


Annual report 2022

Nordic Research Council for Criminology





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A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a person's hand writing on a white sheet of paper. The person is using a silver pen. The background shows a wooden desk and a lamp with a white shade. The lighting is warm and focused on the writing area.

Chairman's letter

60 years of supporting Nordic crime policy

After the world wars, there were many initiatives to enhance Nordic co-operation. The formalisation of such co-operation started with the founding of The Nordic Council – Nordisk råd – in 1952. Ten years later, the Nordic Research Council for Criminology (NSfK) was established.

Our mission has remained the same through 60 years – to promote Nordic criminology and to advise governments on issues related to criminology, crime policy, and crime prevention. We are funded by the Ministries of Justice in the Nordic countries. In 2022, the State Grant amounted to a total of 5.6 million NOK.

NSfK funds research projects, publications, contact seminars between researchers and criminal justice professionals, working groups, and research trips. Every year we give grants to Nordic researchers to conduct research, but also to disseminate and put Nordic criminological research and crime policy on the world map. Without NSfK, there would not have been an international awareness and discussion about the Nordic model of punishment.

Since the mid 1970s, we have published monthly newsletters where you can read news from the Nordic countries relating to criminology and crime policy, including seminars, publications, new crime statistics, legislation, policy initiatives, and much more. Our contact secretaries not only help disseminate the newsletter, but also assist with setting up contact between Nordic experts in various criminological areas and the public.

Publishing the best of Nordic criminological research has always been important for us. Already in 1965, NSfK launched its book series *Scandinavian Studies in Criminology*, making Nordic criminological research available not only within, but also outside of the Nordics. In the first volume, one could read articles on recidivism among sexual offenders, crime and the media, plus data from one of the first studies of self-reported crime in the Nordic countries. In 2000, we established our own journal, *Nordic Journal of Criminology*. In 2022, the Council decided to make the journal fully Open Access. Every year, we award the best and most innovative research article published in *Nordic Journal of Criminology*. In 2022, the award was given to Maria Hansen, Kari Stefansen and May-Len Skilbrei for their article on why victims choose not to report rape.

NSfK has for many years supported one of the oldest criminological journals still in existence, *Nordisk Tidsskrift for Kriminalvidenskab*. In 2022, this financial support was formalised, and NSfK is now one of the publishers of the journal, in close collaboration with the Nordic Criminalist Societies.

In 2022 we celebrated our 60th jubilee. Instead of looking back at our history, we decided to look forward and invite our young researchers to present their ongoing research and show us the future of Nordic criminology. These proceedings are available in a special issue of *Nordisk Tidsskrift for Kriminalvidenskab*. Open access, of course.

In this annual report, we are not only looking back at 2022, but also at the preceding years. I would like to thank the Nordic Ministries of Justice for their ongoing support and excellent collaboration, and I would like to thank my fellow Council members for always working to improve the quality of Nordic criminological research and to maintain our position as the hub of Nordic criminology and crime policy. Finally, I would like to encourage Nordic criminological researchers and criminal justice professionals to share their knowledge and expertise, whether it is in the format of a blog post or policy brief on our website, sending information to our newsletter, or publishing in one of our journals. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any questions, feedback, or ideas for how to make NSfK even better in the future.



Heidi Mork Lomell

Heidi Mork Lomell
Chair 2022-2024

Organisation



Mission

The tasks and activities of the Nordic Research Council for Criminology (NSfK) are based on the statutes of the organisation as acknowledged by the founding members, i.e. the different Nordic Ministries of Justice.*

The purpose of the Council is to further criminological research within the member countries and to advise the Nordic governments on issues related to criminology, crime prevention, and crime policy.

The activities of NSfK are funded by the Nordic Ministries of Justice. The Council consists of 15 members, three from each Nordic country, who are nominated by the national Ministries of Justice.

The Council awards annual research grants and is involved in planning and carrying out the different activities of the organisation. The Council members may also arrange their own working groups and contact seminars.

The Chair of the Council rotates every three years between the Nordic countries. The daily administration is carried out by a secretariat located in the country of the Chair.

For the period 2022-2024, the secretariat is based at the University of Oslo in Norway. The Chair is Professor Heidi Mork Lomell (NO). The secretariat is headed by Per Jørgen Ystehede (NO).

*The Statutes can be found on nsfk.org.

Members of the Council 2022

DENMARK



Annick Prieur
Aalborg University



Linda Kjær Minke
The University of Southern
Denmark



Anne-Julie Boesen
Pedersen
Ministry of Justice

FINLAND



Minna Piispa
Ministry of Justice



Natalia Ollus
The European Institute for
Crime Prevention and
Control (HEUNI)



Mikko Aaltonen
University of Eastern Finland

ICELAND



Rannveig Þórisdóttir
University of Iceland and
the Metropolitan Police



Kolbrún Benediktsdóttir
The District Prosecutor



Hanna Rún Sverrisdóttir
Ministry of Justice

NORWAY



Heidi Mork Lomell
University of Oslo (Chair)



Ragnhild Hennum
University of Oslo



Arnt Even Hustad
Ministry of Justice and
Public Security

SWEDEN



Tove Pettersson
Stockholm university



Caroline Mellgren
Malmö University



Erik Grevholm
The Swedish National
Council for Crime
Prevention

SECRETARIAT



Per Jørgen Ystehede
Leader of the Secretariat



Maud Hol
Head of Communications

New Council members from Finland and Sweden

Helena Huhta from Finland and Anna-Karin Ivert from Sweden joined the Council from 1st of January 2023, replacing Natalia Ollus and Caroline Mellgren. We thank Ollus and Mellgren for their service, and welcome Huhta and Ivert.

Helena Huhta is a Finnish sociologist and criminologist, who in her PhD work studied the changing meanings of ethnicity in everyday prison life. Huhta has studied various other topics using diverse qualitative methods while working with the Finnish Youth Research Society. Her main interests lie in criminology and prisons, ethnographic methods, masculinities, and ethnic and racial studies. Currently, Huhta works at the University of Turku, Faculty of Law, studying the inclusion of prisoners in drafting legislation.



Helena Huhta (FI)
University of Turku



Anna-Karin Ivert (SE)
Malmö University

Anna-Karin Ivert's academic work focuses largely on issues related to the social environment and its interaction with personal characteristics and experiences in relation to criminality, fear of crime, and mental health. She has also conducted research on issues related to neighborhood development and crime, as well as intimate partner violence. Her research aims to contribute to increased knowledge about how to prevent crime and related problems, how research can be applied in crime prevention, and how different societal actors can collaborate in crime prevention.

Contact secretaries

Communicating Nordic criminological research and policy in the North and beyond

NSfK has a network consisting of seven Contact Secretaries, based in different Nordic countries including the autonomous areas of the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

The Contact Secretaries deliver the latest national news in the field of criminology and crime policy to our monthly newsletter. They also support researchers, government officials and the media in the North and beyond with questions about Nordic literature and data on crime and punishment.



Helena Brix
Denmark



Daisy J. Iversen
Faroe Islands



Emma Villmann
Finland



Sara Kirstine Jakobsen
Greenland



Jónas Orri Jónasson
Iceland



Marina Foshaugen
Norway



Lisa Flower
Sweden

For Finnish criminology, NSfK offers an important meeting ground. Nordic cooperation and comparative research are of interest, not least because of the many similarities the Nordic countries share. The possibilities that NSfK provides in the form of research grants, working groups, and research seminars are still today – despite the many other available international research forums in criminology - of great importance to me and many other Finnish criminologists.

- Emma Villmann (FI)



60 years of
NSfK



After the war, there was a strong increase in the interest for criminological research, and there have been greater opportunities than before to get support for such work, even though the conditions in this respect seem to vary considerably from country to country. But there is still a great mismatch between the tasks that criminological research has to solve and the means it has been given to work with. Significant scientific rearmament is necessary here.

Increased Nordic cooperation must be seen as part of this rearmament.

