BORDER CRIMINOLOGIES
An Online Platform for Research and Outreach
WHO WE ARE

Based at the Centre for Criminology at the University of Oxford, Border Criminologies is an international network of researchers, practitioners, and those who have experienced border control. Showcasing original research from a range of perspectives, we hope to better understand the effect of border control and to explore alternatives. Through a range of methods, including visual resources and first-hand accounts, Border Criminologies contributes to greater understanding of law and policy.

BACKGROUND

An unprecedented number of people are on the move, worldwide. In response, countries in more economically prosperous parts of the world have all made it more difficult for people to enter legally or to remain. However, we know surprisingly little about the impact of these policies on migrants and refugees. Such lack of information, not only makes it hard to assess, monitor, or critique current practice, but also to imagine or devise alternatives. It is this impasse that international research network and website, Border Criminologies seeks to resolve, by conducting pioneering research on the intersections between criminal justice and immigration, sharing data and research tools, engaging with policy makers, and encouraging interdisciplinary collaborations.

WHAT WE DO

Established in 2013, Border Criminologies has expanded rapidly to become the primary global site for research and knowledge exchange on the intersections between criminal justice and border control. It has also given rise to a new subfield within the discipline of criminology that bears its name: border criminology. Core members include academics from the US, UK, India, Australia, and Europe, with outreach programs in Latin America and Asia. It has partnerships with universities across these countries and with legal advocates, including Goldsmith Chambers in London, and the Immigration Law Lab in the US.

Conceptualised and designed as a multi-aspect outreach platform to share knowledge and advance the study of border control in criminology the project has a number of strands:
OPEN ACCESS AND OUTREACH

The Border Criminologies website showcases academic research on border control within criminology and related disciplines. It makes data, research, and teaching resources freely available.

Our blog disseminates original research from around the world, first-hand accounts of border control, legal analysis and book reviews. Monthly themed weeks organised by a specialist, tackle topics in-depth. In 2020, we recorded a total of 109,189 sessions on our website, 82,975 users and 165,967 page views. While almost half of viewers come from North America and the UK, there is a wide readership in India, Australia and the rest of Europe. We have growing readers from across Latin America as we have begun to produce blogs in Spanish.

In 2020, we launched a new interactive map, Landscapes of Border Control. Starting with material gathered from and about Greece and Italy this project aims to visualise what goes on in detention centres in order to increase public understanding about immigration and the treatment of immigrants in detention settings. Eventually, other countries will be added.

Border Criminologies is also regularly invited to contribute to public and international inquiries and legal cases, including, for example work on Lesvos in Greece, and an amicus curiae brief filed on behalf of interested human rights organizations and scholars before the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York in D.J.C.V. v. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Border Criminologies is on Facebook, Twitter, iTunes, and YouTube. Border Criminologies has a strong following on social media with over 9,200 Twitter followers, 2,000 average profile visitors per month and over 100,000 engagements per month. On Facebook figures are similarly large. The project also hosts a private research forum page on Facebook where students and scholars can discuss practical problems that they encounter in their writing and research in a safe and supportive environment.

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

Border Criminologies organises regular seminars and conferences which are advertised on our website.

RESEARCH AND CONSULTING

We conduct pioneering, interdisciplinary research around the world on immigration detention and deportation, policing, imprisonment, and the law, as well as cooperate with non-academic partners.
FUNDING

In 2016 Border Criminologies won the University of Oxford OxTALENT award for the use of technology for outreach and public engagement. Its work has been supported by a number of research grants from international research councils and from within the University, including grants for public engagement and knowledge transfer. Our work in Greece and Italy is also currently supported by a grant from the Open Society Foundations. However, core funding is always hard to find.

We are seeking funding for a variety of projects. These include:

**Core funding** for a part-time website manager and blog editor, currently £35,000 per annum and £16,000 for a new communications director.

**Dissemination activities**: annual conference: £3000 – £10000 per annum and SSRN subscription: £5000 per annum to allow for free dissemination of academic papers.

**Studentships** to encourage the next generation of scholars in this field, at £5000 - £24,000 per annum, these could bear the name of the donor and/or target certain under-represented populations in Oxford.

**Post-doctoral research fellowships** to support early career scholars, from £40,000 per annum.

**Visiting research fellowships** to enable international scholars to spend time in Oxford, working on a particular project, £1000 - £5000 per annum.

**Knowledge Exchange fellows**, to enable practitioners, especially those from the global South, to spend time in Oxford working on a particular project.

Finally, we have a series of **research projects** that need funding renewal, costs provided upon request. These include:

- Ongoing work inside immigration detention centres, including a comparative study of human rights abuses in detention in Greece, Italy and Serbia.
- A new comparative study of border control technology in the EU, US and UK.
- A new study of unaccompanied children in Europe and the US.
- Ongoing work on art and immigration detention, drawing on the immigration detention archive based at the University of Oxford.