

Nordic Research Council for Criminology (NSfK)
Research Seminar 2024 – Abstracts

Panel 1: Police interventions and youths Chair: Zoran Vasiljevic	
<p><i>Standardisation, discretion and evidence-based practice in the police's person-oriented prevention</i></p> <p>Pernille Erichsen Skjevraak</p>	<p>In crime prevention, vague formal restrictions leaves a wide scope for discretion and risk of bias and inconsistent processes. Thus, it has been argued that decision-making will be improved by standardized procedures and assessments, and increased emphasis is put on evidence-based policing in general. In the person-oriented work this can be seen as e.g., structured risk assessment tools based on evidence-based risk factors. In policing, structured assessment tools have been especially evident in risk assessments of domestic abuse. However, the implementation and practical use of such tools is flawed, and “what works” in one place does not necessarily work in another. Although evidence-based practice is challenging, and perhaps is more a discourse than reality, standardization potentially have a number of advantages for the quality and accountability in the work. Drawing on "what matters", I will present preliminary analyzes on how standardization – and the variations within – may look within person-oriented prevention aimed at children and young people under 18.</p>
<p><i>Icelandic police students' attitudes toward routine police armament</i></p> <p>Guðmundur Oddson</p>	<p>While firearms have become more accessible to Icelandic police officers in recent years, they are still kept in locked cases in police cars until armament orders are issued by a ranking officer. In 2022, however, the Minister of Justice sidestepped parliamentary procedure to amend a regulation to allow police officers to carry tasers. This move intensified an ongoing debate over police use of force—the highest level of which is the use of firearms. This raises the question of what police students in a country with a routinely unarmed police service think about further changes to Iceland's police armament policy, specifically the possibility of allowing officers to carry firearms. In light of this, the present study maps the distribution and correlates of Icelandic police students' attitudes towards routine police armament using survey data from the RECPOL project. The sample includes incoming and graduating police students from 2019 to 2024. Results show that students are divided on the question, but the majority are against routine armament. Multinomial logistic regression reveals that women and incoming students are more likely to oppose armament than men and graduating students.</p>

<p><i>Datafication and discretion - early intervention and forecasting youth crime</i></p> <p>Helene Gundhus</p>	<p>Aradau and Blanke (2017) argue that digital prediction methods are changing the police's preventive work to be more about short-term decision-making in near real time. The article contributes empirical research on how datafication and data analysis change decision-making when the police use risk assessment tools to identify young people who are the 'best candidates' for crime prevention. To identify young people early in a potential criminal career, police prevention officers can request an intelligence report from the intelligence unit to map at-risk individuals who have not yet come to the attention of the police. Intelligence analysts use software to analyse and create a profile of these young people and their associates. Our findings show that the intelligence analyst's discretionary assessments of risk are more important for decision-making than direct application of the system's quantified risk score. We also discuss how the measures used in different periods of the project changed due to shifts in how the risk indicators were interpreted.</p>
<p><i>The Impact of Police Arrests on Subsequent Delinquent Behavior among Malmö Youths: A Propensity Score Matching Approach</i></p> <p>Zoran Vasiljevic</p>	<p>This research examines the impact of police arrests on self-reported delinquent behavior, aiming to evaluate labeling and deterrence theories in the context of law enforcement interventions. Deterrence theory posits that legal consequences, like arrest, act as deterrents, discouraging individuals from criminal activities. Conversely, labeling theory suggests that formal sanctions, such as arrests, may lead to stigmatization and deviant identity formation, potentially encouraging further criminal engagement. Conducted in Malmö, the study utilizes a longitudinal dataset covering three waves of assessments at ages 15, 16, and 17. Propensity score matching is employed to establish a control group for youths arrested during the second wave, forming an intervention group. This minimizes selection biases, enhancing the study's validity. The findings indicate null effects, suggesting no substantial influence of police arrests on subsequent behavior among the youth population under study. Implications for policy and future research directions are discussed in light of these findings.</p>

Panel 2: Crime in the Nordics: then and now

Chair: Maria Libak Pedersen

The Historical Criminal Statistics of the Nordic Countries 1810-2022

Miikka Vuorela

The Historical Criminal Statistics of the Nordic Countries 1810–2022 is a data collection project that is in its current final phase funded by the NSFK. The purpose of the project has been to collect macro-level criminal justice statistics from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, to compile the data into a coherent set of time series and to publish them in open access format. The final product includes statistics on criminal convictions, police-reported offences, sentenced punishments and prison population with well over a thousand individual time series. The data availability depends on the original sources but the earliest statistics begin in the year 1810 (prison population). Most datasets continue to the year 2022. In my presentation at the 2024 NSFK contact seminar, I will unveil the web-based statistical database where anyone can freely access the data and hopefully employ it in their criminological and historical research.

