


The background of the entire page is a photograph of a person walking in a tunnel. The person is in silhouette, walking from left to right, carrying a backpack. In the background, there is a large, circular opening in the tunnel wall. The left side of this opening is illuminated with a warm, orange light, while the right side is illuminated with a cool, blue light. The tunnel walls are made of a material with a horizontal ribbed texture.

Annual report 2024

Nordic Research Council for Criminology



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Chair's introduction

NSfK and Youth Crime

The Nordic countries are often promoted as role models for good governance when it comes to crime and crime policies. The crime rate is relatively low, and the justice system is relatively humane, compared to most other countries elsewhere in the world.

The World Justice Project rank the Nordic countries at the top in their Rule of law index, and they are among the least corrupt, according to Transparency International.

Nevertheless, crime policy has now returned to the top of the political agenda in all Nordic countries. First and foremost, in Sweden and Denmark, but in the last years it has resurfaced also in Finland, Norway and Iceland. We see a trend in all countries towards more punitive and populist stances on matters related to crime across the political spectrum.

In times like these, criminological research but moreover, knowledge of history matters. Many of the problems that our societies face today, are not new. In fact, they are old. Getting to know our history will not only make us as criminologists better researchers, it is also invaluable for society and for policymakers. It is not only researchers that at times forget history. Public memory regarding crime and crime policy is also unfortunately all too often short lived.

A good place to start when taking on the challenge to understand youth crime is to reread criminological research from the 1960s and onwards, when youth crime was a hot topic on the political agenda; how youth crime was understood, how criminologists and policy makers responded, and what consequences the various interventions had.

The Scandinavian Studies in Criminology book series was published by NSfK from 1965 to 1999. All 15 volumes of the book series have been digitalized and made open access.

The Norwegian Professor of Criminal Law and the first Chair of NSfK, Johs Andenæs (1912–2003), wrote in the introduction to the first volume that: “... it should be made clear from the outset that 'Scandinavian' in this connection refers not only to Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, but also to Finland and Iceland. [...] Scandinavian Studies in Criminology, presented here, are published as a part of the Council's efforts to develop closer contacts with international criminological research.”

There are volumes on youth crime, punishment, prostitution, social control, drug policies, and violence, just to name a few. Authors include Nils Christie, Britta

Kyvsgaard, Thomas Mathiesen, Flemming Balvig, Inkeri Anttila, Per-Ole Träskmann, Hanns von Hofer and Ulla Bondeson, and many more.

The series provides criminologists a chance to (re-)discover some of the pioneering works which has shaped Nordic criminology and crime policy. The series is a testament to the importance of inter-Nordic collaboration for advancing criminology.

The topic of this year's annual research seminar was Youth crime: Causes, development and policy.

Youth crime has returned to the center of public debate in the Nordic countries, after quite a few years of absence, mainly due to an increase in reported youth crime, after decades of decline.

Criminological research into the underlying causes of youth crime is of the utmost importance to inform these discussions and establish preventive strategies and knowledge-based practices.

The research seminar explored Nordic research into both the causes of and interventions against youth crime. We learned more about what characterize youth crime in the Nordic countries today, and also both the crime preventive and collateral effects of policy interventions, both within and outside the criminal justice system. This dual approach is characteristic of Nordic criminology.

The topic of the research seminar couldn't be more topical. Today, youth crime is on the political agenda in all Nordic countries, and therefore also in Nordic criminology. The topic is not new.

Already in the first years of NSfK, the Council was given the role of coordinating research on Nordic youth crime, which was then – as now – high on the political agenda.

The beginning of the 1960s was the heyday of self-report studies – Norway was the first of the Nordic countries to initiate self-report delinquency surveys. This was followed by a flurry of activity with national measurements in all Nordic countries save Iceland. During the years 1961-64, the Nordic countries launched an ambitious comparative self-report research program based on draft data.

This was the first internationally comparative hidden crime project. The newly established Nordic research council for criminology (NSfK) facilitated the research. The surveys revealed that crime was much more prevalent among young men than official statistics

NSfK and Youth Crime

indicate. This is well-known for criminologists now, but it was new then. This research would change not only Nordic criminology, but our understanding of crime as a phenomenon and how society should respond. Youth crime was reframed from abnormal to normal behavior. The core message of self-report studies was that the offenders were not so different from law-abiding people. Instead, nearly everyone committed crime to some extent, but the criminal justice system targeted social groups differently.

The self-report studies had a big impact on how Nordic criminology understood not only youth crime, but crime. While the findings might have been oversold, the message that «crime is normal», as the Danish book from the studies declared, or that the distinction between law-abiding and law-breaking people is not clear, or black and white, but consists of a large spectrum of shades of gray, as the Norwegian book was called, the findings challenged the abnormality paradigm that had dominated criminology, from Lombroso to newer psychological and psychiatric theories. As Janne Kivivuori concludes in his book *Discovery of Hidden crime*: «In the 1960s, the normalization frame attacked, and helped to uproot, outdated visions of delinquents as moral degenerates, monsters or sick people. The normality rhetoric served the goal of humanization» (p. 142).

The findings had crime policy consequences. The Nordic self-report studies became one of the central arguments supporting a less punitive criminal justice system.



The history of NSfK is full of seminars and research projects on youth crime, and already in the first volume of Scandinavian studies in Criminology, from 1965, we find the chapter “A study of self-reported crime” by Nils Christie, Johs Andenæs and Sigurd Skirbekk and “Study in self-reported delinquency among school-children in Stockholm” by Kerstin Elmhorn.

As 2024 has come to an end, so has my three years as Chair of the NSfK. I want to take this opportunity to thank you all. It's been an honour.

One of my ambitions as Chair was to make the activities of NSfK – and the outcomes of the activities – more visible and accessible. We started with digitizing the NSfK archive, and then we improved the contents and outlook of our web site, newsletter and annual report. This year we have continued with developing outputs for projects we fund: Policy briefs, Working papers and Meeting minutes. Together, they provide information not only about the research and other activities that we fund, but also the outcome of the funding, where we now challenge researchers also to put forth crime policy recommendations and advise for the various Nordic governments.

We are also proud of our journals, and their accessibility. The entire backlog of both journals is now digitized and open access. Nordic Journal of Criminology is at the Scandinavian University Press, where all the backlog volumes from Taylor & Francis have been made available. Nordisk Tidsskrift for Kriminalvidenskab have managed to collect and digitize all volumes, the oldest from 1878.

There has from the beginning been a tradition within the NSfK to have a rotation scheme when it comes to both leadership and administration of the council. Every three year, the Chair and secretariat of the council moves counterclockwise. From 2022 to 2024, Norway has been responsible for the daily working of the Council, taking over from Sweden. From 2025, Iceland will take over the responsibility, and Rannveig Þórisdóttir take over as Chair of NSfK.

This tradition secures both the vitality of NSfK and ensures a plurality of Nordic perspectives, making the organization relevant both on a national and Nordic level. I look forward to following NSfK's work and commitment, keeping up its proud tradition of being the central agent also in the future in supporting crime research and advise the Nordic governments on policy development.

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), Maud Hol (NO) and Elisabeth Neuhaus (NO).

Guidelines for grants revised

The guidelines for grants were revised in accordance with the Council's decisions in March 2024. These guidelines took effect on 3 June 2024.*

Members of the Council 2024

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



Helena Huhta
University of Turku



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



Anna-Karin Ivert
Malmö University



Erik Grevholm
The Swedish National
Council for Crime
Prevention

SECRETARIAT



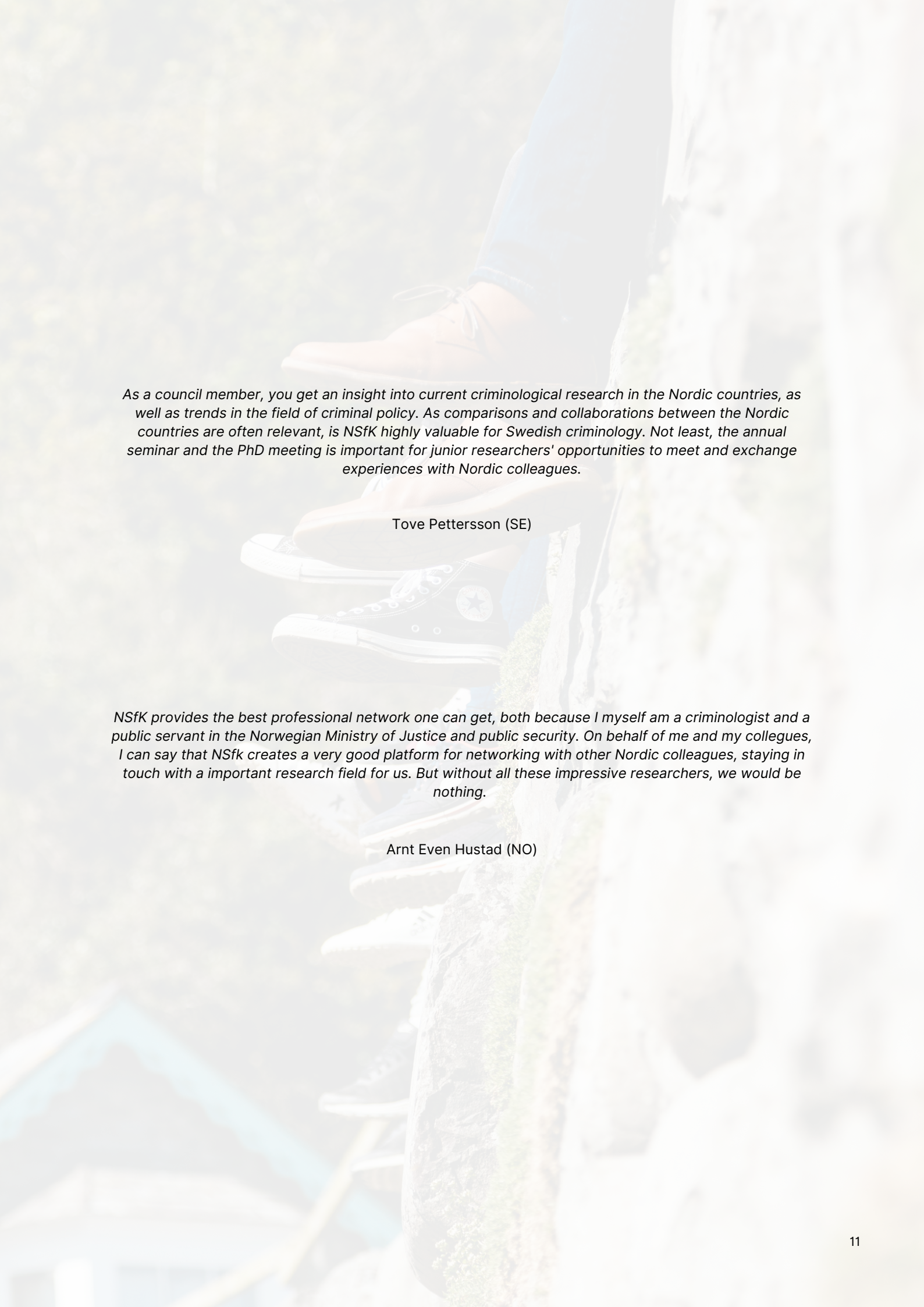
Per Jørgen Ystehede
Leader of the Secretariat



Maud Hol
Co-head of Communications



Elisabeth Neuhaus
Co-head of Communications



As a council member, you get an insight into current criminological research in the Nordic countries, as well as trends in the field of criminal policy. As comparisons and collaborations between the Nordic countries are often relevant, is NSfK highly valuable for Swedish criminology. Not least, the annual seminar and the PhD meeting is important for junior researchers' opportunities to meet and exchange experiences with Nordic colleagues.