- Professor of Law Johs. Andenæs, 1958
(1st Chair of NSfK, 1962-1964)

Excerpts from the history

Nordic cooperation in the 50s: car theft

In the years before the founding of NSfK, Professor of Law Johs. Andenæs at the University of Oslo was appointed by the Swedish government to initiate an assessment of Nordic cooperation in criminological research and crime policy.

In 1958, he delivered a thorough report on the reasons and need for such cooperation. One of many arguments related to the possibility to learn from and draw on each other's experiences in the area of crime and punishment. The increase in car thefts in the Nordic countries was used as an illustration - a manifestation of one of the criminological concerns at the time.

He wrote:

Differences in social conditions are reflected in the crime rates – and it is precisely in countries dominated by similarities that it becomes possible to exploit the differences in an interesting way (...).

The development in car thefts can be put forward as an example of such research tasks. We know that there has been a strong growth in the number of car thefts – particularly in Sweden, and less so in Denmark and Norway, while in Finland until quite recently there have been almost no car thefts.

Why this difference? What can this tell us about the causes of car theft?

Is the increase in car thefts just the natural consequence of the increase in the number of cars and the increase in the technical insight of young people, or are there other factors at play?

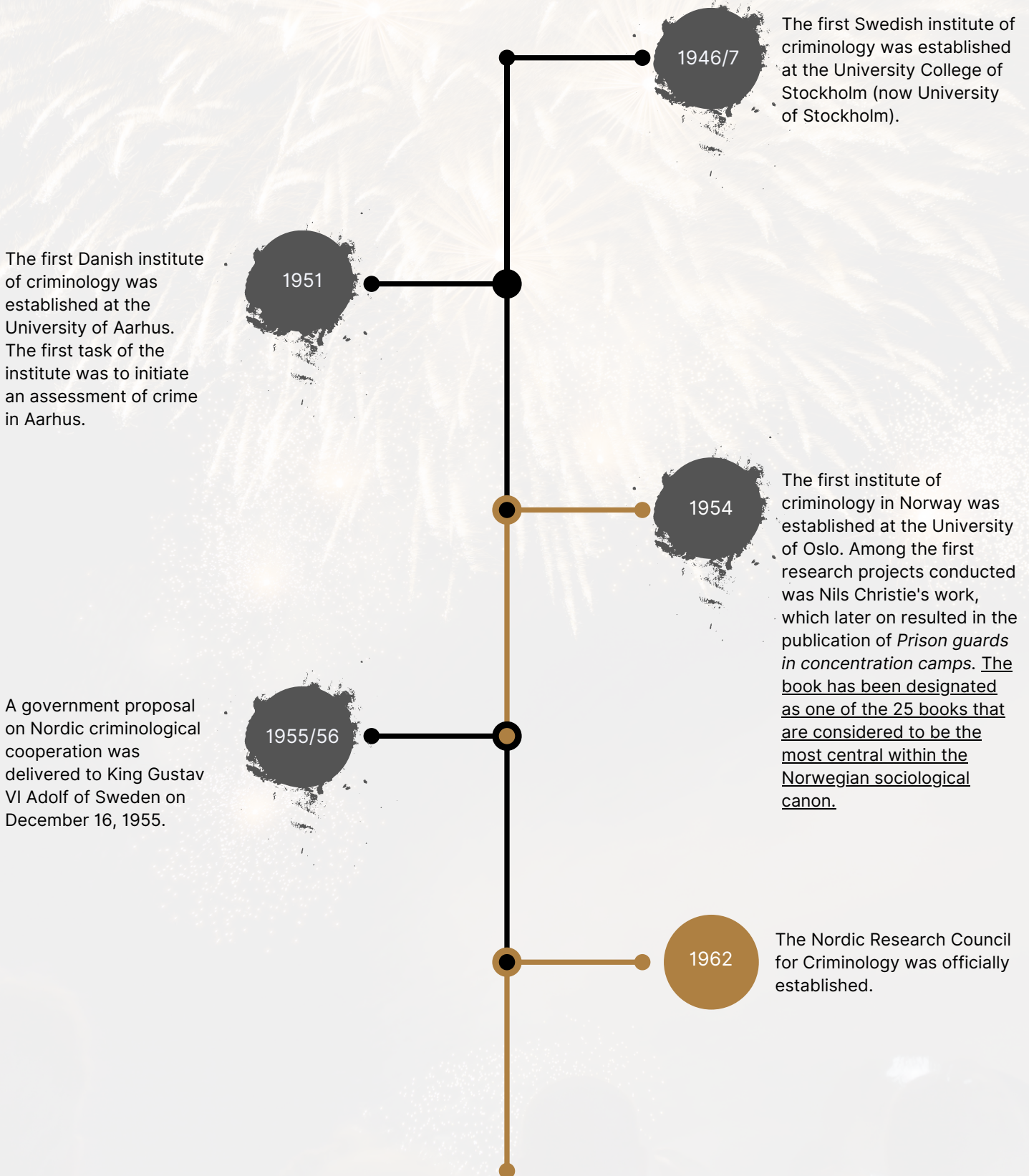
What (criminal justice) responses do the individual countries use against car theft and what experiences have they had with them?

Could the other countries learn something about how to combat the development by studying the Finnish conditions?

And could Finland, by studying the situation in the other Nordic countries, do something to prevent the development that will almost certainly occur?" (our translation, from *About the forms of increased Nordic cooperation, 1958*).



Snapshots from the first decades*



*The archive of NSfK will be made publicly available in 2023.

A large-scale study on violent offences in Oslo, funded by NSfK, was conducted. The aim was to provide a nuanced picture of the increase in incidents by attempting to explain the reality behind the numbers. The investigation was based on a similar assessment of violent offences in Stockholm.

1971

The 1st Nordic Seminar on Gender and Crime was initiated by NSfK and hosted in Denmark.

1976

1970

NSfK initiated Nordic cooperation on drugs and drug policy.

1970

1975

The first NSfK newsletter was published and sent by mail to 370 recipients free of charge.

1988

A working group aiming to make recommendations on international drug policy was initiated by NSfK.

The Nordic Drafter Research Programme

There have been many highlights over 60 years of comparison and co-creation in Nordic criminology and crime policy. One of them was the self-report delinquency survey.

The first Nordic self-report delinquency survey was conducted in 1959 in Norway.

The Nordic Drafter Research programme (1961–64), funded by NSfK, was the first ever international comparative self-report delinquency survey.

Under NSfK's auspices the earlier Norwegian model of interviewing young men screened for going to military service was exported to other Nordic countries (Finland, Sweden, and Denmark).

The findings in all the Nordic countries was that illegal acts were rather common among the youth of present-day society.



Public attitudes towards punishment

In more recent times, one of the studies that received the most attention was a co-Nordic project.

In 2008, NSfK financed the first large-scale study on public attitudes to punishments in Scandinavia.

This project was an ideal project; it was comparative, collaborative, and to be conducted in all five Nordic countries.

The project was divided into different parts, including a telephone survey, a postal survey with more detailed questions, focus group interviews, and a study of a panel of judges. The respondents were asked about how to penalise the offenders in six selected cases. The project was presented at the 15th Nordic Criminal Sciences Conference in Copenhagen in 2010, and at the Stockholm Criminology Symposium and the annual conference of the European Society of Criminology in Vilnius in 2011. It also got good coverage in Nordic mass media and resulted in numerous publications, including the article *The public sense of justice in Scandinavia: A study of attitudes towards punishments* in the *European Journal of Criminology* in 2015.