En ungdom uden kriminalitet. Straf og velfærd i Danmark, 1970–2020

Lea Brinkgaard

In this paper, I will present selected empirical cases from my PhD project in which I study how young lawbreakers and juvenile crime have been understood, conceptualized, and managed in Denmark from 1970 until today. I nuance the widespread Nordic Exceptionalism thesis according to which punishment and punitive institutions in Nordic welfare states (including the Danish) are said to be exceptionally ‘mild’ and ‘humane’. Based on archival material concerning the abolition of the youth prison in Denmark in 1973 and the establishment of a new Youth Crime Board in 2019, I will discuss how youth crime and young lawbreakers was problematized (differently), and how these problematizations relate to the history of the Danish welfare state, and more specifically, changes within the social and penal domains, and to which extent these changes relate to a broader neoliberalization in the Danish welfare state.

Finnish forensics data 1926–1954

Marko Piipponen

Bureau for Criminal Investigation (Rikostutkimuskeskus) was a Finnish expert institution from 1926-1954. Its primary functions were to analyze forensic evidence, train police to use forensics, maintain a nationwide fingerprint archive, give expert statements, and follow international development of forensic science. In 1955 Bureau was incorporated into the newly founded National Bureau of Investigation (Keskusrikospoliisi) which is the national law enforcement agency of the Finnish Police. Bureau had an important part in modernizing Finnish

	<p>police in the 1920s and it imported knowledge of forensic science from Europe to Finland. Bureau was part of modern European forensic development during the 1920s when the role of forensics in crime investigation rose higher. Bureau also had an important role in the professionalization of the Finnish police. With the use of new technology, police started to collect forensic evidence from crime scenes and Bureau analyzed that evidence. In this presentation, I will show unique historical forensics data of the Bureau from 1926 to 1954, how Finnish forensics developed during that time, and what trends can be seen from the data.</p>
<p><i>Youth Crime Developments in Denmark</i></p> <p>Maria Libak Pedersen</p>	<p>The Research Division at the Ministry of Justice in Denmark conduct various analyses on youth crime and evaluations of crime prevention measures. Each year, we publish a report on youth crime developments in a ten-year period. The report is based on information from the National Police regarding 10-17-yearolds, who are suspected (10-14 -yearolds) or charged (15-17-yearolds) for violations of the Criminal Code. At the seminar, I will be able to contribute with knowledge from the latest report on youth crime developments in Denmark and with results from our six-part evaluation program of the Danish Youth Crime Board [Ungdomskriminalitetsnævnet].</p>

Panel 3: Decision-making and perceptions in courts and boards

Chair: Annick Prieur

<p><i>Judges' perceptions on regional sentencing disparities in Finland</i></p> <p>Tiina Malin</p>	<p>Sentencing research has repeatedly reported disparities beyond legitimate variation in punishment decisions. However, the scope of quantitative interpretations on the backgrounds of the variation is limited. Broadening our understanding of disparities, this study approaches their backgrounds using data from semi-structured interviews for 14 Finnish district judges. Data is analysed using thematic analysis. The interviews explore how judges measure punishment and what sources of law do they use in their decision-making. Among these topics, the findings presented in the seminar shed light on judges' own perceptions on regional sentencing disparities. Implications of the findings are discussed in the presentation.</p>
<p><i>Restorative Justice in the Danish Youth Crime</i></p> <p>Katrine Barnekow Rasmussen</p>	<p>The Danish Youth Crime Boards were launched in 2019 as part of a new legislation to fight and prevent youth offending. The target group consists of offenders aged 10 to 17, of which those 10 to 14 are legally considered below the age of criminal responsibility. In the legislative framework it is recommended that the verdicts of the boards should have a 'restorative character to the extent possible' and be in line with principles of restorative justice. A new category of verdicts, 'instant reactions' is introduced in this context. In an earlier article published in NTfK, I describe how the legislation as well as board members understanding of the intendedly restorative aspects of the boards are unclear and overall not in line with internationally recognised definitions of restorative justice, and how 'instant reactions' are hardly used. In this paper, based on observations, interviews, a.o., I will examine a perception raised by the management of the boards in my material: That the process of the boards' verdicts and the following control will have a restorative effect on the young offenders' lives. I include perspectives from Norway and New Zealand.</p>
<p><i>Anger in court</i></p> <p>Annick Prieur</p>	<p>The research project to be presented is part of a cooperative project on contemporary norms for expressions of anger at Aalborg University. Based on observations of cases of insults, threats and violence in Copenhagen City Court, this presentation will focus on how the court deals with the subject of anger. When are the reasons people got angry found relevant, and which justifications for expressions of anger are receivable for deliberation in court? How does the court deal with people's anger? This will lead to a reflection over the court's role as a sender of normative messages and as a problem solver.</p>

Panel 4: Sanctions for youths

Chair: Andreas Anderberg

Young People with Sexual Offence Convictions and "Ungdomsstraff": Combining punishment with facilitation of change and rehabilitation?

Linn-Eirin Aronsen Haugen

Sexual offences represent approximately 25% of sentenced cases of "Ungdomsstraff" in Norway. "Ungdomsstraff" is an interdisciplinary age specific reaction implemented in 2014 for offenders younger than 18. The intention is to address serious and/or repetitive crime and facilitate for rehabilitation and restorative justice. Thus, avoiding the use of prison and arbitrary use of punishments for young criminal offenders. In this study we focus on the use of, content and timeline of "Ungdomsstraff" with sexual offenses. We have analysed extensive documents from selected cases, their respective court verdicts, and interviewed 11 employees at the National Mediation Service (Konfliktrådet). The study includes 41 perpetrators and 73 victims. The crimes include internet based sexual abuse, sexual relations and initiation of relationships under the age of consent, and violent and threatful behaviour in a sexual context. These cases are described as ethically challenging, but also possibly demonstrating to have great potential of reducing recurrence of such offenses.