Tove Pettersson (SE)

NSfK provides the best professional network one can get, both because I myself am a criminologist and a public servant in the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and public security. On behalf of me and my colleagues, I can say that NSfK creates a very good platform for networking with other Nordic colleagues, staying in touch with a important research field for us. But without all these impressive researchers, we would be nothing.

Arnt Even Hustad (NO)

New council members 2024

In 2024, Anne-Julie Boesen Pedersen and Kolbrún Benediktsdóttir stepped down as council members. They were replaced by Maria Libak Pedersen and Friðrik Árni Friðriksson Hirst.



Maria Libak Pedersen
The Danish Ministry of Justice

Maria Libak Pedersen is Head of the Research Unit at the Danish Ministry of Justice. She is a trained sociologist and criminologist and her early academic work is focused on juvenile delinquency and different types of gangs. She has conducted a wide range of studies, including self-report delinquency studies among pupils, large population surveys (e.g., the national victim survey), studies on the crime preventive effect of various measures, and reviews of research literature. She has also worked at the State Prosecutor's Office for Serious Economic and International crime, where she was responsible for developing new data-driven methods to prevent and combat money laundering.



Friðrik Árni Friðriksson Hirst
University of Iceland

Friðrik Árni Friðriksson Hirst is general manager of the Law Institute (Lagastofnun) at the University of Iceland. He is also an Adjunct at the Faculty of Law of the University of Iceland and a lecturer in criminal law, procedure and related subjects. In addition, he is a member of the Competition Appeals Committee, as well as a board member of the Icelandic Society of Criminology. Friðrik graduated with a master's degree in law from the University of Iceland in 2011 and an LL.M. degree from Harvard Law School in 2014. He is currently working on a PhD project in criminal law at the University of Iceland. His research focuses on the money laundering criminal offence, in particular the offence of self-laundering.

NSfK Chairs 1962–2024

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|---------|
| 2022–2024 | Heidi Mork Lomell | Norway |
| 2019–2021 | Felipe Estrada | Sweden |
| 2016–2018 | Aarne Kinnunen | Finland |
| 2013–2015 | Anette Storgaard | Denmark |
| 2010–2012 | Ragnheidur Bragadottir | Iceland |
| 2007–2009 | Per Ole Johansen | Norway |
| 2004–2006 | Jerzy Sarnecki | Sweden |
| 2001–2003 | Kauko Aromaa | Finland |
| 1998–2000 | Flemming Balvig | Denmark |
| 1995–1997 | Hildigunnur Ólafsdóttir | Iceland |
| 1992–1994 | Liv Finstad | Norway |
| 1989–1991 | Torbjörn Tédeen | Sweden |
| 1986–1988 | Patrick Törnudd | Finland |
| 1983–1985 | Ulla Bondeson | Denmark |
| 1979–1982 | Nils Christie | Norway |
| 1974–1978 | Knut Sveri | Sweden |
| 1968–1973 | Inkeri Anttila | Finland |
| 1965–1967 | K.O. Christiansen | Denmark |
| 1962–1964 | Johs. Andenæs | Norway |

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.



Frederikke Hougaard Hansen
Denmark



Daisy J. Iversen
Faroe Islands



Emma Villmann
Finland



Sara Kirstine Jakobsen
Greenland



Jónas Orri Jónasson
Iceland



Marina Hiller Foshaugen
Norway



Emelí Lönnqvist
Sweden




My time as a contact secretary for NSfK has given me some fantastic opportunities to build a Nordic criminological network. As a contact secretary, you are given the opportunity to visit the Nordic countries and learn about the challenges and solutions in the area of crime prevention. NSfK is an inspiring organization to be a part of.

Helena Birk Oxlund (DK)

In 2024, Frederikke Hougaard Hansen became the new contract secretary for Denmark, taking over from Helena Birk Oxlund.

– Our contact secretaries work part-time for NSfK, delivering the latest national news in the field of criminology and crime policy to our monthly newsletter, plus more. On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank Oxlund for the important job she has done for Nordic criminology and crime policy.

Heidi Mork Lomell (NO), Chair 2022–2024

A perspective view of a tunnel with corrugated metal walls and a bright light at the end. The tunnel is dimly lit, with the light source at the far end creating a strong glow. The walls are made of yellowish-brown corrugated metal, and the floor is dark and reflective. The text is overlaid on a dark blue rectangular background in the center of the image.

Youth crime: Causes, development and policy

Excerpts from NSfK history

Youth crime as a research topic has been on Nordic Research Council of Criminology's agenda since its foundation.

Starting already in 1961, a series of Scandinavian self-report studies were initiated and later funded by NSfK. These were headed by pioneering Nordic criminologists such as Nils Christie (Norway), Vagn Greve (Denmark), Inkeri Anttila and Rista Jaakkola (Finland) and Berit Werner (Sweden).

One example of a study funded and based on this research was the Norwegian Per Stangeland and Ragnar Hauges book *Shades of grey: an investigation into self-reported crime among Norwegian Youth* " [Nysanser i grått: en undersøkelse av selvrapportert kriminalitet blant norsk ungdom] (1974).



The 1960s and -70s saw the development of a youth counter culture where new forms of drugs became popular. The use of marijuana, banned in the Nordic countries by law in the mid- 1960s, became a new category in the Nordic surveys in the latter parts of the 1960s.

The first time that youth crime was a main topic at the annual research seminar was in 1967.

Of growing interest was not only youth crimes relating to drugs, but also migration within the Nordic countries. Among other studies NSfK supported research by Finnish researchers Sirkka Tamminen and Jihani Suikkila on crimes among Finnish youth in Sweden, as well as research on demographic shifts: youths moving from rural to more urban areas in all the Nordic countries.

When it comes to research on Nordic youth, NSfK did not only support pioneering research on or among Nordic youths, but also against children and youth. One example being the Danish Beth Grothe Nielsen's research on violence against children.

In the last decades, not only has the rise of youth crime been a concern for Nordic criminologists, but from the early 2000s – the decrease in youth crime. This was on the agenda at the Research Seminar in 2014 in Skarrildhus, Denmark, where the Danish criminologist and then member of the NSfK Council, Lars Holmberg presented his and Flemming Balvigs work on the social norms approach as crime prevention among youths in Denmark.



Photo: Arvind Telkar on Unsplash

Balvig and Holmbergs research on social norms approach as crime prevention was published in a monograph entitled *The Flamingo Effect* [Flamingoeffekten] in 2014.

Selected youth crime research initiatives funded by NSfK

2015: Malin Sofia Fransberg (SE), *Graffiti efter nolltoleransen – En etnografisk undersökning om graffitimålare och kontroll*

2016: Michael Tärnfalk (SE), *Nordiskt tvärvetenskapligt nätverk för forskare med inriktning mot studier av unga lagöverträdare inom områdena kriminologi, juridik, socialt arbete*

2016: Katrine Johansen (DK), *“Det er jo noget med grænser ikke?” Et antropologisk studie af unges opfattelser og erfaringer med seksuel vold med henblik på forebyggelse*

2017: Ann-Karina Henriksen (DK), *Confinement of youths in the Nordic countries*

2017: Anette Bringedal Houge (NO), *Opting out: Why young adults leave Islamist radicalization processes and the legitimacy of bystander interventions*

2018: Carolina Øverlien (SE), *Development of a research proposal on intimacy and sexual violence in young people's lives*

2019: Esben Houborg (DK), *Drug Policy and Risk-environments in Copenhagen and Malmö*

2021: Ingun Fornes (NO), *Children and young people in conflict with the law*

2021: Markus Kaakinen (FI), *Street Gang Involvement Among Nordic Youth: A comparative study on prevalence and risk factors in Nordic countries*

2023: Mika Hagerlid (SE), *The Blind Spot: Assessing the increase in self-reported victimization among young Swedish women*

When children are in conflict with the law

Ingun Fornes is associate professor in criminal law at the University of Bergen and researcher at The Regional Centre for Research and Education in Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology. Fornes research is on the use of imprisonment and alternatives to it for children, and how the justice system can be better adapted to this vulnerable group.

What are your research interests:

My main research interest is children in conflict with the law. I have mainly focused on the choice of response in criminal cases involving children, but I have also worked with children's rights in criminal proceedings, the execution of sentences in cases where children have been convicted of criminal acts, and the interface between criminal justice and other areas of law, such as child welfare law, in these cases.



Photo: Eirik Holmøyvik/UiB

Type of research grant, year and name of project:

In 2022, I received a grant for a working group meeting for the steering committee of the Nordic network: Children and young people in conflict with the law.

How would you say the funding from NSfK contributed to your research.

The funding from NSfK contributed significantly to the development of the Nordic network for researchers in various fields who study children in conflict with the law. We organize an annual digital seminar series where researchers present their ideas, research findings and developments. As a result of the working group meeting, we started working on a special issue on children in conflict with the law. The issue was published in *Nordisk Tidsskrift for Kriminalvidenskab*, Vol. 110 No. (2023), se Årg. 110 Nr. 3 (2023): Børn og unge i konflikt med loven | *Nordisk Tidsskrift for Kriminalvidenskab*. The special issue brings together contributions from a total of 25 Nordic researchers and practitioners, enhancing the understanding and development of the Nordic "youth justice" systems.

The opportunity to share knowledge and discuss challenges with Nordic colleagues from different fields naturally makes an important contribution to my own research.

If meeting a government official, what would be your main policy recommendation.

The most important work to prevent crime takes place long before children turn 15 and can face criminal legal consequences for their actions. It is therefore crucial to think long-term, and society should invest more resources in children's development: school, kindergartens and healthcare, as well as providing safe frameworks for families.

