

CENTRE FOR CRIMINOLOGY

Oxford Criminology in a Global World:
A vision for the next 50 years





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The University of Oxford's Centre for Criminology celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2016. We are a leading site of innovative social enquiry and outstanding education in criminology and criminal justice. Committed to understanding and addressing contemporary public policy dilemmas, over the last half century we have earned a reputation as one of the UK's foremost departments of criminology.

Our vision

In our globalised and challenging world, criminal justice organizations are increasingly seeking the help of academics – and others – to understand and act on the problems they face. At the Oxford Centre for Criminology we contribute to this process through research that focuses on the institutions of justice and the people they serve. We are interested in how the police, courts, prisons and other justice agencies function; how their activities affect individuals, groups and communities, particularly those who are vulnerable; and how all can contribute to the promotion of public safety, security and a society that works for all.

Working across multiple local and global contexts, our research aims to understand how the justice system works, explore the reasons for its failures, and bring to light the experiences of the people who interact with it. Staff and students working in the Centre conduct research on a diverse range of topics, from immigration control and detention, the death penalty in a global context and transitional justice in Africa to domestic violence, promoting change in police organizations and judicial decision-making.

We are also fully engaged with the world of crime control and criminal justice, in the effort to make the justice system function better and to reform discriminatory practices. Our research has informed policy-making and practice at the highest level in Britain and abroad. In policing it has influenced decisions taken by the UK National Police Chiefs Council and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. In the courts, it has fed into the Sentencing Council of England and Wales and in Minnesota, while also addressing the treatment of children of female offenders, and defendants on the

autism spectrum. In custody, it has influenced Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons in staff training, the Council of Europe, the British Home Office and the Canadian Border Services Agency in devising guidelines on immigration detention. For many years, research from Oxford has shaped policies and practices across Asia and the Caribbean in the field of the death penalty, while, more recently, it has fed into responses to victims of sex trafficking in Holland, and the treatment of victims at the International Criminal Court. In all of these examples our institutional vision is clear: we aim not only to understand the world but also to change it.

Our values

Building on Oxford's tradition of nurturing academic freedom, the Centre of Criminology provides a space for staff and students to explore their fields of interest unhindered by prior expectation and external pressure. All are encouraged to develop innovative methodological approaches and to engage with those beyond the academy. Fostering an environment of open and honest debate, we seek to generate knowledge that challenges existing understanding and enables positive change.

We are dedicated to attracting the best scholars from around the world through our delivery of the highest quality undergraduate and graduate education. Each year we accept around 30 students onto our MSc programme and six onto our doctoral programme. Our students from both degrees go on to jobs in a wide range of governmental, inter-governmental and third sector organizations as well as academia, the legal professions and law enforcement. We are immensely proud of the contribution they make across all these fields, and many others besides.

Our future

As in so many other areas of modern life, the arena of crime and criminal justice is in constant flux. Social change and the advent of new technologies create new challenges for policy-makers and practitioners that influence the kinds of questions asked of us as academic researchers. At the Centre for Criminology we are keenly aware of the need to rise to these new challenges, and in our anniversary year we have launched an ambitious fundraising campaign that will capitalize and build on our current strengths.

Gathering a series of initiatives together under a new Global Criminal Justice Hub, we have plans for, first, a new lectureship in quantitative criminology that will further enable our engagement with criminal justice agencies keen to expand their knowledge base; second, a senior research fellowship addressing the challenges for justice agencies created by the advent of population hyper-diversity in the UK and beyond; and third, a series of funded studentships that will enhance the ability of students from the global south or from deprived backgrounds to study with us at the University of Oxford.

Taken together, these plans will enhance the Centre's reputation as an intellectually rigorous and vibrant home for criminology at Oxford and help us move forward into the next 50 years of research, teaching and impact.

Professor Carolyn Hoyle, Director of the Centre for
Criminology

Professor Mary Bosworth, Assistant Director of the
Centre for Criminology

The Centre for Criminology at Oxford

Who we are

The Centre for Criminology at the University of Oxford conducts innovative research and delivers high-quality teaching on some of the most significant and pressing issues facing the world in the 21st century: crime, insecurity, border control, policing, punishment, and justice.

The Centre – a unit within the Faculty of Law – comprises a team of five academics with permanent positions filled, respectively, by Professor Mary Bosworth, Dr Rachel Condry, Professor Carolyn Hoyle, Professor Ian Loader and Professor Julian Roberts. The Centre is also supported by Dr Liora Lazarus and Professor Lucia Zedner within the wider law faculty from whose teaching and research the Centre benefits. In addition to these senior posts, there are currently two temporary departmental lecturers, Dr Ben Bradford and Dr Alpa Parmar, three postdoctoral research officers employed on externally-funded, fixed-term contracts and a part-time convenor for the Oxford Transitional Justice Research group.