Danish Youth Probation Service – exploring the perspectives of children

Ann-Karina Henriksen

In Denmark, a new youth justice reform was introduced in 2019 that restructured how the system responds to children and youth suspected or convicted of crime. The reform introduced a Youth Crime Board and a Youth Probation Service (YPS). Based on qualitative interviews with 37 children aged 12-17 and two weeks of ethnographic fieldwork in two YPS units, this presentation provides insight into how children experience supervision by the YPS. Supervision is mandatory for the duration of the program and includes monthly meetings with a parole officer and control with the interventions listed in their plan of action. It is argued that the YPS is a system of lengthy and tight control, which is experienced as intrusive on multiple levels in the everyday lives of children. The new system is particularly challenging for children with multiple adversities such as trauma, mental illness, substance abuse and childhood neglect, who risk further marginalization in a system focussing on crime prevention by means of sanctions and control.

<p><i>Punishing children. Adolescents' experiences in an Adult Criminal Justice System</i></p> <p>Theresa Dyrvig Henriksen</p>	<p>In recent years, discussions on how to accommodate adolescents in the justice system have been getting increased attention in both the United States and in Europe. In this study we explore how adolescents suspected of a crime navigate the adult criminal justice system in Denmark. The Danish justice system is often described as being lenient towards minors and as focusing on rehabilitation rather than punishment. However, for the young people in this study, the predominant experience is punishment. Drawing on ethnographic data including interviews with adolescents (age 15 to 17) in pre-trial custody, court case observations, and follow-up interviews, we analyze their experiences of punishment ranging from the initial contact with law enforcement to the actual trial. Our findings show that punishment takes on multiple forms throughout the legal process, indicating a penal consciousness that extend well beyond the realms of the court trial and sentencing processes. Furthermore, the study highlights deficiencies in child-friendly procedures within the legal system, leaving the young people with little trust in justice being served.</p>
<p><i>Within or without: in which system should juvenile offenders be handled?</i></p> <p>Andreas Anderberg</p>	<p>In Sweden, the social services have had the prime responsibility for societal reactions on juvenile crimes. Moving towards a more repressive system, this is subject to change. For example, The Swedish Prison and Probation Service became responsible for the new juvenile penalty Ungdomsövervakning and have also been given the assignment of preparing special sections of existing prisons to become 'youth prisons'. This turnaround was confirmed by the so-called Tidö Agreement, a political agreement forming the government, where a clearly harsher view is to be taken on handling juvenile offenders within – and outside – the criminal justice system. Separate ideologies – punishment on the one hand, treatment on the other – collide when different authorities deal with juvenile offenders. It is not clear which one of the systems that should take presence in matters of legislation or sentencing. Legal consequences for juvenile offenders constitute a complex field of tension, in the middle of legal areas with often diametrically opposed goals and strategies. The question has also been raised whether juvenile offenders should be dealt with, within an entirely separate system.</p>

Panel 5: Youths in criminal gangs and severe offending

Chair: Monika Grønli Rosten

Birds of a feather flock together"- Intersectional analysis of constructions of accountability in the online discourses surrounding "street gangs" in Finland

Marja Lönnroth-Olin

This article analyses how the Finnish online audience discuss the street gang phenomenon in Finland. This is a topic that has gathered a considerable amount of public attention and concern in recent years. The public discussions have been clearly gendered and racialised, and the gangs have been constructed as a threat to Finnish values and national security. The data consists of comments to news articles about street gangs, collected from three Finnish online media sites (hs.fi, yle.fi; svenska.yle.fi). The analysis combines critical discursive psychology with an intersectional approach, and explores how accountability is constructed by the general public; a perspective that has been left somewhat unattended in discursive research on this topic. The analysis shows how intersectional categorisations, such as age, class, gender, and ethnicity are mobilised to construct accountability for various actors, such as the society, the family and the individual. In practical terms, the question of who is held accountable has implications on what is considered to be the proper policies, interventions and preventive measures to address the street gang phenomenon.

Gang-affiliated young offenders in Swedish secure residential care: An Interview Study

Tove Pettersson

The end of the 2010s saw an escalation in conflicts between a number of criminal networks, predominantly in the country's three largest cities. The increase in fire-arms-related lethal violence observed in Sweden as a whole, can almost exclusively be understood as a result of these conflicts. At the center of these conflicts are young men. In Sweden, serious young offenders usually receive secure residential care in youth institutions run by the Swedish National Board of Institutional Care (SiS). Using in-depth interview data with 25 staff members and 22 youths across 7 special approved youth institutions, this study explores how SiS' work is affected by the youths' affiliation to criminal networks and how youths with these affiliations view SiS' work, staff, and their own prospects for life outside. The results show both similarities and differences for these youths compared to previous research on young people at these institutions. It is also clear that the group has significantly affected safety issues at the institutions. The presentation focuses on the youths' narratives of life at SiS and their prospects for the future.