NSfK beyond the North

While Nordic cooperation is the cornerstone of NSfK, the organisation has since the very beginning sought to establish strong international connections:

- NSfK has over the course of its existence connected Nordic and international researchers and functioned as a point of contact for questions about Nordic criminology.
- The organisation has facilitated a Nordic presence at and has hosted transnational conferences and events. Examples from the early days of NSfK's existence includes a working group meeting on alternative conflict resolution with researchers from the US., Portugal, and the Netherlands in 1980 and a workshop with Polish researchers in 1981.
- From 1965, NSfK has been engaged in collaborations involving mutual exchange of knowledge and research with the Council of Europe's Division of Crime Problems.
- In 2001, the annual research seminar was held in Latvia. The theme was *Social Change and Crime in Scandinavian and the Baltic Region*. The seminar aimed to enhance cooperation between the Nordic and the Baltic countries on matters of crime and crime policy after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The importance of NSfK

Notes from former Chairs

Sixty years ago, the founders of NSfK were of the opinion that criminological research should be carried out at institutions in each of the Nordic countries, and that NSfK should be a co-Nordic umbrella institution that could promote and organise such research. This was a clever approach, and since then NSfK has been an important platform for Nordic criminology and researchers in this field (...).

Because of NSfK, a forum has been created to foster criminological research in the Nordic countries, the scale and quality of which would otherwise not have been possible. For sixty years now NSfK has been the umbrella the founders wanted it to be.

- Ragnheiður Bragadóttir (IS), Chair 2010-2012.

What is amazing with NSfK is how much experience and information about criminological research and societal development in our countries can be shared in an informal and still highly qualified manner. (...) Mainly for young researchers, it is very valuable to achieve experience in presenting their research and to be given feedback at the research seminars. The chances to form working groups and smaller or bigger research projects across countries has led an enormous amount of research and initiated further collaboration.

NSfK is certainly good value for the money.

- Anette Storgaard (DK), Chair 2013-2015.

*In my view, the special value of NSfK is that it brings together Nordic criminologists, including both PhD students and more experienced researchers on an equal basis. **The Council creates a fantastic international research community.** Without the NSfK grants, many doctoral theses would have remained unwritten. In addition to grants, I see research seminars as particularly inspiring. The seminars, which have already become classics, make it possible to network with Nordic colleagues in addition to their interesting scientific content.*

*As I see it, comparative research is of particular value. **Comparative research provides an opportunity for decision-making in criminal policy.** One interesting example I would like to mention is the comparative research projects measuring the population's sense of justice. I believe that decision-makers in all Nordic countries have benefited from these studies.*

- Aarne Kinnunen (FI), Chair 2016-2019

A time for celebration

60th Anniversary

For 60 years, NSfK has worked to further criminology and to provide the Nordic governments with policy-relevant research.

In conjunction with the 60th anniversary, the Council has taken concrete steps to further the organisation:

- The Council decided to make the archive of NSfK digitally available.
- *Nordisk Tidsskrift for Kriminalvidenskab* (NTfK) published a special anniversary issue, inviting young researchers to reflect on and suggest future criminological research.
- The anniversary was celebrated at the annual research seminar at Hveragerði in Iceland.



Two decades of leadership

As part of the celebration of the 60th anniversary, former Chairs were invited to the annual research seminar as guests of honour. From left: Jerzy Sarnecki (SE, 2004-2006), Per Ole Johansen (NO, 2007-2009), Ragnheiður Bragadóttir (IS, 2010-2012), Anette Storgaard (DK, 2013-2015), Aarne Kinnunen (FI, 2016-2019), Felipe Estrada (SE, 2020-2022), and Heidi Mork Lomell (NO, 2022-2024).

The future

of Nordic Criminology

NSfK asked a handful of early career researchers about their thoughts on the future of Nordic criminology. Their answers were gathered in a special Jubilee Issue of NTfK, which is publicly available and may be accessed [online](#). Below are extracts from a few of the contributions.

Understanding Societal Trends in Adolescent Violence

Violence levels are lower in the Nordic countries compared to many other similar countries around the globe. Yet, violence is still one of the most prevalent types of crime among young people, particularly among boys. Youth violence also receives a great deal of media attention, and when crime rates are on the rise we often hear voices arguing for "getting tougher on crime" and for stricter sentencing (...) One of the main aims of my PhD thesis was to investigate how and why the societal level of adolescent violence changes over time.

- Lars Roar Frøyland (NO)

Over-policed but under-protected

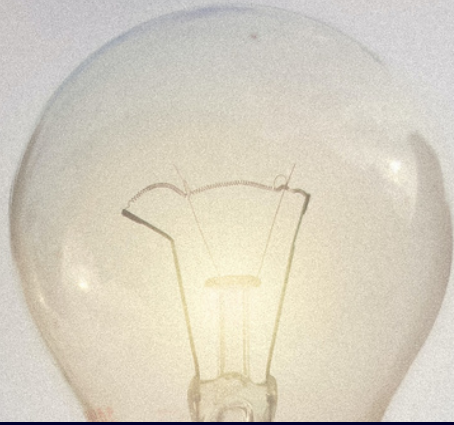
The year 2020 was marked by a global wave of protests directed against police violence and racism, prompted by the Black Lives Matter movement. Across the globe, demonstrations were organised. The igniting spark was the murder of George Floyd, who while being strangled to death by an officer gasped "I can't breathe". From the US, protests spread to the Nordic countries too, where people gathered, in solidarity, but also with the ambition to highlight difficulties with law enforcement here. But how should problems in the Nordic context be understood? (My research) critically explores current forms of policing that disproportionately target ethnic minorities and racialized communities (...) Given the accentuation of law and order polices in the Nordic countries that in particular are targeting ethnic minorities and racialized communities, this research agenda is of paramount importance.

- Leandro Schclarek Mulinari (SE)

Learning to be (crime-)free

In order to reduce recidivism, the Finnish Criminal Sanctions Agency is remodelling imprisonment in Finland. (...) By means of reforming the prison staff's working culture, prisoner activities, and prison design, prisons are to be transformed into learning spaces for a life without crime. Piloting this reform, the new Hämeenlinna closed prison for women opened in November 2020. The new prison is supposed to bring together innovative prison design (following in the footsteps of for example Halden Prison in Norway and Storstrøm Prison in Denmark), digital equipment, a humane working culture, and effective rehabilitative prisoner activities (...) Through an ethnographic approach, I examine Hämeenlinna Prison's rehabilitation wing as an educational space and analyse how the prisoners conduct themselves as rehabilitating, crime-free subjects within it.

- Liila Holmberg (FI)



Funded research



Grants

The grants are designed to support and promote Nordic criminological research and advise Nordic governments on issues related to crime prevention and crime policy.

The project must be carried out in one or more of the Nordic countries, and it is possible to apply for funding for:

- Research projects
- Working groups
- Contact seminars
- Travel grants

Research activities that receive funding are expected to send in an annual and/or final report. Besides a financial report documenting expenses, there are written reports on progress, changes to the project, and results.

Depending on the type of report, these may also include various forms of dissemination such as journal articles, blogs, and policy briefs.

Funded projects 2022

In 2022, the Council received a record number of strong applications for research funding. At the annual Council meeting in March 2022, it was decided to award 3,000,000 NOK to five Nordic criminological research projects.

The projects were selected due to their academic excellence and potential to inform crime policy in all the Nordic countries, as well as to further develop Nordic criminology as a discipline. The work of the selected researchers will provide new insights into a variety of subjects, including drug law enforcement, compensation schemes for victims, court-imposed care orders, hate speech on social media, and desistance.



Aggression and threat rhetoric targeting Muslims and the LGBT community on social media in Finland

Ali Unlu (FI)

This research aims to connect crime statistics, news in mainstream media, and social media discussions regarding hate speech, aggression, and violent rhetoric in an online far-right milieu targeting Muslims and the LGBT community. A mixed-method approach will be used to identify typical characteristics of discussion threads where these concepts occur, how they are legitimized, to what extent networks between these groups vary, to what extent the news triggers discussions on social media, and whether such discussions are associated with actual hate crimes.



Minority Women's Experiences of Desistance in Sweden

Linnéa Österman (SE)

This explorative study sets out to explore how female desisters who self-identify as belonging to a minority group voice their story of change, as viewed through an intersecting lens of different identities and social positions. The aim is to reveal potential exclusionary processes that these groups face and ultimately to learn lessons that can aid more women in making a successful transition out of crime.



