Speakers

Keynote Speaker

Rob Jones (Director, National Crime Agency)

Title of paper: *Serious Organised Crime: A view from inside the NCA*

Detective Chief Inspector Darran Hill (Specialist Operations, Thames Valley Police)

Title of Paper: *Stronghold: Fighting Organised Crime in Partnership.*

Abstract: Stronghold (#TVPStronghold) is Thames Valley Police's campaign and commitment to fighting Serious and Organised Crime in partnership. Launched in January 2017 it set out to raise awareness amongst police officers and staff, partners and our communities. One of its goals was break down silos that exist between specialist and front line teams by focusing on proactive policing and safeguarding those exploited by Organised Crime. The campaign has grown organically, delivering some real success across the force and attracting interest from other policing areas, the College of Policing and the Home Office.

Biography: Darran has been a police officer for over 24 years having joined the Metropolitan Police in 1994. Transferring to Devon and Cornwall Police in 2001 he worked predominantly on Major Crime where he developed an effective approach to dealing with 'no body murders' that was adopted as national best practise. In 2009 Darran transferred to Thames Valley Police working in Counter Terrorism as a Senior Investigating Officer and later Head of Special Branch. Now a Detective Chief Inspector in Specialist Operations he manages Thames Valley's response to Serious and Organised Crime, championing a more agile partnership based approach with a greater emphasis on Prevent through the Stronghold Campaign.

Dr Sarah Hutton (The Open University)

Title of Paper: *Disrupting Organised Crime?*

Abstract: This talk provides an overview of my research conducted whilst working for three years within the organised crime directorate at the Metropolitan Police, where I was part of a pilot project aimed at reducing organised criminal behaviour of 'top-tier' offenders. The research was an exploration of how organised criminals come to be defined, particularly through disruption panels aimed at measuring law enforcement successes. The study also examined the process by which ancillary orders are obtained at court; tools designed to restrict organised criminal activity. It provides a critical assessment of the wider monitoring process, looking at whether disruptions to offenders' activities can be seen as durable or effective, whether the concept of 'Lifetime Offender Management' is successful in implementing changes in their offending behaviour. This is set against a backdrop of recent academic work on the historical changes within organised crime and how it has come to be defined in a hierarchical fashion, overly focused on individuals rather than activities. It demonstrates how unhelpful this is as a paradigm within the context of British organised crime at this level and highlights more appropriate 'business models' of organised criminal offending. A critical look is taken of the way disruption panels fail to make any distinction between behaviours, as well as the way police culture informs the process of labelling organised criminals. This is by virtue of its adherence to anachronistic and outmoded models of organised criminal offending, resulting in an undue focus on certain offences and a failure to appreciate the evolving nature of the field.

Biography: I have been working for the police for the last 14 years; 11 years in the Metropolitan Police and the last 3 years at Sussex Police. For most of my service I have been a detective constable and have worked in a variety of 'specialisms,' incorporating shootings investigations as part of Operation Trident, organised crime and more recently, child protection and sexual offences. Whilst working in the organised crime directorate I completed a research PhD, which was a study of organised crime from within the Metropolitan police. My research interests are predominantly to do with organized crime disruption, looking at how organised criminals are defined, the process of disruption and detective culture. I am particularly interested in ethnographic research methods, having conducted my research as an 'insider' within a police organisation.

More recently I have been part of a team at the Open University working on module materials for the new police apprenticeship degrees, focusing on 'vulnerability and risk' as an introduction to police safeguarding procedures.

Dr Anna Sergi (University of Essex)

Title of Paper: *From Mafia to Organised Crime: A comparative analysis of policing models.*

Dr Adam Edwards (Reader in Politics and Criminology, School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University)