<p><i>Recruitment of youth by organized criminal networks</i></p> <p>Katrín Sif Oddgeirsdóttir</p>	<p>According to Europol, drug related violence is putting a strain on local communities and society (2024). The current emerging threats of organized criminal networks has had impact in all Nordic countries, including Iceland. One of such threat is the recruitment of young people. Instead of viewing youth violence within the scope of "drug related violence" and posing vulnerable young people as a potential risk, a broader framework is needed. This presentation has two objectives. Firstly, from a police perspective, to understand the nexus of organized crime and youth violence, threat assessment is introduced. The purpose is to demonstrate that some organized criminal networks are more threatening to youth than others, causing serious harm on young people's lives and future. Secondly, methodological implications of the threat assessment are presented, as well as practicality, in terms of shaping strategic priorities for policy makers.</p>
<p><i>When young life takes turn for the worst. Case studies and statistics on 15-29 years old homicide victims in Finland.</i></p> <p>Ilina Sahramäki</p>	<p>The examination of most severe cases of youth violence yields knowledge that can be used to develop policy interventions. While we know quite a lot about perpetrators, more information on young homicide victims is needed in order for us to understand how inequality, exclusion, and overall ill-being play out in young peoples lives. First, this paper overviews the characteristics of 15-29 years old homicide victims in Finland based on statistics. Second, it takes closer look on few cases with negative trajectories based on qualitative interviews with homicide victims' family members. Finally, based on preliminary findings, this paper will draw a sketch of social autopsy framework to youth violence and homicide. This study is part of research project Out of Despair, which focuses on violent, suicidal, and drug-induced deaths and near-miss cases of young people under 30. The project is funded by The Strategic Research Council (SRC) in the Academy of Finland.</p>

Panel 6: Crime and criminality on the Internet

Chair: Serena Yunran Zhang

Do Cybercrimes Indicate Serious Offending Behavior? A comparative study among Nordic adolescents

Janne Vepsäläinen

Emerging technologies make cybercrime an increasingly important area of research in criminology. However, it is currently unclear how cybercrime compares to other criminal behavior among young people in terms of prevalence and severity. Frequently employed multiple-item self-report measures can obscure the differences in severity among different crimes, posing a problem for new forms of crime with an unclear relationship to traditional offenses. In this study, we are using representative Nordic data from fourth International Self-Report Delinquency Study (ISR4, N = 9 039) to study the prevalence of hacking, cyber fraud, hate speech and online sexual violence among Nordic adolescents (aged 13 to 17). In addition, we utilize Item Response Theory to analyze the relative seriousness of cybercrime offenses against more conventional forms of delinquency (i.e. property and violent crimes). Study also provides information on the shared risk factors for cybercrime and more traditional forms of delinquency. Based on our findings, we reflect on the criminal political significance of cybercrime from the point of view of the prevalence and seriousness of crime.

Incels, involuntary celibacy and internet radicalization

Jan Christoffer Andersen

Debates are ongoing about the harm misogynistic online communities pose to young men's identity and understanding of masculinities. Incels are now inextricably associated with misogyny which some who identify with the term contest. This presentation aims to nuance our understanding of the online incel community using 14 direct interviews with men who identify or formerly identified as incel or involuntary celibate. I use a subcultural theoretical framework, and my analysis identifies three forms of subcultural involvement of incels, varying from being all-encompassing, active participation, and loose attachment. Lastly, drawing on the concept of digital drift, I also show how incels can flexibly drift across categories, changing their involvement and attachment to the incel subculture over time; the most stringent and committed incels fully embrace their subcultural identity, while others have a fluid and temporal relationship with the incel subculture. The presentation highlights the need for more critical direct engagement with young men involved in different aspects of the incel subculture to help counter harmful incel ideology.

<p><i>Young people's risk behavior offline and online: Evidence from the Youth Profile Survey in Denmark</i></p> <p>Serena Yunran Zhang</p>	<p>As children grow up and enter adolescence, their risk-taking behavior is an important indicator of both their current and future quality of life. No comprehensive study of Danish youth crime has been carried out in the last decade. Since the pandemic of COVID-19, online activities may have been far more important among youth due to the lockdown and social distancing policies. Crime and deviance also follow the trend and are more frequently observed in the digital world. Drawing on a sample from Grade 7th-9th students (N = 7810) from the Youth Profile Survey (2022/2023), this study depicts the overall picture of both online and offline criminal and deviant behavior among Danish young people today (e.g., online fraud, offline drug use, and theft, etc.). Meanwhile, by identifying some possible risk and protective correlates of crime and deviance (e.g., parents' digital use time, online and offline supervision from family, peer influence, etc.), this study may provide some inspiration for the youth crime prevention strategy not only in Denmark but also across Nordic countries as a whole.</p>
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Panel 7: Violence in surveys and statistics