Deserving and Undeserving Victims of Crime: An Analysis of Applications and Awards Made by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund in Iceland

Hildur Fjóra Antonsdóttir (IS)

This study aims to gain a better understanding of the social implications of the Icelandic Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) and asks: How are the categories of deserving and undeserving victims constituted in the operations of the CICF?



Police drug law enforcement in Denmark from 2000 to 2020

Esben Houborg (DK)

This research project will expand on our current knowledge about the enforcement of the drug legislation in the Nordic context by examining police register data obtained from the Danish National Police on drug law enforcement in Denmark in the period 2000–2020.



Court-imposed care orders in a non-treatment paradigm: trends, demographics and outcomes in Sweden, 1994-2020

Anna Kahlmeter (SE)

This project empirically addresses court-imposed care. It aims to study changes in the socio-demographics of the client-group over a 26-year period as well as its links to post-sanction outcomes of labour market establishment, recidivism in crime and health.

"The grantees are excellent examples of early career researchers who combine academic curiosity and rigor with policy relevant research. "

- Heidi Mork Lomell, Chair

Research findings

The outcomes, outputs, and findings of any given year is not necessarily a reflection of the projects completed in 2022. Not only might there be delays due to circumstances such as the recent pandemic, being published is a time-consuming process depending on the review practices of respective journals. In addition, results and data financed by NSfK at times keep scholars busy for years after the project has formally ended.

Research projects funded in 2021 have so far facilitated the following findings:



Negotiating care, post-trafficking needs and gender in understanding help-seeking behaviour of trafficked victims: a case study of Finland and Sweden (ongoing)

Polina Smiragina-Ingelström (SE)

This comparative case study sought to investigate help-seeking behaviour among the male and female victims of human trafficking in Sweden and Finland.

Smiragina-Ingelström has conducted interviews with a total of 21 research participants, including 14 in Sweden and 7 in Finland. The study has uncovered how the interactional process of assigning the victim status and the socially constructed meaning of gender affect the help-seeking behaviour of trafficked victims. This work is a useful addition to the victimological scholarship.



Local community frames and influence on policing in socially disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Stockholm (completed 2022).

Kivanc Atak (SE)

The project aimed to explore the experiences and perceptions of local community and neighbourhood organizations regarding police work and practices in socially disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Stockholm.

Atak's research facilitated several interesting findings. For example, several interviewees took issue with the depiction of policing as the main cause of the problems in the suburbs. For them, a shortage of resources for the schools, the disappearance of local services and offices, and insufficient places for the youth to socialise safely, to name but a few, were constraints for the neighborhood that loomed larger than the merits and predicaments of policing.



From Punishment to Help? An Analysis of Contemporary Drug Decriminalization Reforms (completed 2022)

Tobias Kammergaard (DK)

The project assessed the process around the Norwegian drug reform proposal and explored the discourses and arguments mobilised for and against drug decriminalisation. By assessing the Drug Reform Committee's report and the government's drug law reform proposal, the project investigated how and to what extent the drug reform represented a reorientation in thinking about drugs and how specific rationalities and conceptualizations associated with prohibition proved more stable.

The main findings pointed to how the proposed reform did not fundamentally change how drugs are thought of and are to be governed in Norwegian society.



Street Gang Involvement Among Nordic Youth: A comparative study on prevalence and risk factors in Nordic countries (ongoing)

Co-Nordic project led by Markus Kaakinen (FI)

This project analyses gang involvement and pro-criminal attitudes among adolescents (14–17 years old) in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden using representative school samples from ten Nordic cities.

Currently, the collection of research data is almost completed in all countries. The research results will provide up-to-date and robust comparative knowledge on youth gang involvement and pro-criminal attitudes in the Nordic countries so as to inform policy making. The results will also shed light on whether residential segregation and social marginalisation function as risk factors for gang crime and pro-criminal attitudes among Nordic adolescents.

Disseminating the findings

The research grants of 2021 thus far facilitated:

- The publication of one research article in a high-level international journal.
- Four research articles/chapters currently in preparation.
- Presentations of research findings at Eurocrim 2022 and the annual Nordic research seminar.
- Presentations of research findings at two events hosted by practitioners.



Research article published by Kammersgaard (DK)

Research grants from 2018 continue to bear fruits

The research grants allow researchers to gather data and conduct analysis that may result in research articles and other outcomes years after the project is formally completed.

For example, Thomas Friis Søgaaard and Marie Højlund Bræmer received research funding in 2018 and published two peer-reviewed articles in 2022 based on findings from the project:

- *Law-abiding criminals: Young adults' drift into and out of recreational drug sales in Nordic Journal of Criminology.*
- *Social distribution of illegal substances among Danish youth in STOF.*



Thomas Friis Søgaaard (DK)
Aarhus University



Research activities

The annual research seminar

Hveragerði, Iceland

The NSfK Research Seminar is an annual seminar hosted by the NSfK Council. It is a platform for knowledge exchange, networking and discussion among Nordic criminologists. In 2022, the seminar took place in Iceland on May 9–12 2022. After two years heavily marked by a global pandemic, Nordic criminologists were finally able to meet in person again to present new research and to celebrate 60 years of NSfK.

The theme of the seminar was *Crime and Crisis in the North: Past, present, and future*. It consisted of a mix of workshops, plenary sessions, and parallel sessions where more than 50 criminologists presented their work.

Among the themes addressed were Covid and crime, wildlife trade, online hate speech, restorative justice, policing, and migration.



Polina Smiragina-Ingelström
@smiragina



A great start to post-Covid conferencing with @NSfKorg in Iceland! Was so excited to present some of the preliminary findings from my study on the help-seeking behavior of #trafficking victims and to listen to some excellent presentations on very interesting projects! #norskim

*Abstracts and highlights from the seminar can be found on [the website of NSfK](#) or on Twitter under the tag #norskim.

Keynote speakers

Katja Franko (NO), Professor, University of Oslo, on: Migration, punishment, and the boundaries of membership.

Jerzy Sarnecki (SE), Professor emeritus, University of Gävle, on: Immigration and crime development at the national and municipal level. Effects of the 'refugee wave' on crime in Sweden.

Matti Näsi (FI), University Lecturer, University of Helsinki, on: Crime and Covid in Finland.

Ólafur Þór Hauksson (IS), Lawyer and District Prosecutor, on: The storm of the crisis – prosecuting the Icelandic banking sector.

Linda Kjær Minke (DK), Professor, University of Southern Denmark, on: Overcrowding in Danish prisons.

Award ceremony

Maria Hansen (NO), Kari Stefansen (NO), and May-Len Skilbrei (NO) were the winners of the Nordic Journal for Criminology's Best Article Prize 2021. For this, they were awarded by Editor-in-Chief Sébastien Tutenges.

The article addresses non-reporting of sexual violence.



Working groups and contact seminars

Working groups gather researchers from the Nordic countries. The working group meetings are intended for researchers planning or initiating a joint Nordic research project or who wish to establish research-related cooperation in another form. NSfK provided support for three working groups in 2022:

- The Nordic Network for Penal Voluntary Sector Research, led by Emy Bäcklin (SE)
- Children and young people in conflict with the law, led by Ingun Fornes (NO)
- CHANCE – Child abuse and neglect in the Nordic countries, led by Gertrud Sofie Hafstad (NO)

NSfK contact seminars are an arena for researchers and practitioners in the field of criminology and criminal policy to meet in small, informal groups. The contact seminars serve as cross-professional expert forums in various areas of common concern for the Nordic countries.

One contact seminar was held in 2022:

- Initiatives to prevent and combat gangs and gang-related crime in the Nordic countries, led by Council member Anne-Julie Boesen Pedersen (DK).
-



Travel grants

NSfK provides financial support for conference-related travel, research stays abroad, group travels, Nordic representation at board meetings, and foreign guest lecturers*. The support is given to researchers in criminology based in the Nordic countries.