The Centre has forged strong research relationships with other departments, particularly Sociology and the Department of Social Policy and Intervention, International Relations, COMPAS, Refugee Studies, the Blavatnik School of Government, the Oxford Internet Institute, the Department for Forensic Psychiatry, and the Department of Public Health. The Border Criminologies group at the Centre frequently co-hosts research seminars on migration-related topics with the Oxford Human Rights Hub, COMPAS, and the

Refugee Studies Centre. And the Centre's 'Oxford Transitional Justice Research group' (OTJR) – which addresses the global challenges posed by conflicts and abuses of human rights around the world – has excellent working relations with the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, and with the departments of Politics and International Relations, Economics, Sociology, Development Studies and Area Studies.

Our members are committed to connecting criminological work to the broader concerns of the social sciences: to thinking comparatively about crime and punishment; to bringing together sociological and normative approaches to the analysis of crime and justice; and to working at the intersections between criminology and public policy at the local and at the global level. The Centre works closely with its partners in the criminal justice system and beyond to ensure its research informs, and is informed by, policy and practice.

These are also the approaches to the study of crime and criminal justice that underpin the teaching and doctoral supervision in the Centre. They make it an intellectually stimulating and collegial environment in which to study and work.

International recognition, reach and impact

The Centre for Criminology's international reputation for research and teaching is evident in the scale of our partnerships and engagement with many of the world's most prestigious universities and academic institutions. In addition to ongoing collaboration with colleagues in departments of criminology and law schools in Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, France, India, Italy, Norway, Scotland, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and

across the UK, we are building up good working relationships with criminal justice practitioners, policy makers and civil society around the globe.

The world-leading reputation of the Centre's research is apparent in the high-level publications produced and in the amount and range of research funding attracted. In the last five years, current members employed at the Centre have produced 15 monographs, over 140 academic articles, and over 125 book chapters. Their work has been funded by the ESRC, the Nuffield Foundation, the Leverhulme Trust, the British Academy, the AHRC, the ISRF and the European Research Council. All permanent post-holders were submitted to the Research Excellence Framework (REF) – and the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) before that.

Many members of the Centre for Criminology work with policy makers, NGOs and practitioners. They speak at national and international conferences, seminars and workshops, give evidence to politicians and select committees at home and abroad, advise charities, legal practitioners and government departments and they encourage public debate. The Centre's work, research and teaching, has a demonstrable impact upon our society and on international debates. In recognition of this fact, the Oxford Faculty of Law submitted three Criminology impact case studies to the last REF.

Research

The Centre's research strategy principally fosters clusters of research activity around six substantive themes:

- Security, rights and justice
- Penal culture, policy and practice
- Politics, legitimacy and crime control
- Crime and the family
- Victims and victimization
- Criminal justice, citizenship and migration.

The Centre's programme of work across these substantive areas is intersected and reinforced by four lateral themes that link them and reveal the distinctive and innovative nature of criminological research in Oxford. The four themes are:

- Exploring the connections between the study of crime and its control and the larger concerns of the contemporary social sciences with such ideas as race, gender, risk, globalization, networks, citizenship, governance, and culture
- The theory and practice of comparative criminological enquiry
- Bringing together sociological and critical normative analyses of crime, victimization and crime control practices
- Understanding and working upon the intersections between criminological research and public policy.

Projects currently being undertaken in the Centre under this broad rubric include studies of:

- how prisons and immigration detention centres uphold notions of race, gender and citizenship

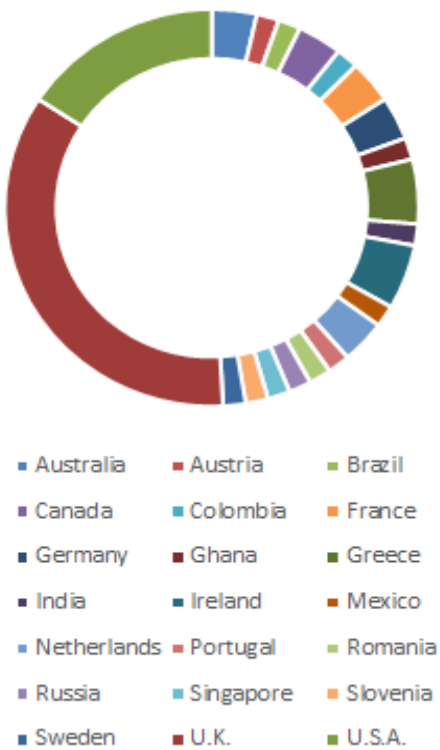
- trust and confidence in the police and criminal justice system
- police organizational practice
- family violence and the state regulation of parenting and family life
- the state's response to wrongful convictions
- the use of capital punishment around the world
- the relationship between the rule of law, human rights and security
- public sensibilities towards crime, order and justice
- crime, punishment and democratic politics
- sentencing policy and practice around the world
- markets for security services and commodities
- transitional justice – particularly in Africa
- preventive justice and public protection
- counter-terrorism measures.