Chair: Snorri Örn Árnason

Exposure to and Perpetration of Violence: A quantitative study on Youth Experiences and Attitudes in Oslo

Camilla Løvschall Langeland

This paper presents findings from a Norwegian survey that aims to explore correlations between adolescents' experiences of violence and their attitudes towards violence. The study utilizes data collected from the fourth International Self-Report Delinquency Study (ISR4), with a sample of 1598 individuals aged 13-18 from schools in Oslo distributed across 71 classes. The analysis focuses on examining potential associations between self-reported acts of violence, exposure to violence, and attitudes towards violence among adolescents. The study employs multilevel generalized linear regression models to explore how various factors as demographic, family, school, and neighborhood may influence the likelihood of experiencing violence, both as victims and offenders. The study aims to uncover insights into the relationship between adolescents' experiences of violence, both as perpetrators and victims, and their attitudes towards violence. The findings of this study will contribute to a better understanding of the correlation between adolescent experiences of violence and their attitudes towards violence.

The Blind Spot: Assessing the increase in self-reported victimization among young Swedish women

Mika Hagerlid

In the Swedish Crime Survey, young women (aged 16-24) have consistently stated that they are exposed to offences against the individual to a greater extent than young men for the last ten years. This trend challenges conventional notions of criminal victimization, where the focus has been directed at men's criminality and victimization, often within the framework of a gang- and youth-related crime perspective. A possible explanation that is often highlighted is that the increase in self-reported victimization might not be due to an actual increase. Instead, it might be the result of a broader change in women's perceptions about what victimization in general, and sexual offences particularly, entails. According to this perspective, more incidents are reported as sexual offences by younger cohorts of women compared to previous cohorts. However, there are no present studies that assess the validity of this explanation empirically. Therefore, the aim of the present study is to examine if there has been a change in measurement equivalence among young female respondents (ages 16-24) who've answered the Swedish Crime Survey during the period of 2006-2021.

<p><i>IPV perpetration in adolescence and young adult hood – a longitudinal approach</i></p> <p>Linnea Schumacher</p>	<p>Intimate partner violence (IPV) in adolescence is a wide spread issue with research showing rates with up to 60% of young people being exposed to this kind of violence. To prevent IPV in adolescence it is important to focus research on the perpetrators as they are the ones committing the violence. In 2021 the Swedish National Council for Crime prevention stated that research on IPV perpetration is lacking in Sweden. Who are they? What characteristics do they have? What drives them to commit acts of violence within romantic relationships? Are there differences between boys and girls? The present study aims to answer some of the above questions using self-reported data collected through the longitudinal study Peterborough Adolescent and Young Adult Development Study (PADS+) conducted at Cambridge University. PADS+ has followed a randomized sample of 716 individuals since 2004. 11% of the participants has reported perpetrating acts of IPV, this includes both males and females. Using a longitudinal approach makes it possible to follow individuals from an early age to investigate what characteristics they have and what factors drive them to commit these acts of violence.</p>
<p><i>Youth violence in Iceland; Shifting landscape?</i></p> <p>Snorri Örn Árnason</p>	<p>In recent years media coverage of youth violence in Iceland has been increasing and in public debate concern has been growing over young people carrying weapons. The presentation covers analysis of police data and an attempt is made to highlight trends in the violent behavior of young people. Has youth violence increased in the past few years in Iceland? Has the nature of youth violence changed in recent years? Has the carrying of weapons increased in recent years? Are gang related elements visible in the trend? Does police data sufficiently shed light on trends in the violent behavior of young people? The presentation attempts to highlight the characteristics of youth violence and the underlying factors. An attempt is made to explain current trends in the light of theories of sub-culture as well as other criminological perspectives.</p>

Panel 8: Studies of drug markets and policies

Chair: Helgi Gunnlaugsson

Recruiting drug labourers. Exploring the complexities of recruitment and exploitation when young people become involved in illegal drug trading

Thomas Friis Sjøgaard

Due to growing concerns about children and young people involvement in street gangs and serious crimes, such as organized drug trading, governments in Sweden and Denmark have recently decided to criminalize the act of recruiting a young person under the age of 18 into crime. While some critics argue that 'recruitment offences' might be difficult to prosecute, others hold that the notion of 'recruitment' rests on a delimited understanding of young people's pathways into crime. Focusing on the situation in Denmark, this presentation will outline the key aims and understandings underpinning the policy decision to penalize recruitment acts. Furthermore, based on interviews with 40 young people, who have been involved in storing, transporting, smuggling or selling of illegal drugs as either 'employers', 'employees' or in 'cooperation' with others, the presentation also explores the role of grooming, debt bondage but also friendship and love relationships in shaping young people's pathways into illegal drug trading. The presentation discusses how a more nuanced understanding of 'recruitment' and of the victim-perpetrator nexus can inform crime prevention and criminal justice responses.

Conflict or co-operation? How social media platforms mediate complex relations between competing young dealers in hybrid drug markets.