In 2022, the following 8 scholars received travel grants: Liila Holmberg (FIN), David Sausdal (SE), Linnea Koponen (SE), Clara Rosa Sandbye (DK), Jonna Rennerskog (SE), Oda Sophie Gullvik Frafjord (NO), Ida Nafstad (NO) and Felipe Estrada (SE):

- Two presented their research findings at the annual conference of the The European Society of Criminology (Eurocrim).
- One conducted a research stay at the University Institute of Lisbon.

- One had a research stay at the University of Cambridge, which included a workshop on solitary confinement and a prison research seminar.
- One was a visiting professor at the Universidad de Chile.
- One presented findings at the annual conference of the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect (ISPCAN)
- One participated at the conference of European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ)
- One presented research at European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control conference in Turin, Italy.

What did the NSfK travel grant mean to you?

Due to the support, I was able to interview, observe and, reconnect with former ethnographic interlocutors and meet new ones, allowing me to explore dimensions of transnational crime and policing further as they play out in and outside of Portugal. This has all been tremendously helpful, and the empirical material collected will, among other things, end up being included in an upcoming book of mine entitled '*Globalising Local Policing*'.



David Sausdal (SE)
Lund University

*For further information, see [§ 9 – Guidelines for awarding travel grants.](#)



Travel grants

A total of 100,000 NOK enabled 8 researchers to:

- Participate in 4 different conferences.
- Conduct 3 research stays.
- Spread Nordic criminological research in a total of 6 countries outside of the Nordic region.

The travel funds also allowed:

- 80 Nordic criminologists and government officials to attend the research seminar in Hveragerði, Iceland.
- The annual meeting of the Council to take place in Stockholm, Sweden.

PhD Network Seminar

Lund, Sweden

In November, Nordic PhD students in criminology met in Lund for two days of networking and knowledge exchange.

The NSfK-funded seminar served as a meeting platform for early career researchers in the Nordic countries as well as an arena where criminological research could be further developed.

The participating PhD students gave a presentation of their dissertation projects and engaged in fruitful discussions about the current state and the future of Nordic criminology.

Among the presented and discussed themes were restorative justice, grievance-fueled violence, forensic DNA evidence technologies, recidivism, incels, rape laws, and drug dealing on social media.

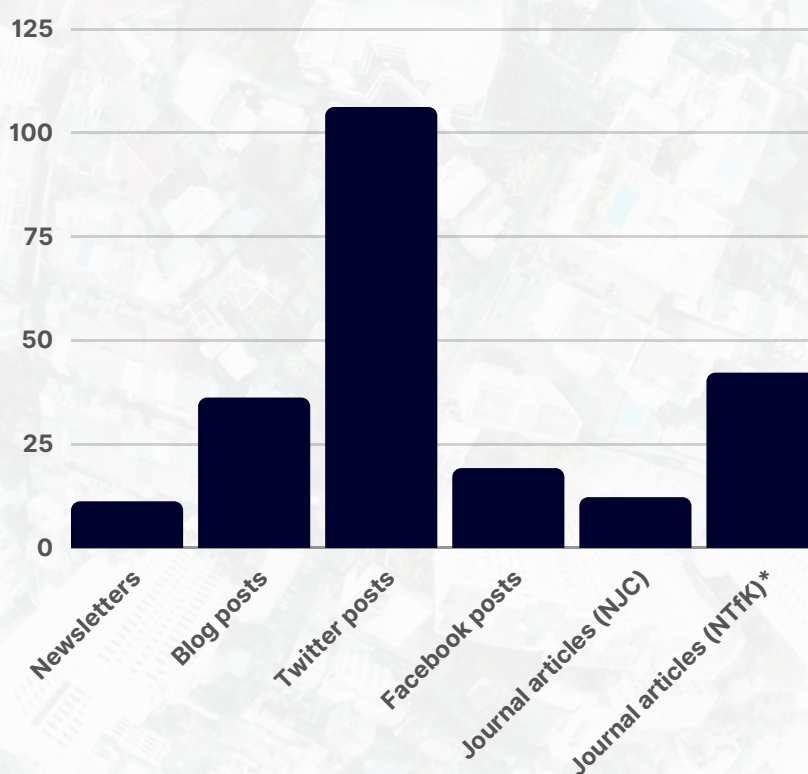


An aerial, wide-angle photograph of a densely populated urban area, likely a city center, showing numerous high-rise apartment buildings and commercial structures. The image is presented in a circular, fisheye-like perspective, with the city buildings curving around the edges of the frame. A dark blue rectangular box is superimposed over the center of the image, containing white text. Below the text is a thin, horizontal orange line.

Communication and dissemination

Spreading criminological knowledge

A key responsibility of NSfK is to disseminate information and knowledge about Nordic criminology and criminal justice policy as well as about the activities of the organisation. The communication is first and foremost directed towards Nordic criminal justice researchers, governing bodies and relevant organisations, but also aims to reach the general public.



The main communication platform is nsfk.org. The website is updated monthly with news, blog posts, and newsletters. The organisation is also present on several social media platforms.

In addition, NSfK supports two Nordic journals, namely *Nordic Journal of Criminology* and *Nordisk Tidsskrift for Kriminalvidenskap*.

*Including the 30 journal articles in the Jubilee Issue.

Communication platforms

Newsletter - Nordic Criminology

The newsletter provides the recipients with information about the activities of NSfK and about international conferences and events, as well as reminders of application deadlines. In addition, the letter contains national developments relevant to criminologists and criminal justice professionals in the public and private sector in all of the member countries. The information is provided by the national Contact Secretaries.

The newsletter reaches a large audience and is sent out each month to 935 subscribers as of December 2022.



Sign up for the newsletter at [nsfk.org](https://www.nsfk.org).

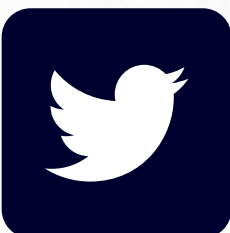
Blog posts

The Nordic Criminology Blog is a joint initiative of Nordic *Journal of Criminology* (NJC) and NSfK. Our ambition is to publish high quality insights into Nordic criminology. We encourage discussions on topics including – but not limited to – contemporary criminology, new empirical studies, criminal policy, crime prevention, and advances in criminological theory.

At least three blog posts are published on the website each month, and we have an open call for blog contributions.

Social media

NSfK is present on three social media platforms: Facebook, YouTube and Twitter. In 2022, the organisation was the most active on Twitter and Facebook. On both platforms, the followers receive updates on the research funded by NSfK and general information about NSfK activities. This includes sharing the blog posts and content from the newsletter, and reminders of events and application deadlines.



NSfKorg @Twitter

The account currently has 836 followers and aims to reach academics and politicians.



Nordic Research Council for Criminology @ Facebook

The account currently has 955 followers and aims to reach practitioners and students.

Blog post by Malthe Ø. Ribe and Mikkel M. Okholm (DK)

The economic impact of crime prevention and rehabilitation of prison inmates

Public expenditure on crime prevention and rehabilitation programmes are typically only considered as a cost to the public budgets in Denmark. Expenditure on such programmes can, however, also be considered an investment if the programmes have beneficial effects that can be documented through scientific impact evaluations. Cost-benefit-models aim to show whether the beneficial effects of programmes outweigh or at least partially offset the costs of the programmes. Standardized and systematic cost-benefit-models regarding crime exist internationally (e.g. at the Washington Institute of Public Policy), but have until now been unavailable in Denmark.

This has recently changed with the expansion of an existing cost-benefit model, the Socio-Economic Investment Model (Den Socialøkonomiske Investeringsmodel, abbreviated SØM), that now provides cost-benefit-analysis of programmes targeted at prison inmates. A new report from the Research Division at the Danish Ministry of Justice explains the expansion of SØM and provides examples of cost-benefit calculations using the documented effects of a Swedish and a Finnish programme.