Title of Paper: *The Realist Social Relations Approach*

Abstract: Official constructions of the problem of organised crime identify threats to public safety from Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) who are exploiting the greater mobility of people and goods across borders within countries, epitomised by the current concern over the trafficking of illicit drugs across 'County lines' in England and Wales, and between countries, as in the more established preoccupation with 'transnational organised crime'. In turn, this has led to the generation of a new genre of policy-oriented learning, the 'threat assessment', which informs and legitimises the cross-border co-ordination of preventive interventions against such groups. This presentation considers arguments over the conceptual and methodological value of threat assessments and their central preoccupation with criminal actors. An alternative approach is advanced, the realist social relations approach (Edwards and Levi, 2008; Edwards, 2016), which privileges a focus on the 'scripts' involved in the commissioning of serious crime and their facilitating conditions or 'scenes'. It is argued that shifting the analytical focus of threat assessment from actors to the scripts that structure their actions and the conditions that can enable or frustrate the performance of these scripts, better supports the anticipatory logic inherent in threat assessment: the forecasting of 'scenarios'.

Biography: Adam Edwards is Reader in Politics and Criminology in the School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University. He directed the UK Economic and Social Research Council's first research project on 'Transnational Organised Crime' (1999 – 2001), the findings of which were published as *Transnational Organised Crime* (Routledge, 2003, with P. Gill). Subsequently, he developed the 'realist social relations' approach to understanding the organisation of serious crimes. His current research interests include the impact of emergent technologies, such as social media, machine learning, advanced robotics, artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things (IoT), additive manufacture ('3-D printing') and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles ('Drones') on the 'arms race' between organisers and preventers of serious crimes.

Mr Orlando Goodall (Cardiff University PhD Student)

Title of Paper: *Realist Social Relations Crime Scripts Applied to the Illegal Taking of Deer in the South West*

Abstract: Routine Activity Theory and Rational Choice Script Models only illuminate a small portion of social reality. They deny the criminogenic capacities of the non-situational and omit the less immediate from analysis. They are also unable to explain how informal capable guardians and regulators shift into roles of crime enablers. The Realist Social Relations framework captures these obvious 'proximal' circumstances, but also the unity of 'distal', or remote conditions, such as political-economic and socio-cultural contexts. These structural features are important because they explain why offenders are motivated and guardians are incapacitated. They are necessary for a nuanced and holistic explanation of the illegal taking of deer in the rural South West.

Biography: I am an ESRC funded PhD research candidate in the school of social sciences, at Cardiff University. My research interests include crimes of the powerful and the political sociology of mundane fauna deviance. The latter is commonly termed 'wildlife crime' and sits on the periphery of the emergent green or environmental criminology. I am also interested in the philosophy of social science and the application of realist aetiology to solve real-world problems.

Mark Berry (Cardiff University)

Title of paper: *Technology and Organised Crime in the Smart City*

Abstract: The term 'smart city' has circulated across the developed world affecting urban development programmes and government strategies. Such 'future cities' are heralded for their efficient networked technologies embedded within the fabric of urban environments that provide new means of social control for the state. These cities are envisioned as a technological fix for the many problems of modern city life, yet emerging technologies are not flawless and have vulnerabilities that can be manipulated by criminal actors. Even so, there is an interesting silence about the issues of security amongst the advocates of smart cities. Furthermore, there remains limited insight into the impact of the smart cities programme from criminologists, particularly in relation to hitherto prioritised threats of organised crime, notably the illicit drugs markets and associated harms. Those who have addressed the impact of emergent technologies have done so through critiques of governmental programmes, drawing largely upon insights from Science and Technology Studies. A key absence in this, as well as the commercial and governmental literature, is the voice of actors involved in the networks that actually constitute threats to urban security, and how they perceive and use emerging technologies for illicit ends. This paper aims to augment but also challenge this treatment of the impact of emergent technologies, by switching the analytical focus towards the principal actor-networks that constitute these threats, with a particular focus on ICT (mobile technologies and internet drug sales). It uses data from a five-year ethnography to demonstrate how ICT reconfigures and virtually extends illicit drug markets, whilst providing insights into the workings of drug markets of the future.

Biography: Mark Berry is currently studying for his PhD at Cardiff University, School of Social Sciences. His research interest includes technology, organised crime, policing and punishment. Mark has worked in the private security industry as a Door Supervisor (bouncer) for around ten years and has experience working in the criminal justice system within the Youth Offending Team. Mark is a trustee for the International Association for the Study of Organised Crime (IASOC).