The fact that children during a period in their teenage years commit more norm violations than at other times in their lives is nevertheless a phenomenon that is difficult to completely avoid. It is therefore important to find a balance between patience, which allows for positive development, and targeted measures to prevent negative development from taking over. In Norwegian criminal law today, I would recommend working to improve the framework for responses carried out in freedom, including providing better opportunities create individually tailored punishments that are adapted to the needs of both the child and society.

A person is running on a subway platform at night. The platform is dark, with overhead lights illuminating the scene. A train is arriving at the platform, its headlights visible. The person is wearing a black cap and light-colored sneakers. The text "Funded research" is overlaid on a dark blue rectangle in the center of the image.

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

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.

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.

Funding recipients submit an annual and/or final report. Besides a financial report documenting expenses, they provide reports on progress, changes to the project, and results.

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

Funded projects 2024

The Nordic Research Council for Criminology (NSfK) awarded grants for criminological research to provide new insights into a variety of topics, including drug wholesaling, responses to hate crime, sentiments on crime and punishment in the Nordics, restorative justice, prevention of child sexual offences, and more.

This year NSfK received four applications for joint Nordic projects, 13 applications for individual research projects, and seven applications for working groups. At its annual council meeting in March 2024, the council decided to award grants to seven research projects and working groups. A total of 2.83 MNOK was awarded in research grants in 2024.



Sentiments on Justice in the Nordic countries

Co-Nordic project led by Klara Hermansson (SE)

Knowledge on how people perceive crime and justice is important to maintain the legitimacy of the justice system. Such knowledge can also inform the public debate. This project will increase our understanding of sentiments on justice and penal cultures in the Nordic countries, by drawing on political documents as well as focus-group interviews with youths in these countries. We will provide in-depth knowledge on the public's sentiments on justice and the way these sentiments are used politically with regards to four topical crimes: street violence, rape, drug offences, and hate speech online. By using a comparative approach, this project will also address the relationship between the political debate on crime and public sentiments on justice in the Nordics.



Drug Wholesaling Careers: A Registry-study of Life-course Trajectories into and out of Wholesale of Illegal Drugs

Individual project, Thomas Friis Søgaaard (DK)

Serious drug crime is a multi-billion-dollar industry and a significant problem globally and in Denmark. This research project will draw on unique registry data, comprising entire official criminal records and extensive sociodemographic information on 10,666 males convicted of wholesale of illegal drugs in Denmark (1998-2020) to explore men's life-course trajectories into and out of wholesale of large quantities of illegal drugs. The project contributes to criminological research by exploring the longitudinal characteristics of serious drug crime offenders' life-course criminal trajectories. The project will also produce knowledge that can inform police work, policies, and crime prevention, including identification of risk factors for involvement in serious drug crime.



The effects of social policies in reducing criminality in Nordic countries: an early life perspective

Individual project, Suvi Virtanen (FI)

Criminal behavior among youth is a growing concern in Nordic countries. Public discourse often advocates for social policy solutions, like increased support for disadvantaged families, suggesting that reducing socioeconomic inequalities addresses the root causes of criminal behaviour. While research shows childhood socioeconomic status correlates with criminality, causation remains unclear, especially in Nordic welfare states. This project uses Swedish and Finnish register data with (quasi)-experimental study designs to examine how early-life socioeconomic conditions influence criminality, and which social policies can effectively improve outcomes in Nordic welfare states.



Nordic Research Network on Prevention of Child Sexual Offending

Working group, Kasper Jørgensen (DK)

Child sexual offending is a significant societal, political, and public health issue. Despite this, there is a lack of knowledge on how to effectively prevent offending and reoffending among individuals with a sexual attraction towards minors, both internationally and within the Nordic context. The aim of the working group is to bridge this knowledge gap by establishing the Nordic Research Network on Prevention of Child Sexual Offending (NN-PCSO) and bringing together early-career and senior researchers in the field from different disciplines.



Responses to Hate Crime in the Nordics: Understanding Emergent Policy, Legislation and Policing

Working group, Rune Ellefsen (NO)

The working group meeting aims to establish cross-country collaboration between scholars researching the societal responses to hate crime in the Nordics.



Restorative Justice in the Nordic Countries

Working group, Aino Jauhiainen (FI)

Restorative Justice emphasizes the necessity to repair harm caused by crime. Currently, there is no research comparing the restorative justice practices responding to crime in the Nordic countries. The primary aim of this working group is to deepen our understanding of similarities and differences in Nordic restorative justice policies.



The Nordic Biospsychosocial Criminology Network

Working group, Amber L. Beckley (SE)

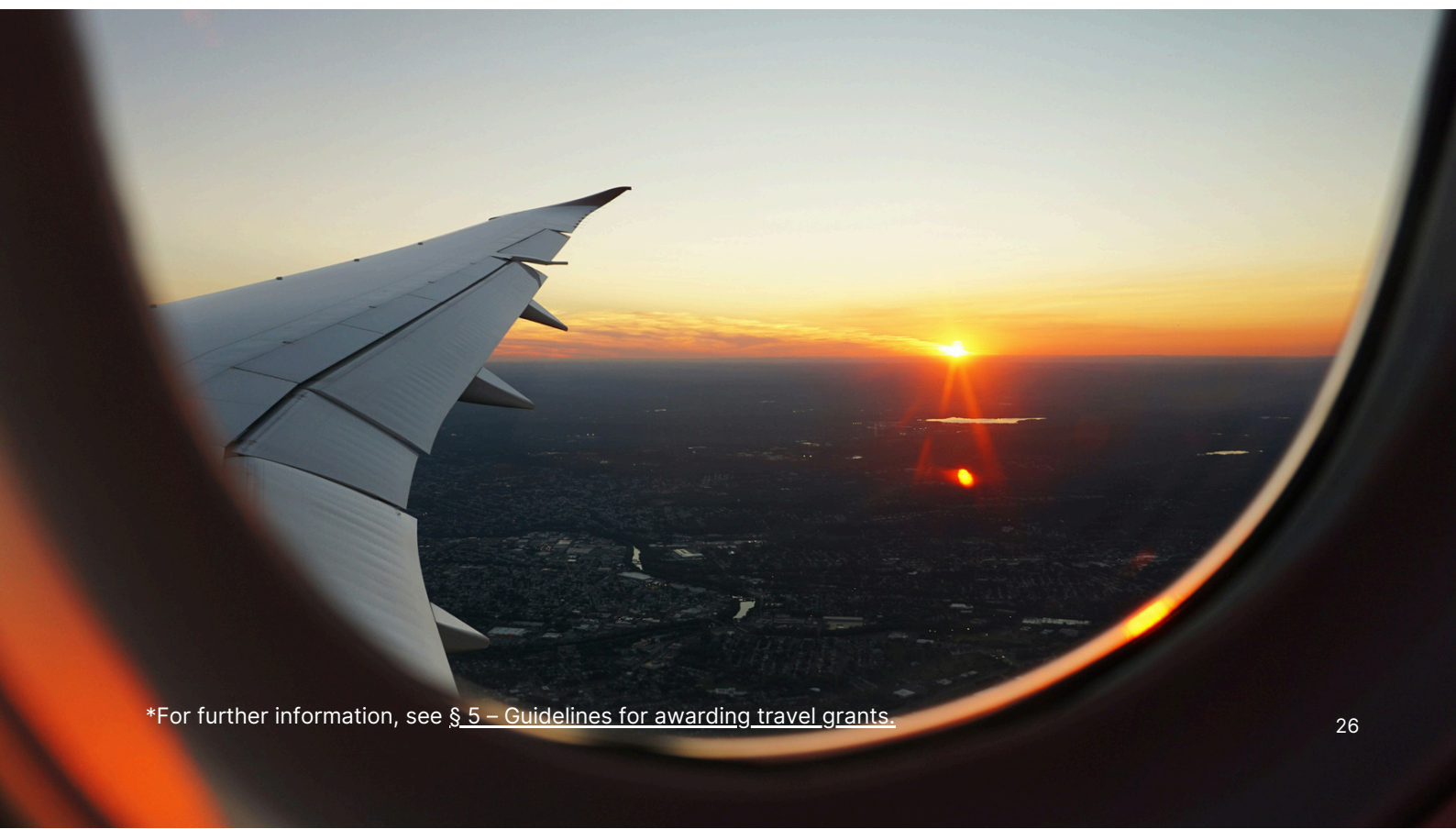
This project aims to update our understanding of criminal behavior by critically reevaluating biological, psychological, and social factors together.

Travel grants

NSfK provides financial support for conference-related travel, and research stays abroad*. The support is given to researchers in criminology based in the Nordic countries.

In 2024, nine scholars were awarded travel grants.

- Alessandro Moretti (DK): 2024 American Society of Criminology (ASC) Annual Meeting in San Francisco, USA
- Siv Runhovde (NO): 24th Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology (EUROCRIM)
- Carola Lingaas (NO): 24th Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology (EUROCRIM)
- Sara Källman (SE): Policing and Society conference
- Terese Hartmann-Petersen (DK): Research stay at Georgia State University, United States
- Nina Korshøj (DK): Research stay at the University of Manchester
- Kasper Jørgensen (DK): Research stay at Leeds Beckett University, UK
- Lea Brinkgaard (DK): Research stay at New York University, United States
- Synnøve Ugelvik (NO): Research stay in den Haag



*For further information, see [§ 5 – Guidelines for awarding travel grants](#).

What did the NSfK travel grant mean to you?

I recently presented my ongoing research of all adjudicated cases before international(ised) criminal courts of the past 80 years, starting with Nuremberg and ending with the International Criminal Court, at the 24th Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology (Eurocrim) in Bucharest. My research shows that the metaphor of a 'butcher' is either self-assigned or assigned by others. While the media focuses on high-ranking individuals, international criminal cases also mention, usually male, individuals of lower ranks, to whose denomination of 'butcher' both negative and positive connotations are attached. Yet, despite the widespread occurrence of the metaphorical butcher across different conflicts and times, international(ised) criminal tribunals rarely discuss and integrate it into their jurisprudence.

As such, the metaphor has a minimal legal value. However, my research shows that witnesses and even some defendants relate to the metaphor in court. Since metaphors assume a common understanding and interpretation between a speaker and a listener and even can shape thoughts, they provide important information about a conflict. In addition to the lived experiences of an individual who witnessed the brutality of a 'butcher', the metaphorical use of the term may also be of help to establish the context, in which crimes were perpetrated. As such, the metaphorical 'butcher' deserves more attention from the international criminal justice system.



Carola Lingaas (NO), VID Specialized University (Photo: VID)

From Carola Lingaas' blog post "On Butchers and Stench: Lived Experiences of Atrocity Crimes"

Travel grants

The 2024 travel grants enabled 9 researchers to:

- Participate in 3 different conferences.
- Conduct 5 research stays.
- Spread Nordic criminological research in a total of 4 countries outside of the Nordic region.