The Socio-Economic Investment Model and its' recent expansion

SØM is a cost-benefit model that calculates the economic impact of programmes that increase the share of certain groups of disadvantaged or vulnerable citizens who reach a certain predefined success criterion compared to similar citizens who do not reach this success criterion.

The Research Division at the Danish Ministry of Justice has recently collaborated with The National Board of Social Services, who are responsible for ongoing development and updates of SØM, to develop SØM and make it possible to perform cost-benefit calculations regarding programmes targeting inmates.

For inmates, the model defines the success criterion as either:

- A. no new convictions for crime committed in the first two years following release from prison,
- 1.B. no new prison sentences for crime committed in the first two years following release from prison, or
- C. participation in work or education for more than half of the first year following release from prison.

SØM includes statistical estimates of the difference in the use of public services and activities between prisoners who reach one of these success criteria and prisoners who do not. SØM converts these estimates into economic terms through estimated average costs for each service and activity.



Mikkel Møller Okholm



Malthe Øland Ribe

SØM estimates a positive economic impact of 505,300 DKK after ten years per person who reaches the above-mentioned Goal A compared to other persons who do not reach this goal. SØM estimates the positive economic impact of reaching Goal B at 764,000 DKK after ten years per person. Finally, SØM estimates the positive economic impact of reaching Goal C at 556,800 DKK after ten years per person.

It is important to be aware that SØM calculations include a number of uncertainties and limitations. Importantly, SØM only considers differences in public expenditure, while other potential benefits are not included in the estimates. These limitations mean that the calculations should not be treated as precise and certain results. Rather, they serve as indicators of the extent to which the programmes should be seen as social investments rather than mere expenditures.

Examples of calculations – the economic consequences of Nordic crime prevention and rehabilitation programmes.

The Ministry of Justices' recent report provides examples of cost-benefit calculations for specific programmes targeting inmates. The calculations concern effective programmes only from Sweden and Finland because no relevant impact evaluations exist in Denmark yet. The calculations show which economic impacts could be expected from similar programmes in Denmark.

In Sweden, Utökad Frigång is an intervention that lets prison inmates serve the last part of their sentences at home with an ankle monitor as long as they work, attend education, or receive treatment. Impact evaluations show that this prevents reoffending. Using SØM, we estimate that the effect leads to a positive economic impact of 47,200 DKK after ten years per participant in the intervention. When the savings from serving the initial sentence at home, rather than in prison, are taken into account, the positive economic impact is estimated at 265,100 DKK after ten years per participant.

In Finland, inmates have the possibility of getting a comprehensive education while serving their sentence. An impact evaluation shows that inmates who finish an education while serving their sentence are more likely to be employed or continue their education after their release. Using SØM, we estimate that this effect leads to positive economic impacts of 21,200 DKK per participant after ten years. These calculations do not include expenditures on the education programmes and are a break-even estimate of what could be spent on the programmes without leading to a net deficit.

For more information on SØM and the findings of the report, please see the website of the Danish **Ministry of Justice** (in Danish).

Mikkel Møller Okholm and Malthe Øland Ribe are both Heads of Section at the Research Division at the Danish Ministry of Justice. Both have educational backgrounds in sociology and have worked with criminological topics for a number of years. The Research Division carry out research and analyses on crime developments, the effect of crime preventive measures, and on other topics relevant to the Ministry of Justice.

Blog post by Matti Näsi (FIN)

COVID and Crime Trends in Finland

It has been little over two years since the beginning of global Covid-19 pandemic. Although it does appear that we may be on the winning side of things, the consequences and disruptions caused by the pandemic were massive. In Finland, lockdown in the spring of 2020 meant significant restrictions on restaurants, social gatherings, workplaces, and schools. This was followed with a number of milder periodical restrictions both in late 2020 and throughout 2021. Our daily routine activities were thus heavily impacted. From the perspective of crime, these past two years have provided an interesting natural experiment. Early in the pandemic many of the crime-related concerns focused on domestic violence, as did much of the early research, but gradually research has begun to widen its scope. No doubt future research on the implications from the pandemic will be plentiful, but in the meantime I'll try and take at least some stock on what happened with crime in Finland over the past two years. Although I do realize that trying to do this in single blog post requires a very general overview.

With this in mind, one could sum up the past two years in somewhat Dickensian style as the tale of two years. What this refers to is that the general overview of crime in Finland in 2020 was quite different from that in 2021. This is evident both in trends on police-recorded crime, as well as findings from the national crime victim survey. In 2020 we witnessed a clear spike in police-recorded crime, and this was particularly notable during the summer of 2020, right after the spring 2020 lockdown ended. This spike is evident in both violence and property crime. At the same time findings from the Finnish National Crime Survey were quite the opposite, as there was a sharp decline in the percentage of the population that had been victims of violence in 2020 compared to year before. For men, the prevalence rate of violence victimization was almost halved compared to 2019. Violence in Finland has always been very alcohol driven, thus restrictions on social gatherings seemed to mirror this.

However, any of the changes appear to have been short lived, as the impact from Covid on crime appeared to have "normalized", and in 2021 crime rates were almost back to those pre-pandemic levels. This goes for both police-recorded crime trends and victimisation survey findings, which both show notably similar prevalence rates as in 2019. One could argue that this was not particularly surprising, but it does further highlight the role that nightlife and alcohol-related social activity has on crime on a wider societal level. Rarely has there been a more effective way to reduce violence victimisation in such a short period of time. At the same time, early concerns regarding domestic violence appear not have been realised. However, the long-term implications, particularly among youth, are something to keep an eye on.



Matti Näsi is currently working as a university lecturer at the Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy at University of Helsinki. He is also co-coordinator (together with Ilari Kolttola) of the National Crime Victim Survey.

Nordic Journal of Criminology

Nordic Journal of Criminology (NJC) is an international, peer-reviewed journal publishing original research articles in the field of criminology and crime prevention.

The journal provides a forum for criminological research across a wide range of disciplines and methodologies. Priority is given to research with a Nordic relevance, such as studies based on Nordic data.

In 2022, it was decided that NJC should change publisher from *Taylor & Francis* to *Scandinavian University Press*.

The new publisher offers diamond open access, meaning that all journal content is published online with immediate free access. NJC articles will from 2023 solely be published online.

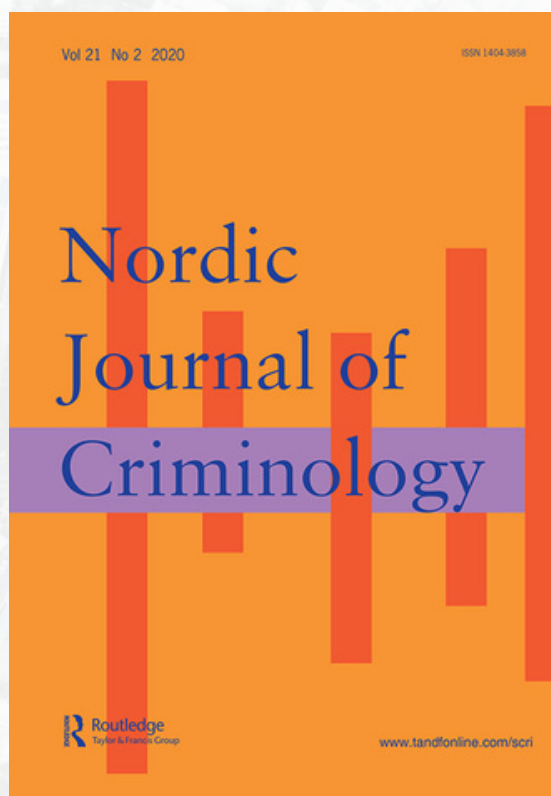
Highlights and key figures

The number of submitted articles to NJC reached a record high in the year 2022.

While 27 articles were submitted in 2021, 44 articles were submitted in 2022. The increased interest could be a sign that NJC has become a more visible and attractive research outlet.