Teaching

Centre staff teach on the law undergraduate degree (FHS), offering lectures, classes and tutorials in ‘Criminology and Criminal Justice’. They offer two courses on the Faculty of Law’s graduate MJur and BCL programmes: ‘Punishment, Security and the State’ and ‘Criminal Justice, Security and Human Rights’, and regularly supervise graduate law dissertations as well. They also teach a course on police and policing in the Blavatnik School of Government’s Master of Public Policy programme. The Centre’s own graduate programme consists of a one-year taught Masters degree in Criminology & Criminal Justice, which can lead to a second-year research-based MPhil and a research-based DPhil (both the Master and Doctoral degrees are offered on a full- or part-time basis).

The Centre’s international reputation for excellence in teaching is reflected in its vibrant post-graduate community who hale from across the globe. Our current cohort of 57 MSc, MPhil and DPhil students, for example, come from 21 different countries.

Graduate student nationality



The Centre offers excellent career development opportunities for our students in seminars, postgraduate conferences and by encouraging co-authorship with supervisors. We have had great success in nurturing young talent, and our DPhil students typically progress to permanent positions in good universities around the world. A significant proportion of our MSc students go on to work as solicitors, barristers and judges internationally, moving to positions of influence in policy and practice.

The 50th Anniversary Campaign

In recognition of the Centre for Criminology's milestone birthday, the Faculty of Law launched the Centre's '50th Anniversary Campaign' in January 2016 to secure and enhance the next fifty years of research and teaching by establishing a Global Criminal Justice Hub in the Centre. This Hub reflects and builds upon our existing interests and expertise in global criminal justice matters. As our teaching and research record indicate, such matters are not distinct from the local, but rather, have become increasingly intertwined. Just as many of our students come to us from abroad, so, too, ideas and criminal justice policies travel. Establishing a Global Criminal Justice Hub at the Centre will position us as a world leader in the field of Global Criminal Justice, enhancing our research and teaching capacity while bringing a new focus and greater understanding to the widening framework of criminal justice.

Global Criminal Justice Hub

Until recently, criminologists have tended to study crime, victims, policing, sentencing, and punishment within specific national settings. Oxford criminology has, however, always been global in its outlook, concerned with criminal law and local criminal justice institutions as well as such matters on a wider stage. Known for our pioneering work on punishment, victims, policing, the death penalty, security, and border control, we have rarely been limited to one jurisdiction. Not only are some crimes, like terrorism, cybercrime, trafficking, or drug offences global, but criminal justice agents and

institutions increasingly operate across borders or have an impact far away. Criminal justice, under these circumstances, has not only expanded but changed its effect and, at least in part, its justification.

In response to these developments, and reflecting considerable research and expertise in this area, the Centre for Criminology is looking for funding to create a Global Criminal Justice Hub (GCJH). The Hub will promote understanding of, and dialogue about, criminal justice responses to crimes within and beyond the borders of the UK, including cybercrime; trafficking in persons; justice responses to migrants and asylum seekers; conflicts, aggression, and war crimes; law enforcement in developing democracies; and the use of judicial and non-judicial executions around the world. Faculty and students in the Hub would be encouraged to work alongside or in close relationship with international experts from the academy, NGOs, policy-making institutions, and civil society organisations, in research projects, knowledge-exchange, and dissemination. A GCJ fund would be created and funds would also be raised for partnership-building. The Hub would host an annual GCJ conference to showcase the Hub's research and facilitate discussion amongst those experts working in this field.

The Hub will be co-ordinated by a new **Associate Professor of Quantitative Criminology**, who will oversee its activities in conjunction with existing Centre staff. The Hub will run a GCJ visitors programme for scholars and practitioners from international organisations to spend six months working at the Centre, with a waiver of the usual fee for those from third sector organisations that could not afford to pay. It would also host a rolling 'Global Criminal Justice' scholarship for a DPhil student working in a relevant area

(part-time or full-time). This student would be responsible for hosting the blog and other social media outlets associated with Hub. An MSc international scholarship would also be available.