The travel funds also allowed 74 Nordic criminologists and government officials to attend the annual 3-day research seminar in Åhus, Sweden.

Policy briefs, Working papers & Meeting minutes

NSfK publishes policy briefs, working papers and meeting minutes. These publications present results from NSfK-funded activities, and they can all be downloaded from our website. The aim is to disseminate criminological knowledge to colleagues, policymakers, and other stakeholders within the Nordic region.

Policy briefs present research findings and recommendations from research funded by NSfK that has resulted in peer-reviewed publications. In the policy briefs you will also find a list of other outputs from the respective projects.

Working papers are reports from NSfK-funded research projects that have not yet resulted in peer-reviewed publications. The working papers share ideas, methodologies, and preliminary findings.

In addition to funding research projects, NSfK provides financial support for working group meetings and contact seminars. Meeting minutes are written records of participants, discussions, and decisions during working group meetings and contact seminars.

Outputs 2024

Street Gang Involvement Among Nordic Youth: A comparative study on prevalence and risk factors in Nordic countries. By Markus Kaakinen, Kim Moeller, Heidi Mork Lomell, Margrét Valdimarsdóttir, Lars Westfelt, and Amir Rostami. Policy brief 1/2024.

Court-imposed care orders in a non-treatment paradigm: Trends, demographics and outcomes in Sweden, 1994–2020. By Anna Kahlmeter. Policy brief 2/2024.

Deserving and undeserving victims of crime: An analysis of applications and awards made by Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund in Iceland. By Hildur Fjóla Antonsdóttir. Working paper 1/2024.

Minority Women's Experiences of Desistance in Sweden (MiWoDeS). By Linnéa Österman. Working paper 2/2024.

Disparities in Drug Law Enforcement: Insights from Denmark's Euphoricants Act (2003–2020). By Esben Houborg and Julie Elizabeth Brummer. Working paper 3/2024.

Nordic victimization surveys. By Anne-Julie Boesen Pedersen. Meeting minutes 1/2024.

Responses to Hate Crime in the Nordics: Understanding Emergent Policy, Legislation and Policing. By Rune Ellefsen. Meeting minutes 2/2024.

Nordic network for register-based criminological research. By Torbjørn Skardhamar. Meeting minutes 3/2024.

Nordic Himpathy: The Social Construction of Responsibility and Sympathy in Cases of Sexual Violation or Rape. By Sara Uhnöo. Meeting minutes 4/2024.

Nordic Youths' Involvement in Street Gangs

Markus Kaakinen (FI) received funding for a joint Nordic project in 2021. The results were published as a policy brief in 2024.

A new study shows that preventive measures should be targeted especially at criminally active young people as early as possible. The low importance of social marginalization may indicate that the gang-like behavior patterns of young people in the Nordic countries have spread beyond the original disadvantaged communities and areas.

Markus Kaakinen from University of Helsinki has been heading a research team from all the Nordic countries studying youth street gang connections. The project analyzed gang involvement and pro-criminal attitudes among adolescents between the age of 13 to 17 years in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden using representative school samples. More than 9 000 young people from Stockholm (SE), Gävle (SE), Oslo (NO), Helsinki (FI), Turku (FI), Randers (DK), Næstved (DK), Reykjavík (IS) and other Icelandic areas than Reykjavík took part in the project.



Photo: Mohammad Saifullah on Unsplash

Sweden stands out, but other Nordic countries not far behind

— *What do you think was your most important discovery?*

Perhaps our most important finding was Stockholm's clear separation from other Nordic cities when it comes to young people's connections to street gangs - but on the other hand, the relatively similar situation of other Nordic cities in this matter, says Kaakinen. This suggests that there are gangs of young people everywhere, but in cities like Stockholm the challenges are on a different scale.

— *Why did you find it important to do a comparative study of street gangs in the Nordic countries?*

It has been some time since the last similar comparative Nordic study in 2014, and current information on crime is needed. This comparative survey shows criminal activities in the Nordic countries that do not appear in crime statistics. It also shows the adolescents' connections to street gangs, which was the subject of this study.

— *Was there a finding that surprised you?*

It was perhaps surprising that social marginalization was only weakly associated with street gang involvement. This does not mean that marginalization and disadvantage do not play any role in the formation of street gangs. Our research suggests rather that belonging to street gangs is a risk especially for young people and peer groups who are criminally active and have a positive attitude towards criminal behavior. The street gang issue is still location dependent as well. For example, in Stockholm, young people are more likely to form connections with street gangs than in other studied Nordic cities.

Challenges when doing research on crime among youths

The project was undertaken sometimes under challenging conditions. Kaakinen would like to thank his partners for still pushing through with the project. It was also at times difficult to recruit schools to take part in the study. They received rejections both from local councils and school leaders. For instance, it was not possible to include schools from the largest Danish cities such as Copenhagen or Aalborg, which would have been preferable for the comparative study.

This is understandable as schools get many requests, says Kaakinen, but if one wants more information about youth crime and what can be the best ways to stop this, Nordic governments may be well served by clearer signaling what type of projects cities and schools should make a priority to get involved in.

Part of international study on youth crime

The Nordic team ended up collecting data not only on gang involvement but data on youth crime more generally. It is based on the global comparative International Self-Reported Delinquency study (ISRD4) and utilized a widely used Eurogang measurement for analyzing gang involvement and gang characteristics. This research aims to inform prevention and intervention policies to reduce the negative consequences of these increasingly socially excluded and violent youth groups. Besides research already published, more papers are expected to come soon.

Read more about the project, its findings and recommendations in [NSfK Policy brief 1/2024](#).

Research grants continue to bear fruit

Ali Ünlü received funding in 2022 for the project “Aggression and threat rhetoric targeting Muslims and the LGBT community on social media in Finland” and is still publishing findings.

From prejudice to marginalization: Tracing the forms of online hate speech targeting LGBTQ+ and Muslim communities

This article investigates online hate speech in Finland, particularly Twitter/X messages targeting people of Muslim faith and the LGBTQ+ community. The study shows increasing instances of hate speech occurring online, primarily against Muslims, featuring themes of violence, cultural conflict, and challenges to traditional values.

You can find Ünlü’s article open access in [New Media & Society](#).

See also “Mapping the terrain of hate: identifying and analyzing online communities and political parties engaged in hate speech against Muslims and LGBTQ+ communities.” in [International Journal of Data Science and Analytics](#).

“Online polarization and identity politics: An analysis of Facebook discourse on Muslim and LGBTQ+ communities in Finland.” In [Scandinavian Political Studies](#).

See also Policy brief 1/2025 at NSfK.org.



Ali Ünlü (Photo: private)

The NfSK grant was not just financial support—it was a validation of the importance of studying hate speech and its impact on marginalized communities in the Nordic region. Without this funding, this crucial research would not have been possible.

— Ali Ünlü



The Historical Criminal Statistics of the Nordic Countries 1810–2022 is launched

At the NSfK research seminar in Åhus, historical criminologist Miikka Vuorela (FI) unveiled a unique web-based statistical database with Nordic crime data going back more than 200 years.

'The Historical Criminal Statistics of the Nordic Countries 1810– 2022' is a data collection project that is in its current final phase and funded by the Nordic Research Council for Criminology.

The project has collected macro-level criminal justice statistics from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden and includes statistics on criminal convictions, police-reported offences, sentenced punishments and prison population with well over a thousand individual time series. The earliest statistics begin in the year 1810 (prison population).

It is a web-based statistical database where anyone can freely access the data and employ it in their criminological and historical research.

A project more than 10 years in the making

How long have you spent and how did you go about collecting the information?

'I began collecting the data in 2013 for my master's thesis, tells Miikka Vuorela. I first collected the Finnish criminal statistics for the period of 1842-1890 with no intention of adding more. I spent my summer in the National archive of Finland going through old reports by the procurator of Finland given to the Emperor of Russia. I had a lot of problems at first as I have no formal training in history. I had to learn to read old handwriting and old Swedish. When I was done with Finland, I realised that no one had done the same in Denmark, Norway or Sweden.'

'Of course, I knew the work of Hanns von Hofer, Nils Christie, and others but even they had not collected everything. I then decided that I would collect everything I could find in all four Nordic countries. I even attempted Iceland, but the language barrier prohibited me. I think I had collected all major datasets by 2018. Then I still had to put everything together. I compared crime definitions in criminal codes ranging from the 17th century to the present to compile the rather ragged raw data into the long time series you can now access. I always seemed to find some problem to fix or some idea to improve the final product. In the end I just had to accept that they would never be perfect, and it was time to let go.'



The project is the brainchild of Finnish researcher and university lecturer Miikka Vuorela.

Still bound to the choices made by our ancestors hundreds of years ago

What historical development have you found most surprising and why?

'A good question which is hard to answer! There are over a thousand time series in the data, and I think almost all of them have interesting and surprising details and developments. However, I would highlight the effects of the early criminal codes. Denmark and Norway shared the same criminal code since the 1600s (Danish Law 1683 / Christian Vs Norwegian Law of 1687) as did Finland and Sweden since the 1700s (Swedish Civil Code of 1734).

'While the codifications were similar in many ways, there were some important differences. These differences echo throughout the data in all kinds of aspects and their legacy is still clearly visible in the criminal justice systems of the 21st century. I find it fascinating how we are in some manner still bound to the choices made by our ancestors hundreds of years ago. I certainly had never thought about it but it became crystal clear when going through the data.'

'One example would be the systemic decision between using more and shorter prison sentences (Denmark, Norway) versus using less but longer prison sentences (Finland, Sweden). This ongoing practice was already evident in the earliest criminal statistics and was caused by the Danish Law employing short-term bread-and-water imprisonment much more than the Swedish Code.'

Look at the numbers!

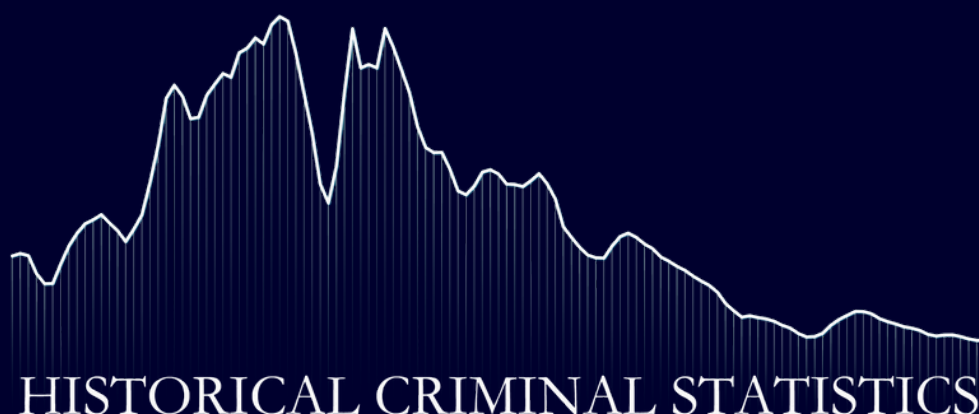
What specific research questions do you envision that this data will lead to?