NJC is being marketed through different channels, notably Twitter. The number of followers on Twitter has grown from 700 in 2019 to 2650 in 2022. During 2021, a total of 19 blog posts were written. In 2022, the number was 22.

In 2022, articles from NJC were downloaded a total of 81,889 times. The Editor-in-Chief expects that the launch of open access will generate more downloads and more readers in the years to come.



Interview: Winners of the NJC Best Article Prize 2021

The NJC Best Article Prize is awarded annually for the best article published in the previous year's volume of NJC.

The prize recognises excellent research and scholarship that engages with current and emerging issues in Nordic criminology.

Maria Hansen, Kari Stefansen, and May-Len Skilbrei were the authors of the award-winning article of 2021:

“Non-reporting of sexual violence as action: acts, selves, futures in the making” published (OA) in *Nordic Journal of Criminology*, Volume 22, 2021, pp 42-57.

Congratulations, Maria Hansen! How does it feel to win this award?

Great! Very surprising. It's my first article as first author, so it is unexpected and highly motivating. Very grateful for Kari and May-Len's contributions. Proud of the article, and happy about the prize.

Could you please briefly explain the study and your motivation?

In a culture where reporting rape is emphasized as important, and the right thing to do (in order to place blame move on as well as to prevent future rapes by punishing rapist and deterring potential ones), it is important to look into why some women refrain from reporting rape.

What will you study next?

My PhD work focuses on drunken sex as a broader approach to grey-area rape. I look into what the overlapping norms that make drunken sex common and desired, while simultaneously making drunken grey-area rape and rape possible and not uncommon. My next articles will be on normative heterosexuality and on the effect of place in stories of sexual exploration and exploitation.



Maria Hansen (NO)
University of Oslo

The nominees for the Best Article Prize of 2022 are:

- Janika Lindström & Timo Toikko (FI): *Survival stories as access to society. People with history of a crime as experts by experience.*
- Sara Pritchett & Kim Møller (DK): *Can social bonds and social learning theories help explain radical violent extremism?*
- Thomas Ugelvik (NO): *Three burglars, a friendly police inspector, and a vegetarian fox: Scandinavian exceptionalism, children's literature, and desistance-conducive cultures.*

Nordisk Tidsskrift for Kriminalvidenskab

Nordisk Tidsskrift for Kriminalvidenskab (NTfK) is a scientific journal aimed at researchers and other professionals with an interest in criminal law or criminological subjects. NTfK also fulfils a criminal policy function in a common Nordic context.

NSfK has supported the journal as well as the research providing its content for years. We are now proud to announce that NSfK has become co-owner of NTfK as of 2022.

The issue published in October 22 represented a historical step forward, as NSfK from this issue on took the position as an equal partner alongside the Nordic associations as publishers of the journal.

Open access

In 2021, it was decided that NTfK would offer immediate open access to the journal's content, on the basis of the principle that free public access to research supports a greater global exchange of knowledge.

The journal's content since 1949 can now be accessed through [the online archive of NTfK](#).

In 2022, articles from NTfK were downloaded a total of 122,110 times.

Jubilee Issue

In conjunction with the 60th anniversary of NSfK, the Council invited young researchers to reflect on future criminological research. The outcome of this initiative was a special Jubilee Issue of NTfK, titled "What questions do future Nordic criminologists ask?" The issue was published in Swedish, while the vast majority of the contributions were written in English.

Did you know that NTfK is one of the oldest and most prestigious Nordic and international journals within criminal justice and criminological studies?





Facts and figures

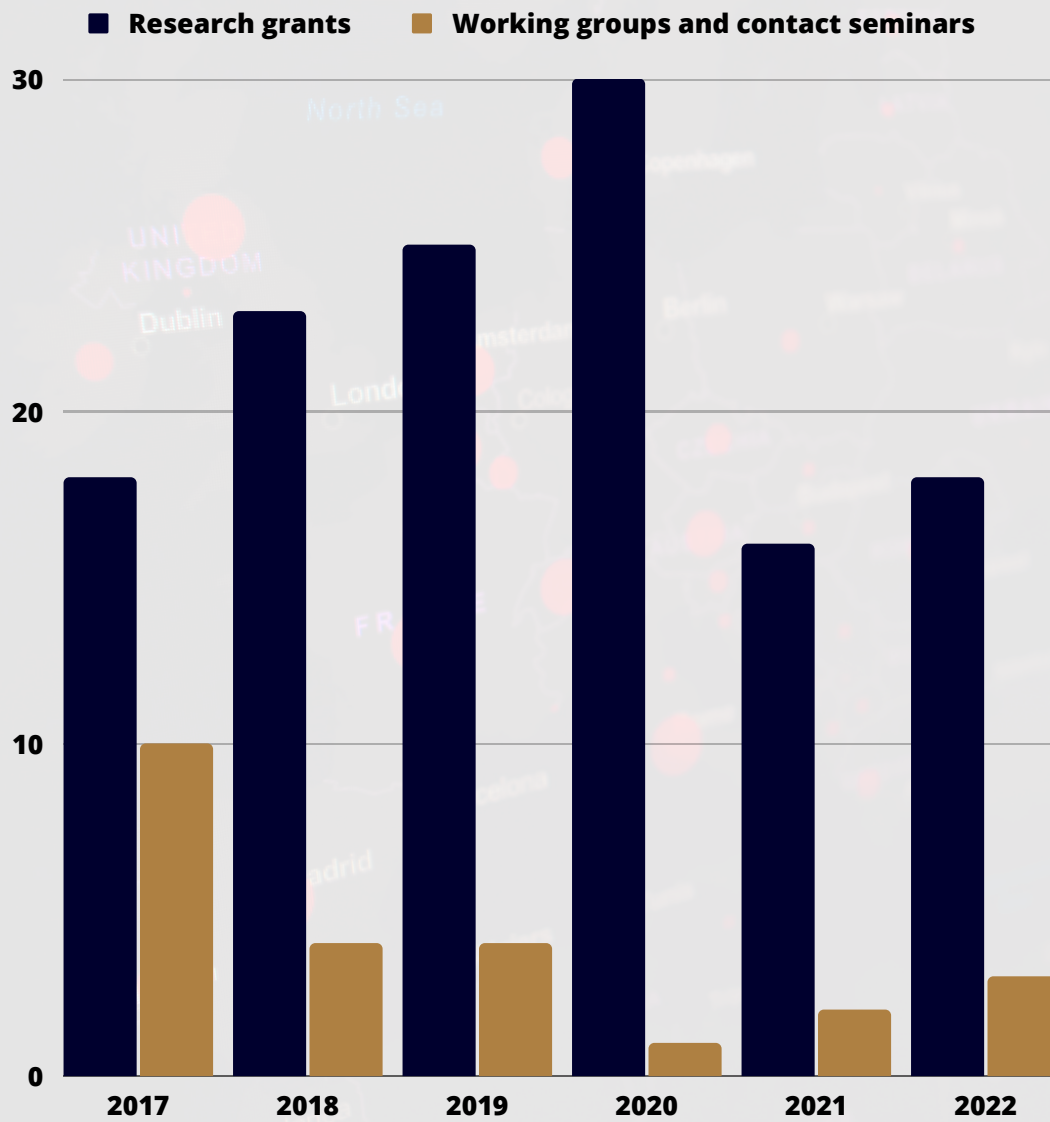
SWEDEN

Total amount granted 2017–2022

Research grants: approx.:	17,000,000 NOK to a total of 31 projects
Travel grants:	690,000 NOK for a total of 95 trips
Working groups/contact seminars:	1,270,000 NOK to a total of 19 WG/CS

