

## **Nordic contributions in Prestigious Criminology Journals**

Scientometrics, the science of science, evolved out of Merton's (1957, p. 635) sociology of knowledge, where he examined "science as a social institution, not in the large but in terms of its principal components." Two principal components of science are publications and the reaction from the research community in the form of citations. Impact studies use objective measures to assess productivity and researchers' citations while prestige surveys assess journals and academic programs based on subjective measures (Dejong & St. George, 2018).

The purpose of my presentation was to examine the claim of growing criminological internationalization by counting publications by researchers based in the Nordic countries in the field's most prestigious journals.

### **Materials and Methods**

It is a recurrent discussion, which are the most prestigious journals of the 300-400 journals in criminology? The best-known rankings, Thompson Reuter's Impact Factor, Google Scholar, and Elsevier's Scopus, use objective citation counts. These rankings are highly correlated (Cohn & Farrington, 2012) but differ in what journals they consider criminology, e.g., Google Scholar's ranking is based on "Criminology, criminal law, and policing" and Thompson Reuter's Impact Factor counts citations in "Criminology & Penology." In contrast, subjective surveys of experts in the field also consider "historical reputation" (Dejong & St. George, 2018, p. 295).

I aimed for generalist journals that have an IF for most of the ten-year period and are not focused on a particular subject matter or region. I excluded journals where no Nordic researcher has published during the study period. IFs were collected through Web of Science (December 3, 2018) and I combined this information with insights on the historical importance of journals derived from prestige surveys. Sorensen et al. (2006) found a positive correlation ( $r = .65$ ) for all the journal ratings across survey studies, and results are especially consistent for the highest ranked journals (Orrick & Weir, 2011). The "Big Three" are *Criminology*, *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, and *Justice Quarterly*, with *Journal of Quantitative Criminology* as a recent contender. Immediately outside of the absolute top, a few European-based journals compare on IF and international acclaim. I included the five best European-based journals that are generalist in their aims and scope.

Nordic researchers frequently use these journals and including them allows for comparing aggregate publication trends.

## **Results**

Focusing on the ten U.S.-based journals, I found 73 articles with 125 Nordic contributions, corresponding to 38 percent and 36 percent of the total sample, respectively. The “Big Three” journals published 17 articles with 26 contributing Nordic authors and JQC published seven articles with eight contributions over the ten-year period. The publication frequency of Nordic scholars in these four top journals has increased over time. Of the sixteen contributions to CRIM articles, twelve were from 2013-2017. All of the seven contributions to JRCD, two of the three contributions in JQ, and five of eight contributions to JQC were from 2013-2017.

This increasing publication frequency in does not hold for the remaining six U.S. journals. For the journals JCJ, JEC, CD, CJ, CJB, and CPP, only 43 percent of all articles and 51 percent of all contributions are from 2013-2017. However, because the numbers are so small, it does not take much to affect this result. A special issue of CJ on Scandinavia in 2011 contained 12 articles and 20 contributions, which constituted around forty percent of all articles and contributions in these journals from 2008-2012. CJ and CJB published 85 percent of the articles by Nordic criminologist in the ten U.S. journals for the first five years under examination. For the ten-year period, the two most frequently used U.S. publication outlets are CJ and CJB with 37 percent of all articles and 42 percent of all contributions. Conversely, JQ and CPP are the most elusive journals for Nordic scholars, with only three published articles by five contributors over ten years.

Turning to the five European journals, I found 118 articles by 227 contributors, corresponding to 62 and 64 percent of the total sample, respectively. In these journals, there is a discernable trend of more publications over time, as 73 articles and 151 contributions are from 2013-2017, corresponding to 62 percent of all articles and 67 percent of contributions. The E.U. journal with the highest IF, BJC, has published 31 articles with 67 contributions by Nordic criminologists over ten years. EJS is the most commonly used E.U. publication outlet in my sample with 56 articles and 110 contributions, almost half of all the publications in E.U. journals. Conversely, TC has only published nine articles by Nordic scholars, and five of these were single authored. CCJ did not publish any articles with Nordic contributions until 2013.

## **Discussion**

Criminology is growing in international diversity but scholars outside of the U.S. are still poorly represented among the top scholars of the field. To elucidate the contributions from Nordic criminologists, I examined their productivity, impact, innovation, and prestige for the past ten years, measured in a selected sample of top journals. I calculated three composite scores based on publications, citations, authorship sequence, journal IF, and formed three rankings of the top 30. My aim was not to praise or criticize individual researchers or research traditions but to examine the status of criminological internationalization from the Nordic perspective. This analysis can contribute to increased diversity of the discipline by drawing attention to the work of these scholars, and serve as benchmarks of productivity for non-U.S. scholars.

My results indicate there is indeed an increase in the annual number of publications by Nordic criminologists in the field's most prestigious journals. Most notably, there is over double the number of publications in the Big Three plus JQC journals during 2013-2017, compared to 2008-2012. Of the ten American journals, JQ and CPP have the fewest articles with Nordic contributions while JCJ, CJ, and CJB have the highest counts. For the European journals, EJC and BJC are the most frequently used while TC is rare. More than half of the articles in TC in my sample are sole-authored, which is typical for theoretical articles.

## **References**

Cohn, E. G., & Farrington, D. P. (2012). Scholarly influence in criminology and criminal justice journals in 1990-2005. *Criminal Justice Review*, 37(3), 360-383.

DeJong, C., & St. George, S. (2018). Measuring Journal Prestige in Criminal Justice and Criminology. *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*, 29(2), 290-309.

Merton, R. K. (1957). Priorities in scientific discovery: A chapter in the sociology of science. *American Sociological Review*, 22(6), 635-659.

Orrick, E. A., & Weir, H. (2011). The most prolific sole and lead authors in elite criminology and criminal justice journals, 2000–2009. *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*, 22(1), 24-42.