Funding for the Global Criminal Justice Hub

	Annual cost	5 year cost
Associate Professor of Quantitative Criminology	£86,573	£469,605
Global Criminal Justice Fellowship	£82,297	£446,183
Studentships	£40,000	
Global Criminal Justice Research Fund	£18,511	£94,456
Global Criminal Justice Research Visitor's programme	£40,022	£203,911
The Global Criminal Justice (donor named) Seminar Room	To be agreed	

Case for an Associate Professorship in Quantitative Criminology

Criminology in the UK has, over the last few years, started to move towards a new paradigm of evidence-based research.

Complementing, rather than replacing the established focus on critical modes of research, theory, and engagement with criminal justice policy, this approach studies 'big data' and is particularly well-suited to multi-jurisdiction comparative studies and GCJ topics like global policing, cybercrime, trafficking and other crimes across borders. Theoretically informed quantitative research can also generate entirely new questions and topics of research.

The Centre for Criminology is seeking funding to establish a permanent Associate Professorship in Quantitative Criminology within the new Global Criminal Justice Research Hub. This post will complement and intersect with our existing strengths in innovative qualitative and legal methods, rather than replace them. A permanent post holder would give Oxford Criminology a strong voice in the current methodological debates that are shifting criminology and criminal justice practice in Britain and beyond. We seek funding from an individual or institutional donor to support this initiative.

Case for a Global Criminal Justice Fellowship

The Centre for Criminology wishes to create a Global Criminal Justice Fellowship in the new GCJ Hub. This position will focus on matters of race and ethnicity, positioning Oxford Criminology as a global leader in this field. Despite the well-known over-representation of black and minority ethnic women and men in all criminal justice systems, Criminology as a discipline has yet to mainstream the study of race and ethnicity. As a result, in research, race and ethnicity have become the preserve of specialists, whilst in teaching, they are usually relegated to individual lectures or seminars within a wider curriculum that ignores them. Together, this arrangement has left unasked and unanswered many important questions about the nature and effect of criminal justice. The Global Criminal Justice Fellow would help to tackle these global issues, considering their place in: causes of the over-representation of ethnic minorities in prison systems around the world; trafficking in people, refugees and

asylum, crimes of aggression and the wider field of transitional justice.

The new fellowship builds on a strong tradition of research in Oxford that dates to Professor Roger Hood's work on racial disparities in sentencing in the 1990s. Widely cited in media, policy, and academic accounts, Hood's finding of variation in sentencing for specific crimes remains one of the few examples of criminal justice scholarship in this area. His ongoing work on the death penalty, with Professor Hoyle, demonstrates the continuing racial disparities in sentencing around the world. More recently, Professor Mary Bosworth has examined prison and immigration detention through the lens of race and gender. She and her students take a wide geographical view, following immigration detainees back to their country of origin and documenting penal policies and practices that Britain funds in these sites under the rubric of managing migration. Such contemporary practices, their research shows, intersect with and are shaped by histories of colonialism and current politics.

With the strong foundations already in place at the Centre for Criminology on the intellectual issues of race, diversity and globalisation, this post will allow the Centre to lead in this urgent academic, pedagogical, and policy issue whilst offering an important career opportunity for a world-class scholar.

Case for Studentships: one 'Global Criminal Justice' DPhil Scholarship and one GCJ 'MSc international scholarship'

In order to allow the most able young people the opportunity to study at Oxford, and indeed, to learn from them as well, we are

seeking funding to expand the number and reach of our scholarships. Despite attracting the best applicants, each year we lose students as less than half (44%) of our current intake are independently funded. In particular, we need bursaries for students from regions of the world where high-quality applicants often have insurmountable difficulties raising funds to study our degrees, and who, following graduation, wish to make a contribution to the improved governance of their countries (e.g., Africa, Eastern Europe, South America, China, and India).

It may be possible to earmark bursaries for students from specific countries or regions. Similarly, it may be possible to offer bursaries on particular topics of interest to the funder and that would benefit their organisation. The bursaries will bear the name of the sponsor, who will also receive reports on the student's progress at Oxford and subsequent careers path.

Contact us

The Faculty of Law is proud of the Centre for Criminology for pursuing and fostering an innovative programme of criminological research and delivering high-quality graduate education in criminology. Criminology has increased in its scope and activities dramatically over the last decade, and we are looking to forge relationships with those who are excited about the prospect of its further development particularly the Global Criminal Justice Hub.

If you would like to discuss these proposals in more detail, or receive further information about criminology activity at the University of Oxford, please contact:

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