Nina Korshøj

Based on oral interviews with 25 young Danish adults, who all have extensive experience with dealing drugs via different social media platforms, this presentation will explore the human-technology-world-relations that occur when young drug dealers scout the competition and position themselves in the hybrid social media drugmarkets in various ways. The technologies mediate different opportunities for actions, and I have characterized these actions as ranging from 'conflict' to 'co-operation', which I have divided further into three subcategories: 1) eradication of the competition, 2) getting a competitive edge, and 3) co-operation. By giving examples of different actions within the three categories, and the dilemmas that can follow, I will explore what role the technologies play, when young people try to navigate in these competitive relations. Further, I will also illustrate how these actions play out both in online and offline spheres, underlining the hybrid nature of dealing drugs via social media.

<p><i>Illicit markets for nicotine products - Effects of criminalization on criminogenic SoMe markets.</i></p> <p>Kristoffer Aagesen</p>	<p>This paper investigates Denmark’s online grey market for flavored single-use e-cigarettes, locally known as “puffbars”. Despite a ban on sales since April 2022, these products continue to gain popularity, especially among the youth. This has led to the establishment of sizable grey markets for puffbars across Danish social media platforms. Through immersive digital ethnography, this study systematically map these markets, utilizing multiple research avatars to compare users’ experiences and platform affordances. Findings show proximity between online puffbar markets and black markets for drugs, scams, and digital sex work, potentially fostering digital drift into online criminal activities. Engagement with puffbar-related content on social media quickly exposes users to these criminal markets through platform suggestions and dealer outreach. Furthermore, crime scripts for buying and selling puffbars closely mirror drug dealing, giving puffbar users experience in buying drugs online, potentially neutralizing risk perceptions of engaging with dealers. Consequently, this paper unfolds the negative effects of criminalization. Online nicotine markets not only serve as gateways to black</p>
<p><i>Drug use among young adults and public attitudes toward alternative drug policies</i></p> <p>Helgi Gunnlaugsson</p>	<p>Public opinion surveys conducted in Iceland consistently highlight drug use to be the most serious crime problem and alcohol and drug use as leading contributors to local crime. While studies on cannabis consumption among Icelandic students are relatively common, research among adults is less frequent, leaving a gap in understanding the progression of drug use from youth into adulthood. This presentation examines cannabis use patterns among adults in Iceland, with a specific focus on young adults. The study investigates the prevalence of lifetime cannabis use, the frequency of usage exceeding ten instances, and recent usage within the six months leading up to the survey. Furthermore, the presentation sheds light on public perspectives regarding decriminalization of drug possession for personal use. Key findings reveal lifetime prevalence of cannabis use in Iceland exhibiting an upward trajectory until 2017, after which it has stabilized. Notably, there has been a discernible increase in support for alternative drug policies in Iceland. A significant development is evident, as most respondents in both 2021 and 2023 expressed a favorable stance towards drug decriminalization.</p>

Panel 9: Interventions and punishment

Chair: Susanne Alm

Framing Foster Care

David Wästerfors

Children and young people whose parents are unable to care for them are overrepresented among society's criminals. Researchers emphasise that foster homes are preferable from a crime prevention perspective, with upbringing conditions that are as family-like as possible and different from institutions. At the same time, foster homes can also be described in organizational or labor union terms, such as when the demanding work for foster parents is highlighted, along with their right to compensation. This presentation is based on an ongoing project on economic issues and conditions in foster care in Sweden. By analyzing excerpts from qualitative interviews with foster parents and social services secretaries using Erving Goffman's frame analysis, different framings of the foster care mission are identified. Interviewees may frame their mission as "work," thereby arguing for the legitimacy of payments and better conditions. On other occasions, they may frame it as "family life" and "care" to emphasize different interpretations and dispel the perception that "they're just in it for the money". Children and young people with criminal experiences further complicate these framings.

Foster care and money - Issues concerning reimbursement in relation to problematic young individuals

Malin Åkerström

Foster care is often described as socially inclusive compared to institutional care. It serves as a way to prevent the institutionalization of children and youth, providing a more family-like upbringing and care for those who, for various reasons, cannot live with their biological parents. Additionally, foster care is described as an intervention with better outcomes compared to institutionalized settings, leading to fewer youths ending up in criminality or deviance.

In most countries, it is debated whether and, if so, how much reimbursement should be granted to foster parents, although all systems involve some compensation for expenses. Yet, money is a sensitive subject, and monetary motives for taking care of children are viewed as morally questionable. Foster care seems to occupy a liminal position between "work" and "family," which poses both a problem and a resource for actors in this field.

Both babies and teenagers are placed in foster families. In this paper, interviews with families taking in problematic young individuals will be discussed, in relation to monetary issues.