'The data project has been an important part of my life my whole adulthood. It is very dear to me. Thus, I hope many people will find all kinds of uses of for it. I am often awed by the ingenuity of some of the research settings my fellow criminologists conjure up. It would be truly amazing to see my data used for one of those inspiring projects.'

'My wish is for someone to get a brilliant idea when looking at the numbers. It would make me happy. So for all of you reading this: Go ahead and surprise me!'

Access the database

You may access the The Historical Criminal Statistics of the Nordic Countries database here: [Historical Criminal Statistics](#)





Research activities

NSfK 62nd Research seminar

Åhus, Sweden

Youth crime has recently resurfaced in political and public debate in all Nordic countries. Criminological research into the underlying causes of youth crime is of the utmost importance to inform these discussions and establish preventive strategies and evidence-based practices.

NSfK's 62nd research seminar explored Nordic research on the development, causes of and interventions against a wide range of crime committed by youths. Over three days participants presented both empirical, theoretical, and methodological contributions that discussed the causes of youth crime and the reaction towards it.

In addition to youth crime, presentations concerning other topics such as historical criminology, cybercrime and drug markets, to name a few, contributed to an insightful and stimulating seminar.

Keynote speakers

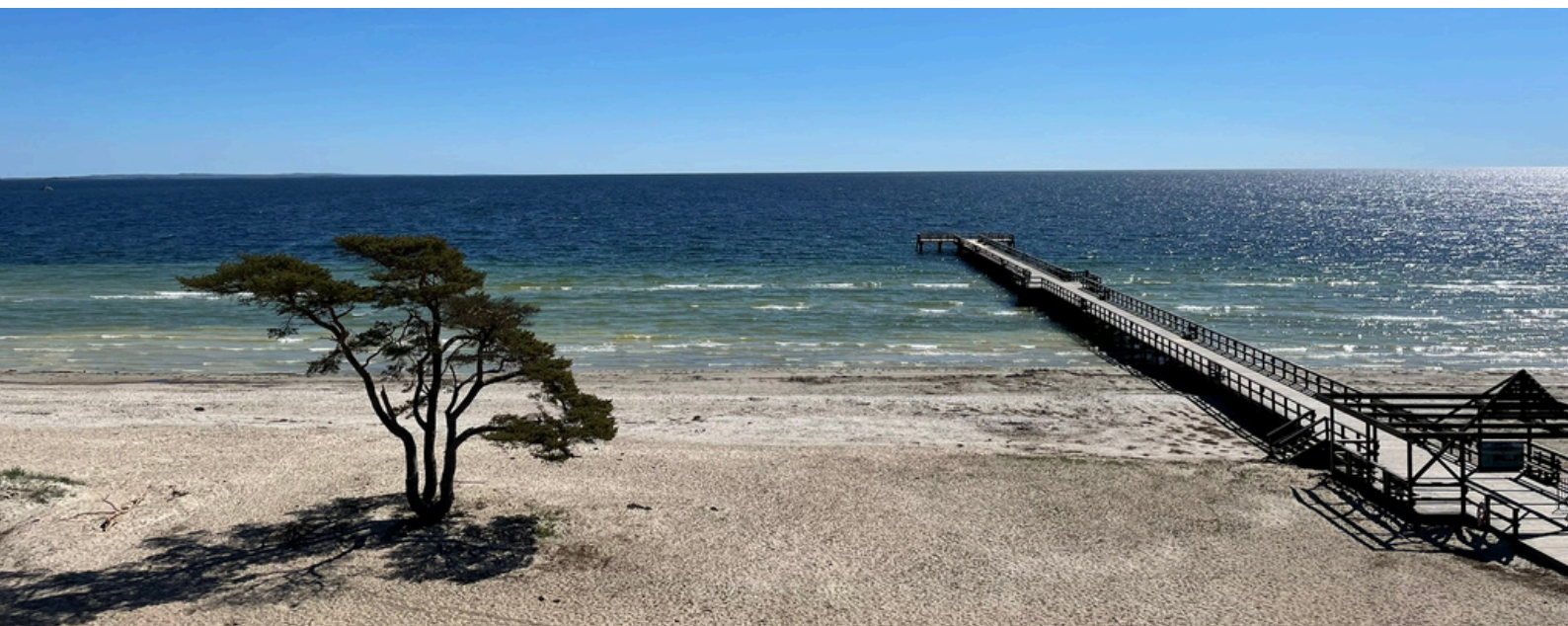
Margrét Valdimarsdóttir (IS), Associate Professor, University of Iceland, on: *Selective Social Control of Immigrant Youth in the Nordic Countries*.

Markus Kaakinen (FI), Researcher, University of Helsinki, on: *Nordic Juvenile Crime: Current challenges and evidence-based prevention*.

Stian Lid (NO), Researcher, Oslo Metropolitan University, on: *Youth participation in crime prevention — Risky business or the road to success?*

Katharina Tollin (SE), The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention / Brottsförebyggande rådet, on: *Children and youth in criminal networks*.

Britt Østergaard Larsen (DK), Senior Researcher, and **Tea Torbenfeldt Bengtsson (DK)**, Professor MSO, The Danish Center for Social Science Research VIVE, on: *New forms of punishment in Denmark — when children involved in crime are sanctioned with child welfare interventions and probation*.



NSfK 62nd Research seminar

Åhus, Sweden

Program

Panel 1: Police interventions and youths

- Icelandic police students' attitudes toward routine police armament — Guðmundur Oddson
- Datafication and discretion - early intervention and forecasting youth crime — Helene Gundhus
- The Impact of Police Arrests on Subsequent Delinquent Behavior among Malmö Youths: A Propensity Score Matching Approach — Zoran Vasiljevic

Panel 2: Crime in the Nordics: then and now

- *The Historical Criminal Statistics of the Nordic Countries 1810–2022* — Miikka Vuorela
- *Youth Without Crime. Punishment, Welfare and Youth in Denmark, 1970–2020* — Lea Brinkgaard
- *Finnish forensics data 1926–1954* — Marko Piipponen
- *Youth Crime Developments in Denmark* — Maria Libak Pedersen

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

- *Judges' perceptions on regional sentencing disparities in Finland* — Tiina Malin
- *Restorative Justice in the Danish Youth Crime* — Katrine Barnekow Rasmussen
- *First Impressions Last? Swedish Lay-Judges' Assessments of Credible Victimhood* — Anita Heber
- *Anger in court* — Annick Prieur

Panel 4: Sanctions for youths

- *Young People with Sexual Offence Convictions and "Ungdomsstraff": Combining punishment with facilitation of change and rehabilitation?* — Linn-Eirin Aronsen Haugen
- *Danish Youth Probation Service – exploring the perspectives of children* — Ann-Karina Henriksen
- *Punishing children. Adolescents' experiences in an Adult Criminal Justice System* — Theresa Dyrvig Henriksen
- *Within or without: in which system should juvenile offenders be handled?* — Andreas Anderberg

Panel 5: Youths in criminal gangs and severe offending

- *Birds of a feather flock together"- Intersectional analysis of constructions of accountability in the online discourses surrounding "street gangs" in Finland* — Marja Lönnroth-Olin
- *Gang-affiliated young offenders in Swedish secure residential care: An Interview Study* — Tove Pettersson
- *Recruitment of youth by organized criminal networks* — Katrín Sif Oddgeirsdóttir
- *When young life takes a turn for the worst. Case studies and statistics on 15-29 years old homicide victims in Finland.* — Iina Sahramäki

Panel 6: Crime and criminality on the Internet

- *Do Cybercrimes Indicate Serious Offending Behavior? A comparative study among Nordic adolescents* — Janne Vepsäläinen
- *Incels, involuntary celibacy and internet radicalization* — Jan Christoffer Andersen
- *Subcultures of Cyberhate: Exploring the Diffusion of Hateful Memes from Far-Right Extremist Groups to Mainstream Shitposting Communities* — Silke Eilertsen
- *Young people's risk behavior offline and online: Evidence from the Youth Profile Survey in Denmark* — Serena Yunran Zhang

NSfK 62nd Research seminar

Åhus, Sweden

Panel 7: Violence in surveys and statistics

- *Exposure to and Perpetration of Violence: A quantitative study on Youth Experiences and Attitudes in Oslo* — Camilla Løvschall Langeland
- *The Blind Spot: Assessing the increase in self-reported victimization among young Swedish women* — Mika Hagerlid
- *IPV perpetration in adolescence and young adult hood — a longitudinal approach* — Linnea Schumacher
- *Youth violence in Iceland; Shifting landscape?* — Snorri Örn Árnason

Panel 8: Studies of drug markets and policies

- *Recruiting drug labourers. Exploring the complexities of recruitment and exploitation when young people become involved in illegal drug trading* — Thomas Friis Søgaard
- *Conflict or co-operation? How social media platforms mediates complex relations between competing young dealers in hybrid drug markets* — Nina Korshøj
- *Illicit markets for nicotine products — Effects of criminalization on criminogenic SoMe markets.* — Kristoffer Aagesen
- *Drug use among young adults and public attitudes toward alternative drug policies* — Helgi Gunnlaugsson & Jónas Orri Jónasson

Panel 9: Interventions and punishment

- *Framing Foster Care* — David Wästerfors
- *Foster care and money - Issues concerning reimbursement in relation to problematic young individuals* — Malin Åkerström
- *Court-imposed care orders 1988–2020: trends and outcomes in Sweden* — Anna Kahlmeter
- *Consequences of imprisonment in the Nordic countries — A literature review* — Susanne Alm

Panel 10: The prevention of youth crime

- *Social control in vulnerable neighborhoods. Youth' and parents' handling of self-determination and risk* — Monika Grønli Rosten
- *Lost in frustration: preventive work in particularly disadvantaged areas* — Emma-Lisa Gångare
- *The social space of prison: investigating norms and hierarchies among Danish inmates* — Luna Kragh Andersen
- *The Role of Neighborhood and School in the Development of Substance Use Patterns in Youth* — Lars Roar Frøyland

Panel 11: Studies on sexual crimes and prevention

- *Developing Bystander Intervention Strategies to Prevent Sexual Assault: Perspectives of Danish Secondary Students and Teachers* — Terese Hartmann-Petersen
- *The Monster's Dilemma. Integration, Non-Integration and "Knifing Off" of Sexual Violence Perpetration in the Self-Narratives of Young Men in Norway* — Anja Emilie Kruse
- *Sugardating among marginalized youth in Denmark — are legal measures necessary?* — Jeanett Bjønness
- *Identifying Sexual Abuse in SameSex Relationships: Turning Points and MetaNarratives* — Carolina Överlien

PhD Network Seminar

Copenhagen, Denmark

The NSfK PhD seminar was this year hosted by Centre for Alcohol and Drug Research at Aarhus University.

