and discussions on the topic. Second, to work with a research proposal that addresses key knowledge gaps in the research that we aim identify – on different forms of sexual violence among young people in the Nordic countries. A comparative perspective will be fruitful in order to explore how sexual violence relates to institutional and cultural contexts, for instance sexual and drinking cultures. Hence the ambition to include the researchers from the US in the working group.

The expected final result of the working group meetings, will be a larger Nordic/US research project proposal on the topic of intimacy, technology and sexual violence in young people's lives. The impact within and beyond the Nordic context is potentially high, as sexual violence is a highly debated topic, especially related to young people, and the need for research based knowledge to address the problem is substantial. There is a need for research that focuses on how young people themselves understand intimacy and sexual interactions, abuse and criminal acts. This is important in order to avoid moralistic approaches and the development of too general or misguided prevention policies. Sexual violence among young people, online and offline, is under researched topic, hence, the project, given that it receives funding, will contribute to filling a gap in the literature.

Carolina Överlien, Norwegian center for violence and traumatic stress research (NKVTS), Norway and Stockholm university, Sweden (CONTACT PERSON)

Kari Stefansen, Norwegian Social Research (NOVA) & Norwegian center for violence and traumatic stress

research (NKVTS), Norway

Carl-Göran Svedin, Linköping university, Sweden

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Marie Heinskou, Aalborg university, Denmark

Per Moum Hellevik, Norwegian center for violence and traumatic stress research (NKVTS), Norway

Jennifer Hirsch, Columbia university, USA

Shamus Khan, Columbia university, USA

Louise Victoria Johansen:

Nordic Research on Victimology Working Group Meeting

(grant for a working group meeting)

Victimology research has been conducted mainly within Anglo-American legal systems. While this has provided us with a range of important empirical research studies, their transferability to Nordic

contexts with different legal systems and social policies is limited. A proposed working group meeting with Nordic colleagues aims at discussing differences and similarities between international, Nordic, and national victimology, as well as specific Nordic issues concerning both theory and practice of victim-centered research.

Applicants to this grant are Louise Victoria Johansen and Ida Helene Asmussen, who are both involved in a 3-year qualitative project about victims in Denmark and their perceptions of the criminal process, a project funded by the Council of the Danish Victims Fund.

Participants in the working group meeting come from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Iceland and Finland and have been selected with the purpose of representing different aspects of Nordic victim research. On this basis, the group meeting will address four different topics concerning victimology:

- Methodologies
- Conceptualizations
- Intersectionality
- National, Nordic and international perspectives

Furthermore, the working group meeting will explore the possible establishment of a victim research network at a Nordic level. The group meeting will increase knowledge about current trends in Nordic victim projects and point at possible future collaborations between Nordic victimology researchers.

Participants:

Lars Holmberg, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
Louise Victoria Johansen, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
Ida Helene Asmussen, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
Lin Adrian, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
Ask Elklit, University of Southern Denmark, Denmark
Anita Heber, University of Stockholm, Sweden
Malin Åkerström, University of Lund, Sweden
Hildur Fjóra Antonisdóttir, University of Lund, (Icelandic research)
Heini Kainulainen, Turku University, Finland
Päivi Honkatukia, Tammerfors University, Finland
Solveig Laugerud, Oslo University, Norway
(One further participant from either Norway or Finland)

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Anders Stenström:

Annual Nordic Network Meeting for PhD Candidates in Criminology
(grant for a working group meeting)

Summary

The overarching aim of the work group meeting is to meet PhD student's need to exchange experiences and advance their professional network across the Nordic region. The network meeting is organized around current research, and higher education solutions in the Nordic

criminological context. Specifically, the aim of the current meeting is to maintain, develop and deepen the work that was initiated in 2017 with the kind financial assistance given by NSfK.

Expected results and potential impact

The work group meeting offers opportunities for establishing, maintaining and further a Nordic student community, and for the promotion of discussions on research and issues related to higher education in criminology. Further, recurring meetings are necessary to raise awareness of the network, and to encourage a broad representation of PhD-students from the Nordic countries.

Participating countries and institutions:

Denmark: University of Copenhagen (Faculty of Law)

Finland: University of Helsinki (Faculty of Law)

Norway: University of Oslo (Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law)

Sweden: Lund University (Department of Sociology); Stockholm University (Department of Criminology);

Malmö University (Department of Criminology)

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