<p><i>Court-imposed care orders 1988-2020: trends and outcomes in Sweden</i></p> <p>Anna Kahlmeter</p>	<p>The nexus between substance use and crime is widely documented and calls attention to the dilemma of sentencing substance-dependent individuals because it merges two issues: a crime issue and a public health issue. Imposing treatment through the legal system is in some ways a diversion from the principal of proportionality, but rehabilitation through criminal justice interventions has largely been resuscitated. While there may be elements of treatment in many sanctions, including prison, Sweden implemented court-imposed care order (often referred to as contract care) in the late 1980s, a sanction aimed at individuals whose lawbreaking is assumed to be linked to addiction. However, while the drug-crime link is apparent, only a fraction is sentenced to contract care and there has been drops during the past decade. The present study utilizes Swedish register data for the full conviction population 1988-2020 and maps the use of contract care over time. It further investigates the association between contract care, as compared to prison and other alternative sanctions, and reconviction risks and explores if the link between sanction type and reconviction is moderated by type of offence.</p>
<p><i>Framing Foster Care</i></p> <p>David Wästerfors</p>	<p>Children and young people whose parents are unable to care for them are overrepresented among society's criminals. Researchers emphasise that foster homes are preferable from a crime prevention perspective, with upbringing conditions that are as family-like as possible and different from institutions. At the same time, foster homes can also be described in organizational or labor union terms, such as when the demanding work for foster parents is highlighted, along with their right to compensation. This presentation is based on an ongoing project on economic issues and conditions in foster care in Sweden. By analyzing excerpts from qualitative interviews with foster parents and social services secretaries using Erving Goffman's frame analysis, different framings of the foster care mission are identified. Interviewees may frame their mission as "work," thereby arguing for the legitimacy of payments and better conditions. On other occasions, they may frame it as "family life" and "care" to emphasize different interpretations and dispel the perception that "they're just in it for the money". Children and young people with criminal experiences further complicate these framings.</p>

Consequences of imprisonment in the Nordic countries - A literature review

Susanne Alm

The article offers a literature review of studies on consequences of imprisonment in the Nordic countries. Traditionally, as compared to in the U.S., a smaller share of the population here has been imprisoned, and for shorter periods of time. Imprisonment has also entailed more emphasis on rehabilitation. This calls for caution when it comes to generalizations across continents and points to the importance of the study. The consequences studied are recidivism, labor market (LM) participation, education and health, but also consequences for the individuals' family. Results show that consequences differ for different groups and that imprisonment tends to be particularly detrimental for the young, especially concerning recidivism. As for LM attachment, there is a negative effect of imprisonment for those with a position on the LM before conviction. However, for those not on the LM prior to conviction, imprisonment may be positive, provided that job training is offered in prison. The intergenerational effects are clearly negative, concerning eg educational attainment and imprisonment. This is particularly true for sons of convicted fathers and for those from less privileged background.

Panel 10: The prevention of youth crime

Chair: Martin Nøkleberg

Social control in vulnerable neighborhoods. Youth' and parents' handling of self-determination and risk

Monika Grønli Rosten

In Norway 'negative social control' and 'vulnerable areas' stands out as key policy terms used to 'capture' and find solutions to problem complexes related to minoritized youth. In the first case the attention is drawn towards young people's self-determination as a particular problem area in a migration context. In the second case social problems are framed as geographical, based on population composition. In an ongoing research project, "Social control in vulnerable neighborhoods", we aim to explore multicultural and socially disadvantaged neighborhoods as a distinctive context for parents and children's negotiations around risk and self-determination. Previous research has shown that minority parents, in line with the majority society's concern, worry in different ways about boys and girls, respectively that sons might do drugs and get involved in criminal activities and that daughters might be exposed to social control related to gender and chastity norms. In this project, the goal is to see different forms of perceived risk and unpleasant social control as related phenomena that are otherwise often explored separately, in different research fields.

The Role of Neighborhood and School in the Development of Substance Use Patterns in Youth

Lars Roar Frøyland

The initiation of substance use often occurs during youth, yet there remains considerable ambiguity surrounding how usage patterns develop. Recent shifts in narcotics-related policies and policing may influence this development. Patterns of substance use among youth in Oslo, the capital of Norway, vary significantly both between neighborhoods and schools, but the relative importance of the two clusters in substance use socialization has, so far, only been studied for alcohol use. This study employs cross-classified multilevel models (CCMM) to investigate substance use patterns among senior high-school students in Oslo, drawing on a 2023 population-based sample of 10,595 participants. The analysis incorporates explanatory variables spanning diverse socio-ecological levels, with a specific emphasis on the impact of neighborhood socioeconomic resources and peer-driven sociocultural processes linked to the Norwegian high school graduation celebration. Preliminary findings underscore the paramount importance of the school milieu in shaping substance use behaviors among youth, highlighting this as vital when designing prevention efforts.