The local organisers were PhD fellow Freja Ilsing Magnussen and Associate Professor Thomas Friis Sogaard.

The seminar was attended by 32 PhD fellows from Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark, who all shared an interest in criminology and criminal justice issues.

The PhD fellows gave presentations and received feedback on important criminological topics such as:

- partner violence
- gang violence dynamics
- rehabilitation in prisons
- vulnerable drug users
- violence and migration
- the use of DNA as evidence
- knowledge-based policing
- female serious drug offenders
- drug policy

Chair Heidi Mork Lomell applauds the organisers of the PhD seminar 2024:

– On behalf of NSfK, I want to thank Thomas and Freja for hosting this year's PhD seminar. We have received a lot of positive feedback from the attendees. I am particularly pleased with the fact that this year's seminar took place at the Centre for Alcohol and Drug Research. A lot of important and interesting research with great relevance for criminology and crime policy takes place at research institutes, and by including them in our Nordic network, we all benefit.



Local organisers Freja Ilsing Magnussen & Thomas Friis Sogaard.



32 PhD fellows from the Nordic countries participated.

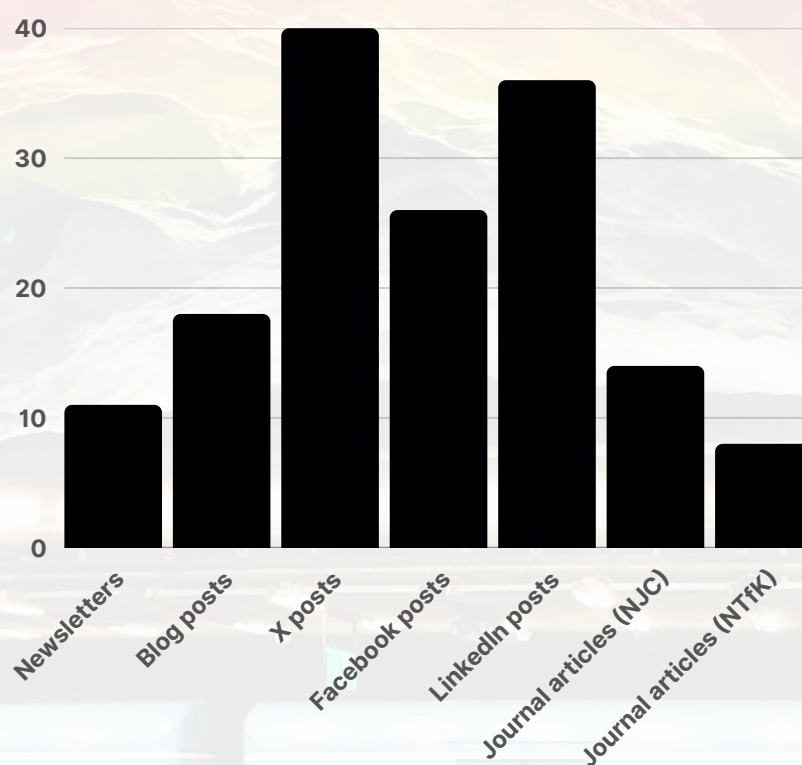
Photos: Private, used with permission.

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 organisation's main communication platform is our webpage, nsfk.org. The page is updated monthly with news, blog posts, and the monthly newsletter. The organisation is also active on social media platforms.

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

Communication platforms

Newsletter — Nordic Criminology

The newsletter provides information about NSfK activities and 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 1019 subscribers as of December 2024.



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

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

Social media

NSfK is present on four social media platforms: Facebook, YouTube, X and LinkedIn. In 2024, the organisation was most active on LinkedIn 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 @X

The account has 845 followers and aims to reach academics and politicians.



Nordic Research Council for Criminology @ Facebook

The account has 1018 followers and aims to reach practitioners and students.



Nordic Research Council for Criminology @ LinkedIn

The account has 270 followers and aims to reach practitioners, academics and policymakers.

Blog post by Mika Hagerlid (SE)

The reversed gender victimization gap among Swedish youth

When I was studying for my master's degree in criminology back in 2010–2012, I was taught that young men were at highest risk for becoming victims of crime. It was one of those conventional wisdoms that hardly needed to be proven because they were so strongly established.

Imagine my surprise when, several years later, I was writing a research background for a study and discovered that young men had never been more frequently victimized than young women in the Swedish Crime Survey. In the early years, 2005–2012, victimization rates were about the same for men and women in the age groups 16–24. Since then, self-reported victimization among young women has increased, and it is now consistently about 10–15% higher than men's vulnerability.


I found this hard to let go of, especially since there were no studies assessing this crime trend. It was proposed by the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention and by researchers that the increase was due to a change in how young women perceive the questions in the survey, rather than there being an actual increase. As the increase consisted mainly of sexual offenses, the hypothesis put forward was that young women's interpretation of the sexual offense question in the survey had changed and broadened over time.

However, this was not something that had been empirically assessed. With the help of a small research grant from the NSFK, I was able to conduct a study that focused on the period prior to and during increase, i.e., 2009–2016.

In this study, I use a statistical method called Multi-Group Confirmatory Factor Analysis, which uses variables to examine whether an underlying factor is the same across groups or over time. In this case, I use the victimization variables to take a closer look at the underlying factor crime against the person. If there has been a real increase, the statistical relationships between the variables and the underlying factor should be the same over time. If, on the other hand, there has been a change in these statistical relationships, the analysis shows that there has been a change in how the questions are interpreted.



Mika Hagerlid



The change in young women's views on sexual offending coincides with an intense public debate on sexual offending in Sweden. In 2013, the legal concept of rape was expanded to include incidents where the victim was unable to resist due to alcohol or drug intoxication, unconsciousness, being asleep, or having a freezing reaction. In 2018, following the #metoo wave the year before, consent-based legislation was introduced, shifting the previous focus on the presence of violence and threats to the absence of explicit consent.

When I examined the crime pattern for sexual offenses further, it turned out that the more serious sexual offenses, i.e. rape, sexual offenses that led to the victim needing medical care, and sexual offenses that occurred when the victim was in a defenseless state, e.g. intoxicated, asleep or in a freeze reaction, decreased over time. This indicates not only a change in young women's perceptions, but also a change in the behavior of the perpetrators, with fewer serious sexual crimes being committed.

Mika Hagerlid is a senior lecturer at the Department of Criminology, Malmö University. Hagerlid works mainly in the field of victimology.

Their research focuses on hate crime, sexual harassment and young women's experiences of interpersonal crime.

Blog post by Andreas Anderberg (SE)

Within or without: In which system should juvenile offenders be handled?

Following a trend in embracing Danish legislation, a Swedish committee (SOU 2024:30) presented its considerations on i.a. the so-called Youth Crime Boards in May 2024. With some adjustments to national legislation, the proposal says that the Danish model should be adapted and implemented in Sweden within a few years. The Youth Crime Boards have been pointed out as an example of a place where the not always very clear boundaries between punishing and rehabilitating interventions becomes tangible.

In a Nordic context, the societal approach towards juvenile offenders have historically focused on treatment and rehabilitation rather than punishment. In Sweden, the social services have had the prime responsibility for societal reactions on juvenile crimes. As juvenile delinquency is seen as an ever-increasing problem, the social law-efforts have been deemed insufficient by politicians and more emphasis has been placed on measures of criminal justice.


The ongoing criminal policy debate has largely come to revolve around juvenile delinquency. A clearly harsher view is to be taken on handling juvenile offenders within – and outside of – the criminal justice system. However, the main dichotomy is not new: separate ideologies – punishment on the one hand, treatment on the other – collide when different authorities deal with juvenile offenders. It is not always clear which one of the systems that should take presence in matters of legislation or sentencing. Legal consequences for juvenile offenders constitute thus a complex field of tension, in between legal areas with often diametrically opposed goals and strategies.

Overlaps where punishment, care and treatment intertwine and interfere with each other in a way that sometimes makes it difficult to distinguish between different types of intervention. Disparate interests must be accommodated within the framework of one and the same set of regulations. A lasting feeling is that young offenders often end up in-between different systems.

When criminal and social justice efforts become increasingly difficult to distinguish from each other, the legal uncertainty for the individual increases. The complex penalty structure would probably benefit from being reviewed.



Andreas Anderberg



Returning to the committee proposal, that I wrote about initially: Although the committee clearly states that the Youth Crime Boards are not to be seen as part of the criminal justice system, it is inevitable that such comparisons easily could be made. Mandatory measures, that could be decided on without consent from the juvenile in question by a Board led by a judge sounds very similar to a criminal court procedure and as such it must include and respect fundamental human rights for the juvenile. Still, parallel processes formally within the criminal justice system will be able to take part and the complexity of the issue will not decrease. A bit more clarity would have been preferable in sorting out in which system juvenile offenders should be handled.

Background

The blog post is based on my presentation at the NSfK Research Seminar in Åhus 14.5 2024 and the essay 'Caught between a rock and a hard place' – några aktuella åtgärder mot omyndiga lagöverträdare i Sverige, in NTfK 3/2023, 401–414. Further references can be found in the essay.

Andreas Anderberg is senior lecturer/assistant professor in criminal law at the Department of Law, University of Gothenburg.

His research interests lie mainly within crime policy, criminalization and jurisprudence. Anderberg has i.a. been co-editor of the volume *Teori och politik: straffrätt i omvandling* (Iustus, 2022).

Blog post by Terese Hartmann (DK)

Empowering Youth Through Bystander Intervention: A Promising Strategy Against Sexual Assault

In the fight against sexual assault, a growing body of international research underscores the promise of bystander interventions, particularly among young people. Bystander approaches aim to empower individuals who witness potential risk situations to take prosocial action to prevent sexual harassment and assault. For example, by directly intervening, diverting attention, or seeking help. By focusing on how young people can help each other, bystander strategies shift the narrative from viewing youths as potential perpetrators or victims, to seeing them as allies in joint prevention efforts. In the US, successful bystander training programs like Bringing in the Bystander® (BITB) and Green Dot Etc.® have shown a range of positive outcomes, including changes in attitudes, increased willingness to intervene and, in some cases, behavioral changes to prevent assault. However, there are several barriers to simply applying these programs in the Nordic context, including issues of copyright and the potential need for cultural adaptation.