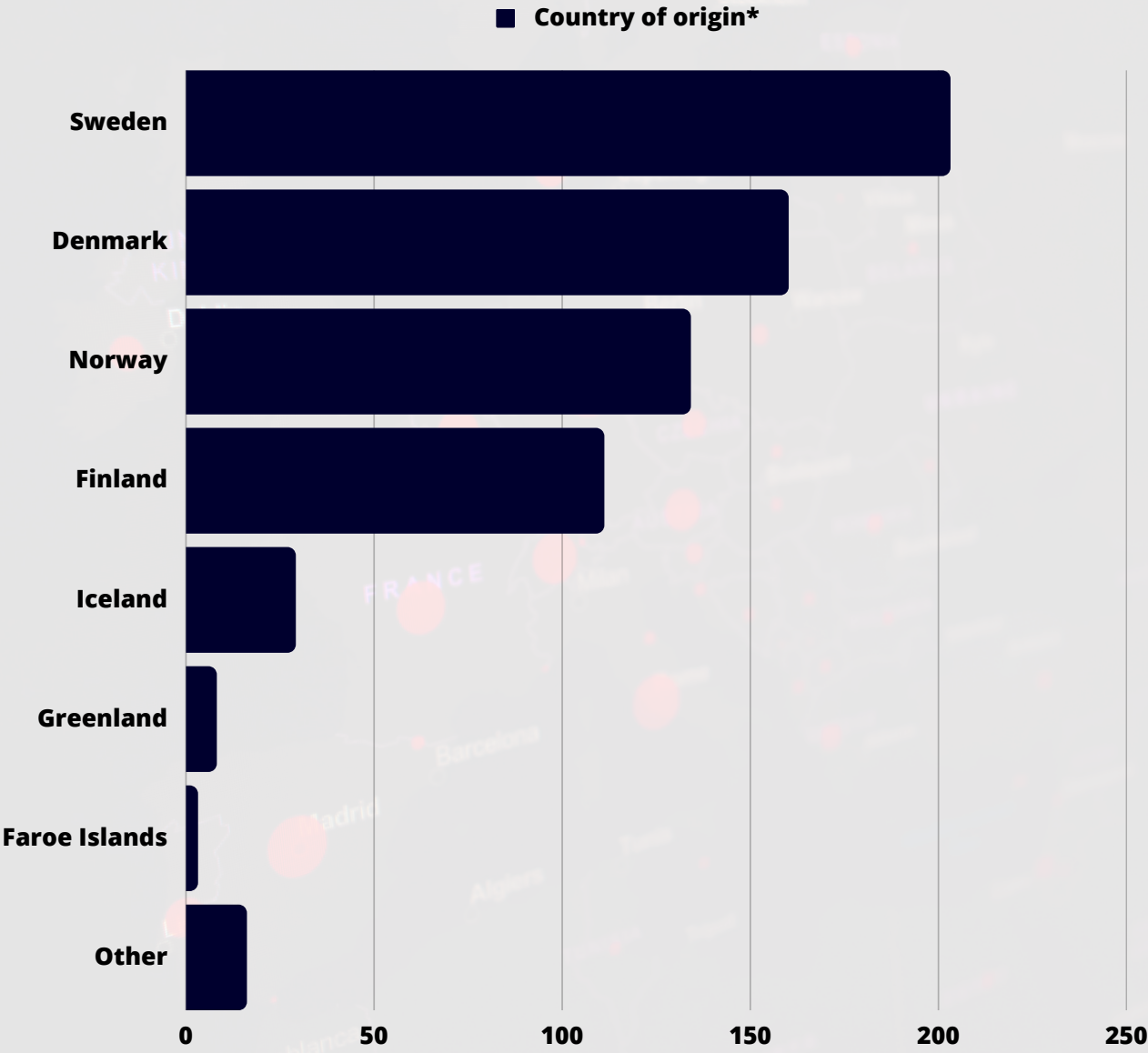


Applications - 2017-2022



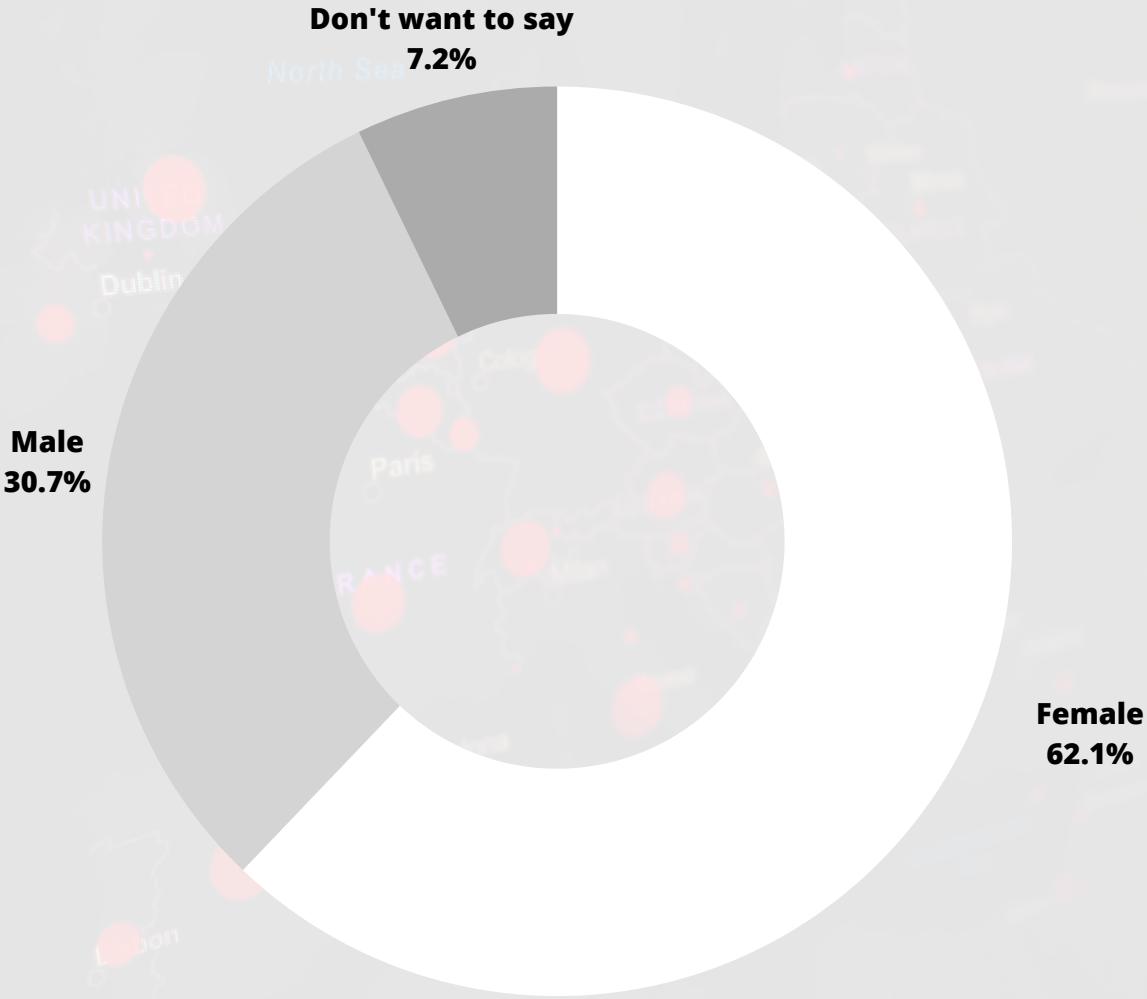
*The total number of applications received, 2017–2022.

Applications by country of origin - 2017-2022



*All application types, 2017-2022.

Gender of the applicants - 2017-2022



*All application types, 2017-2022.



Financial statements

NSfK accounts 2022 (NOK)

	Accounts 2022
Income	10 918 581
Government contributions	5 632 976
Incoming balance	4 971 784
Incoming balance NTFK	313 821
Expenses	5 526 964
Grants	2 460 483
Research Grants	2 227 826
Working Groups	101 803
Contact Seminars	69 341
Travel Grants	61 513
Annual meetings	807 257
Administration	1 492 924
Communication	58 065
Other Costs	51 831
Nordic Journal of Criminology	450 296
Nordisk Tidsskrift for Kriminalvidenskab	206 108
Balance	5 391 617