<p><i>Lost in frustration: preventive work in particularly disadvantaged areas</i></p> <p>Emma-Lisa Gångare</p>	<p>In the Nordic welfare countries, social control has practically been taken for granted. Yes, people commit crimes also in the north, but most people report on crime or act as witnesses, i.e., assisting the government in restoring control. However, lately in Sweden, some communities have developed in a different direction, by which particular families outcompeted authorities control while holding a capital of violence. This paper consists of narratives told by public workers in a particularly disadvantaged area in Sweden, explaining how they manage the situation of children growing up in families possessing local social control. Their narrative reveals frustration over victims who do not dare to lay blame on children related to the family, but also hesitations in schools of correcting children's delinquency, and social workers' indecisiveness in using force against the family. As one actor concludes, 'We make it easy for ourselves, but with the consequence that we allow the other children to grow up in the same mess, and we know that they will likely become equally criminal. If we've had four out of four so far, there's a pretty big risk that the fifth will also go the same way.'</p>
<p><i>Multi-agency collaboration in youth crime prevention: Exploration of the SaLTo-model</i></p> <p>Martin Nøkleberg</p>	<p>Social problems and crime are multi-faceted and complex phenomena, and it is acknowledged that no individual agency has the capacity to prevent or solve them in isolation. Due to the complexity, crime prevention calls for responses that transcend organizational boundaries and professional domains. In the Nordic context, collaboration and partnership has long been a preferred organizational approach in local crime prevention initiatives. Although collaboration is assumed to facilitate opportunities and is seen as a beneficial endeavor, several challenges (e.g. power struggles, competing interest and trust issues), may influence the collaborative process. This article focuses on multi-agency collaboration in youth crime prevention in Norway and zoom in on a specific case: The SaLTo-model. The focus is on how various actors experience collaboration in practice and explores potential barriers and challenges that impede the development of effective cross-sectoral collaboration.</p>

Panel 11: Studies on sexual crimes and prevention

Chair: Carolina Överlien

<p><i>Developing Bystander Intervention Strategies to Prevent Sexual Assault: Perspectives of Danish Secondary Students and Teachers.</i></p> <p>Terese Hartmann-Petersen</p>	<p>Sexual assault is one of the most severe types of crimes, with significant detrimental impacts for both the individuals affected, and the broader community. International research suggests that teaching young people bystander intervention techniques offers a promising preventive strategy against sexual assault. However, these programs are rare in the Nordic context. The goal of this study was to gather information that can inform the development of such an intervention for Danish upper secondary students which can empower them to act as prosocial bystanders in potential sexual assault scenarios. In this presentation, I outline preliminary findings from a survey study conducted at a large Danish high school, in which students and staff reported on opportunities for bystander behavior, perceived bystander barriers, and individual and collective self-efficacy, as well as a range of school and practical implementation possibilities. These findings are discussed in relation to identifying contextually relevant content and implementation methods for bystander interventions in the Danish context.</p>
<p><i>The Monster's Dilemma. Integration, Non-Integration and "Knifing Off" of Sexual Violence Perpetration in the Self-Narratives of Young Men in Norway</i></p> <p>Anja Emilie Kruse</p>	<p>To narratively integrate one's own harmful acts into a running self-narrative can be especially difficult when the harmful act is a sexual violation, because such violations carry particular condemnation and stigma to its perpetrators. This might be particularly pertinent with young people, who more than adults are in a process of developing and validating their running account of who they are, and who they want to become. Being accused or convicted of sexually violating others represents a grave threat to such narrativizing. This paper presents and discusses a narrative analysis of qualitative interviews with 15 young men (age 18-25) from Norway who have sexually violated someone. Our analysis highlights the narrative strategies the young men employ to figure out which place their sexually violating act(s) may have in their developing selfnarrative.</p> <p>'Knifing off' (Maruna & Roy, 2007) conceptualizes the separating of criminal acts from selfnarratives. We use this as a point of departure for understanding our participants' self-narratives, and how their various narrative strategies for non-/integration of harmdoing may be connected to processes of desisting from future crime.</p>

<p><i>Sugardating among marginalized youth in Denmark – are legal measures necessary?</i></p> <p>Jeanett Bjønness</p>	<p>Sweden criminalized buying sex in 1999, based on the idea that prostitution is sexualized violence against women, while the Danish government has been more reluctant to criminalization, arguing that a criminalization could cause further stigmatizing of sex-sellers, in treating them as victims without agency. This paper is based on 60 qualitative interviews with young people (18-30) and focuses on their backgrounds for and experiences with compensational sex/sugar dating; a relationship in which a young person, often a woman is compensated for sex or intimacy by an older person (often a man). These relationships are signified by power inequality due to substantial differences in gender, income, and age, and the paper shows how they make meaning out of these relationships, and how the initial feeling of being in control for many diminishes over time. Research shows that selling/exchanging sex often start before the age of 18, and that a large majority experience having their borders transgressed. This paper discusses whether juridical measures like age validation on certain dating sites could be a way to try to ensure that minors are not exposed to sexual exploitation.</p>
<p><i>Identifying Sexual Abuse in SameSex Relationships: Turning Points and MetaNarratives</i></p> <p>Carolina Överlien</p>	<p>Youth intimate partner violence (YIPV) is an under-researched topic and a type of crime that is largely unreported. As part of a larger Norwegian study on sexual YIPV, the words of one young man is analyzed to explore how he narrates his process of defining his same-sex experiences as abuse and himself as a possible victim. Meta-narratives and turning points are used as tools for narrative analysis. Important contextual issues in his storyline include prior exposure to severe homophobic bullying, being forced to return to the closet, and no prior experience of romantic relationships. Influential cultural meta-narratives regarding IPV and gender that complicate his process of identifying his experiences as abuse include the understanding that adult men are violent towards adult women, the ever-present male sex drive, and the importance of physical violence and bodily strength. The findings are discussed in light of Nils Christie's theory of the ideal victim.</p>