My PhD project, entitled “Mobilizing Bystander Interventions to Prevent Sexual Assault Among Danish Upper Secondary Students: A Mixed-Methods Project Exploring Opportunities, Barriers, and Preliminary Effects”, aims to explore how best to design and implement feasible and culturally appropriate bystander initiatives in the Danish context.

As a first step, I conducted a comprehensive survey at a large Danish high school. Among other things, the questionnaire explored the extent to which students had witnessed a range of specific risk situations over the past four months. The results revealed that 89% of respondents had observed at least one of these situations during this period. On average, students intervened in just over half (51%) of the situations they witnessed. Interestingly, females demonstrated significantly higher overall likelihood to intervene compared to males, although this varied somewhat for specific situations. The main barriers to intervention varied to some extent across situations, but generally included not recognizing the need for intervention, feeling it was not their responsibility, or not knowing how to act.

These preliminary findings align with international research highlighting the potential and need to expand young people’s understanding of risky situations and the different roles a bystander can take. Addressing barriers by debunking rape myths, providing education on risky situations, and offering concrete examples of how to intervene, may thus have the potential to enhance young Dane’s confidence and ability to act as prosocial bystanders. Based on insights gathered from supplementary focus group interviews also conducted as part of the PhD, the hope is to develop new intervention materials that are perceived as relevant and effective by Danish youth, and that can contribute to a comprehensive sexual assault prevention strategy at upper secondary institutions.



Terese Hartmann is a PhD fellow at the Department of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences at Aarhus University in Denmark.

Her PhD project combines quantitative and qualitative methods across three studies aimed at gathering practical knowledge that can form a foundation for evidence-based prevention of sexual assault and harassment among young people. Final results are expected towards the end of 2025.

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.

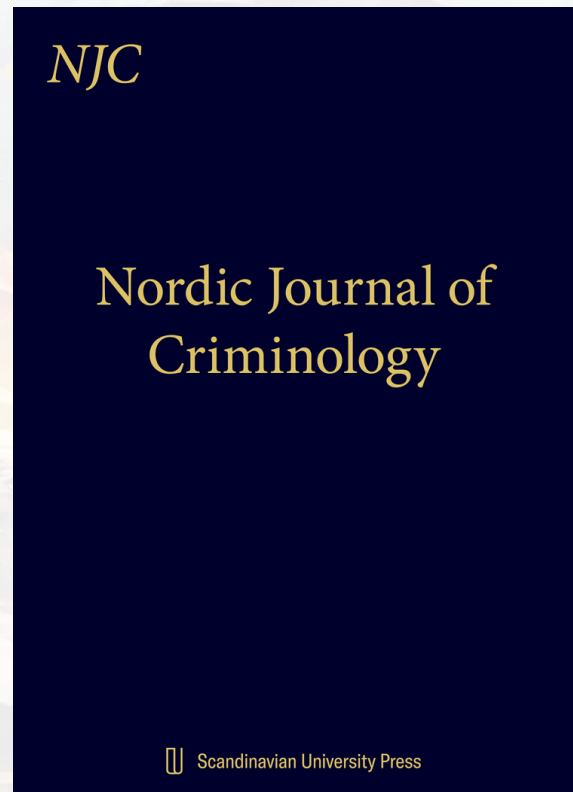
The journal provides a forum for criminological research across a wide range of disciplines and methodologies. Priority is given to research with a Nordic relevance, such as studies based on Nordic data.

Scandinavian University Press offers diamond open access, meaning that all journal content is published online with immediate free access.

Since 2023, NJC articles have been solely published online. Moreover, older NJC articles can be found for free on [the new website](#): no less than 24 years of back issues available after a few clicks.

Highlights and key figures

- NJC aims to give fast and thorough feedback. In 2024 the average review time was 26 days.
- In 2024, NJC published 14 articles.
- 48 articles were submitted to NJC in 2024.
- After the publication of the backlist in 2024, we see that the number of downloads (79,281) is almost back to where it were before the move to the new publisher in 2023.



Editor-in-chief: Sébastien Tutenges

The Nordic Journal of Criminology Best Article Prize

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.

The 2023 prize went to Emelí Lönnqvist for her article "Prisoners of process: The development of remand prisoner rates in the Nordic countries".

Previous winners

2022

Thomas Ugelvik

"Three burglars, a friendly police inspector, and a vegetarian fox: Scandinavian exceptionalism, children's literature, and desistance-conducive cultures"

2021

Maria Hansen, Kari Stefansen & May-Len Skilbrei

"Non-reporting of sexual violence as action: acts, selves, futures in the making"

2020

Susanne Boethius & Malin Åkerström

"Revealing hidden realities: disclosing domestic abuse to informal others"

2019

Synøve Nygaard Andersen

"Partners in crime? Post-release recidivism among solo and co-offenders in Norway"

2018

Klara Hermansson

"The role of symbolic politics in exceptional crime policy debate: a study of the 2014 Swedish general election"

Nominees for the Best Article Prize 2024

Klara Hradilova Selin, Katharina Krüsselmann, Karoliina Suonpää & David Shannon

"Trends in firearm homicide in 23 European countries – is Sweden an outlier?"

Clara R. Sandbye, Søren R. B. Christensen, Sif A. I. Mogensen, Christian Gade & Sarah van Mastrigt

"To Refer or Not to Refer? Police Discretion and Morality in the Danish Victim-Offender Mediation Programme"

Janne Kivivuori, Maiju Tanskanen, Karoliina Suonpää & Anna Raeste

"Comparing youth and adult homicide victimization in Finland 2002–2018: A latent class approach"

Winner of the Nordic Journal of Criminology Best Article Prize

Emelí Lönnqvist, PhD fellow at Stockholm University, authored of the winning article of 2023:

“Prisoners of process: The development of remand prisoner rates in the Nordic countries”.

Congratulations, Emelí! You just won a prize for a research article published in NJC. You have written about imprisonment of persons suspected of crime. What is this article about and what made you write this particular text?

– Thank you so much — I was immensely happy to learn that my article received this award! The article explores how the remand prison populations in Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland have developed over time until 2020. It also explores how the developments of these rates have been affected by the number of individuals imprisoned on remand and the length of detention, and how they have developed in relation to prison sentencing.

– The article is the first in my dissertation, in which I study the Swedish remand institution from a sociological and historical perspective. I actually had not planned on writing this article when I started my PhD – I was convinced that someone else had done it. But as I was looking to contextualize how the use of remand had developed in Sweden compared to the other Nordic countries, I couldn't find any articles that specifically looked into this – and it felt like an urgent empirical gap to fill before continuing my research. I am so happy that the article's empirical contribution is recognized by the NSfK and NJC in this way – it truly shows that pre-trial practices are current and emergent issues that deserve further attention in Nordic criminological scholarship.



Award winner Emelí Lönnqvist.

The award was presented by NJC editor-in-chief Sébastien Tutenges at the NSfK Research Seminar 2024.

Scandinavian Studies in Criminology now online

All 15 volumes of the book series have been digitalized and made open access.



The Scandinavian Studies in Criminology book series was published under the auspices of The Nordic Research Council for Criminology from 1965 to 1999. The Norwegian Professor of Criminal Law, Johs Andenæs (1912–2003), the founder of the Department of Criminology in Norway and the first Chair of NSfK, wrote in the introduction to the first volume that:

“[...] it should be made clear from the outset that ‘Scandinavian’ in this connection refers not only to Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, but also to Finland and Iceland. The expression is in other words used synonymously with ‘Nordic’ which is the designation usually employed by these countries themselves ... Scandinavian Studies in Criminology, presented here, are published as a part of the Council’s efforts to develop closer contacts with international criminological research.” — Johs Andenæs, Professor of Criminal Law

There are volumes on youth crime, punishment, prostitution, social control, drug policies, and violence, just to name a few. Authors include Nils Christie, Britta Kyvsgaard, Thomas Mathiesen, Flemming Balvig, Inkeri

Anttila, Per-Ole Träskmann, Hanns von Hofer and Ulla Bondeson, among others.

The series was followed by Journal of Scandinavian Studies in Criminology and Crime Prevention (2000–2018), and later Nordic Journal of Criminology (2019–).

In 2024 the Council decided to make this series available online and open access, similar to the Nordic Journal of Criminology and Nordisk Tidsskrift for Kriminalvidenskab.

“I am delighted that this series is finally available online and open access. This will give criminologists and researchers a chance to (re-)discover some of the pioneering works which has shaped Nordic criminology and crime policy. The series is also a testament to the importance of inter-Nordic collaboration for advancing criminology as a science.” — Heidi Mork Lomell, NSfK Council Chair

You can access the series at [Scup.com](https://scup.com).

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 topics.

NTfK also fulfills a criminal policy function in a common Nordic context. NTfK publishes in Danish, Norwegian, Swedish and English. NSfK has supported the journal, as well as the research providing its content, for years. NSfK became co-owner of NTfK in 2022.

In 2024, the journal published 8 articles.

NTfK is one of the oldest and most prestigious Nordic and international journals within criminal justice and criminological studies.

NTfK has been published under the name *Nordisk Tidsskrift for Kriminalvidenskab* since 1949. During the period 1913–1948, the journal was published under the name *Nordisk Tidsskrift for Strafferet*.

In 1949, the name was changed into *Nordisk Tidsskrift for Kriminalvidenskab*. Since then, NTfK has been the member journal for all Nordic Associations for Criminalists.

However, the journal has an even longer history starting in 1878 with *Nordisk Tidsskrift for Fængselsvæsen og praktisk Strafferet*, which was published up til 1912 (for a period under the more precise and detailed name: *Nordisk Tidsskrift for Fængselsvæsen og øvrige penitentiære Institutioner: Organ for den nordiska Penitentiærföreningen*).

The journal's content back to 1878 can be accessed through its [online archive](#).



Editor-in-chief: Anette Storgaard

146 years of Nordic criminological research online

Nordisk Tidsskrift for Kriminalvidenskab has made its entire catalogue available online.

The first issue of what was then called *Nordisk Tidsskrift for Fængselsvæsen og øvrige penitentiære institutioner* was first published by the Danish jurist and prison historian Fredrik Henrich Suckenberg (1832–1899) in March 1878.

The journal changed its name in 1890 to, *Nordisk Tidsskrift for Fængselsvæsen og praktisk Strafferet* (1890–1912), then to *Nordisk Tidsskrift for Fængselsvæsen og praktisk Strafferet* (1890–1912), from 1913 to *Nordisk Tidsskrift for Strafferet* and in 1948 *Nordisk Tidsskrift for Kriminalvidenskab*.

While the journal did not have a preface in its first issue, Stuckenberg writes in the preface of the second issue:

“The journal works for, and the consequent interest in the Nordic region The legal world has thus far generally stayed away from penitentiary areas, and yet it must become a participant in the performance of tasks in this area. This less fortunate situation has been, to a significant extent, the origin of the journal's appearance ... These conditions also mean that the contents of the Journal must sometimes become more instructive than reasoning, however great the temptation may often be to prefer the latter form ... Well-acquainted with the difficult conditions present and able from the outset to assess the difficulty of the work, however, the Journal has only reason to look back on the results it has achieved in its short existence with gratitude and satisfaction, and with an *omen accipio* confidently continue its work.”

Find the archive at tidsskrift.dk/ntfapi.



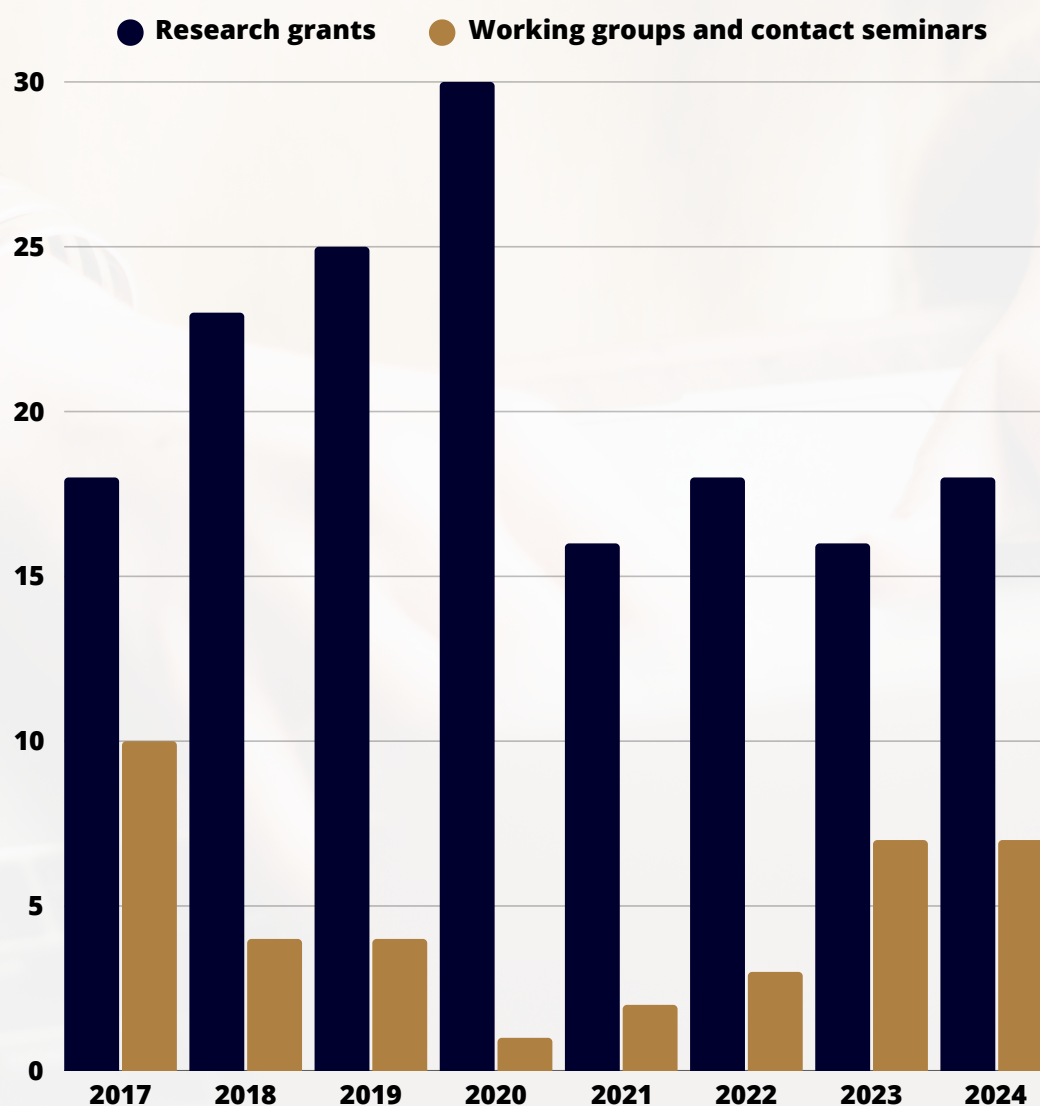


Facts and figures

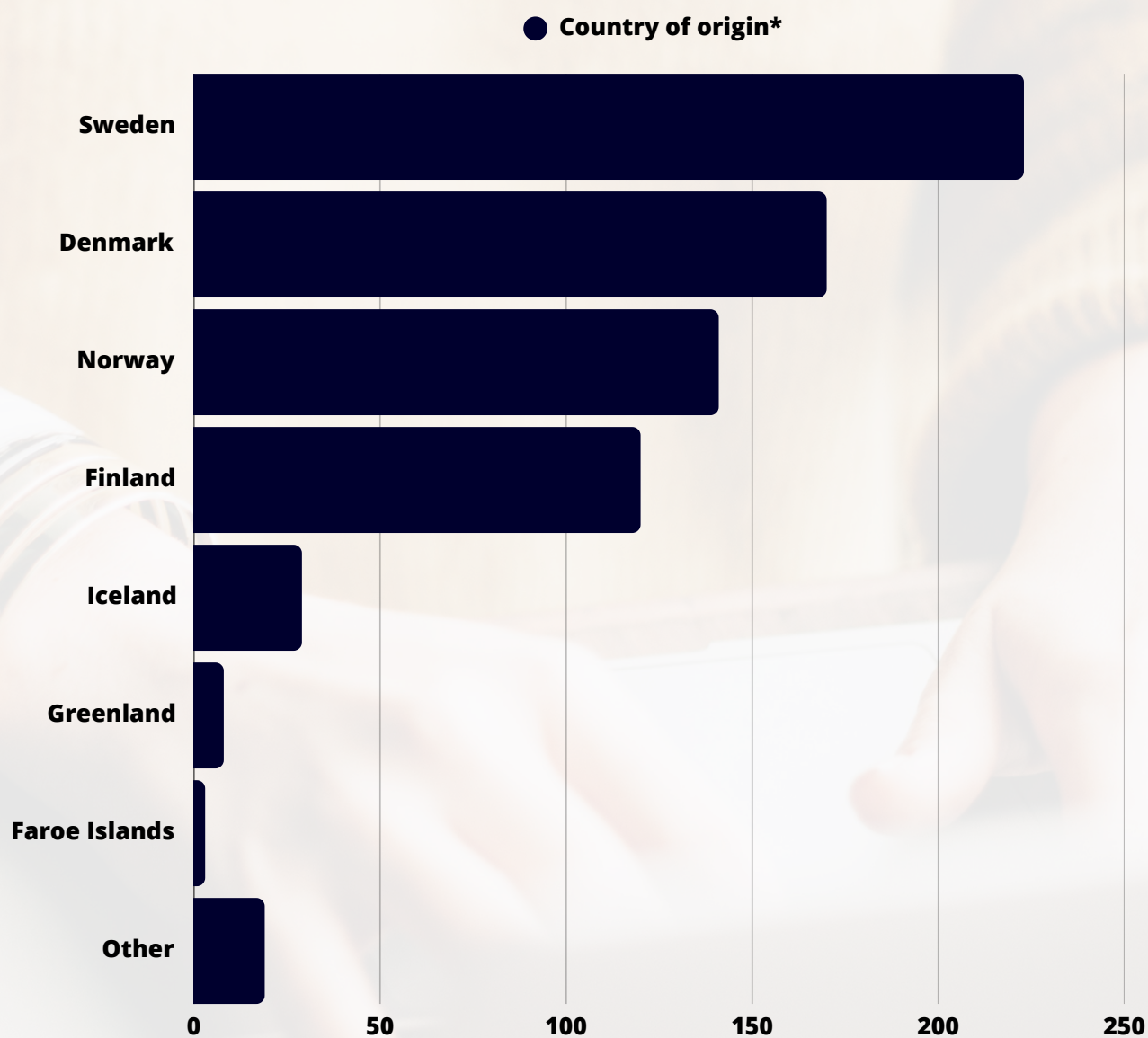
Total amount granted 2017–2024

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Research grants: | 32,700,000 NOK to a total of 39 projects |
| Travel grants: | 900,000 NOK for a total of 115 trips |
| Working groups/Contact seminars: | 2,200,000 NOK to a total of 29 WG/CS |

Applications 2017–2024



Applications by country of origin — 2017–2024



*All application types, 2017–2024.



Financial statements

NSfK accounts 2024

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Incoming Balance | 2,936,139 |
| Incoming balance NSfK* | 2,680,466 |
| Incoming balance NTfK* | 255,673 |
| Income | 5,640,564 |
| Government contributions | 5,640,564 |
| Expenses | 6,994,406 |
| Grants | 3,664,896 |
| Research Grants (Call | 3,197,032 |
| Working Groups (Call) | 424,452 |
| Working groups/Contact Seminars (Council) | 5,136 |
| Travel Grants | 38,277 |
| Annual meetings | 748,917 |
| Council meeting | 89,474 |
| Research seminar | 659,443 |
| Administration | 1,298,680 |
| Chair | 346,081 |
| Secretariat | 947,147 |
| Administration - operating costs | 5,452 |
| Communication | 299,656 |
| Web pages, Email services & Grant application portal | 75,707 |
| Contact secretaries | 211,011 |
| Other communication costs | 12,938 |
| Other Costs | 300,405 |
| PhD meeting | 167,104 |
| Establish and prepare new secretariat | 34,551 |
| Scandinavian Studies in Criminology- Digitization and OA | 98,750 |

*) All sums are in NOK

| | |
|---|------------------|
| NJC | 591,853 |
| Publishing fee (yearly cost + language editing) NJC | 342,704 |
| Editor-in-Chief (Tutenges) NJC | 162,480 |
| Editorial assistant / Co-Editor (Boethius) NJC | 86,669 |
| NTfK * see separate budget | 90,000 |
| NSFK contribution to NTfK | 90,000 |
| Balance | 1,582,298 |

Nordisk Tidsskrift for Kriminalvidenskab balance 2022–2025*

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Balance received from Denmark December 2022 | 313,821 |
| Overspending 2023 | 43,535 |
| Balance 31.12.2023 (without cost for 2022) | 270,286 |
| Overspending 2024 | 14,613 |
| Balance 31.12.2024 (without costs for 2022) | 255,673 |
| Costs for 2022 not included in balance pr 31.12.22 | 116,107 |
| Correct balance NTfK pr 31.12.2024 | 139,566 |

Total balance 31.12.2024

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| NSFK | 1,442,732 |
| NTfK | 139,566 |
| Total | 1,582,298 |

