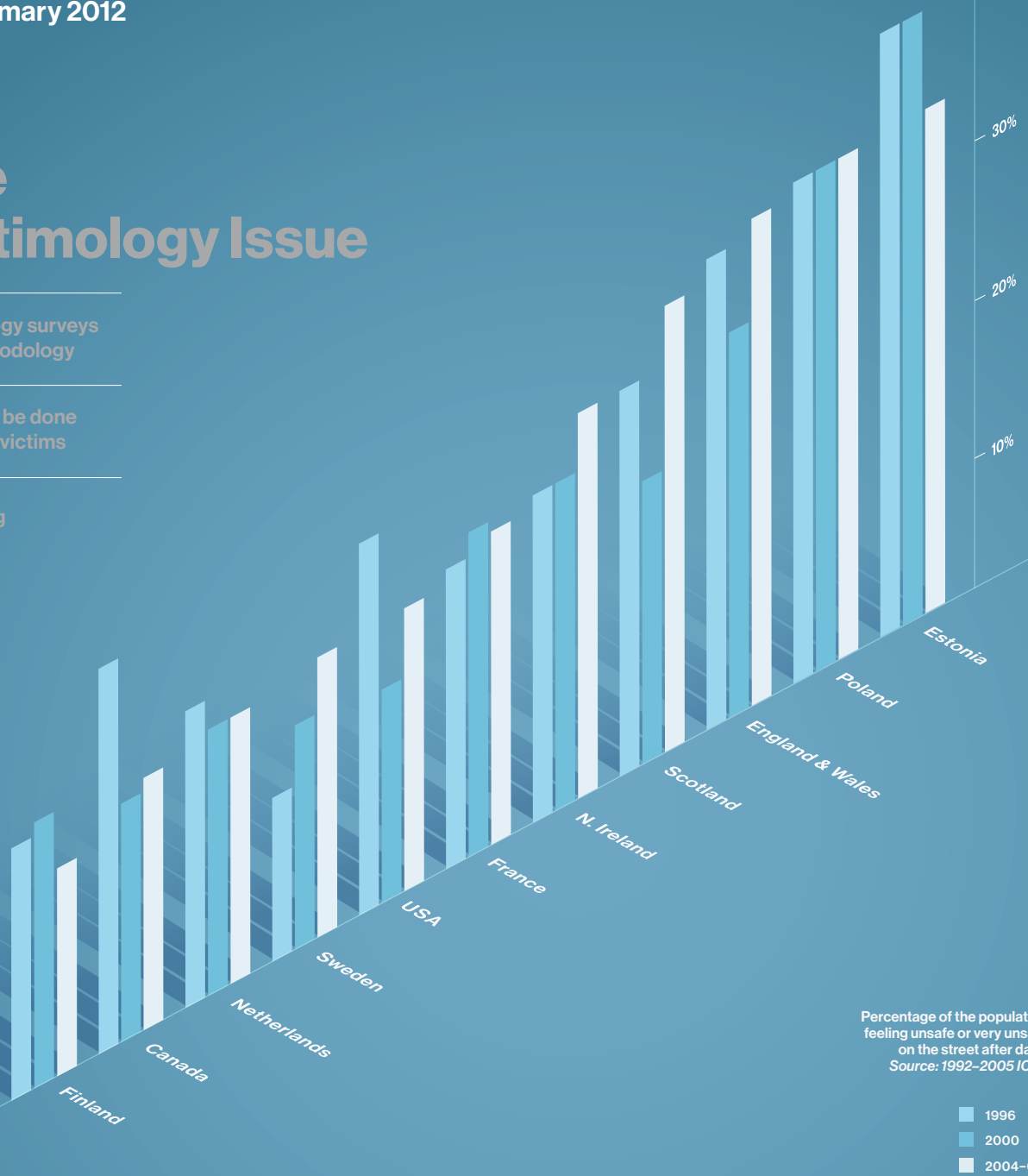


# The Victimology Issue

Victimology surveys  
and methodology

More can be done  
for crime victims

Grooming



Percentage of the population feeling unsafe or very unsafe on the street after dark. Source: 1992-2005 ICVS

- 1996
- 2000
- 2004-05



## Jan van Dijk

Meet the winner of the 2012 Stockholm Prize in Criminology

## Cyber crime

Risk behaviours increase exposure to cyber crime





# A Summary 2012—The Victimology Issue Contents

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"A Summary 2012 – The **Victimology Issue**" presents an excerpt of the wide range of issues presented and discussed at the Stockholm Criminology Symposium 2012 and should not be viewed as a complete documentation. Opinions, suggestions and ideas expressed are those of the interviewees.

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## A congenial international symposium

**DIRECTOR GENERAL ERIK WENNERSTRÖM**

**THE SWEDISH NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CRIME PREVENTION**

**T**he Stockholm Criminology Symposium 2012 gathered a large number of researchers and practitioners to contribute to the two themes of the symposium: *Focusing on victims of crime – Comparing crime patterns and improving practice*, and *Contemporary Criminology*. The response from more than 200 presenters indicates active academic and policy communities and strong interest in discussing these issues.

Participants came from thirty-six countries, making this the most nationally diverse Stockholm Criminology Symposium in its seven year history. Politicians, policy makers and researchers met to exchange views and to network in more than 60 sessions, organized over a wide variety of research, policy and practice. Sessions included for example research on organized crime involvement in illegal waste trafficking, presentations regarding on-line-grooming, cybercrime and alternative treatments for offenders.

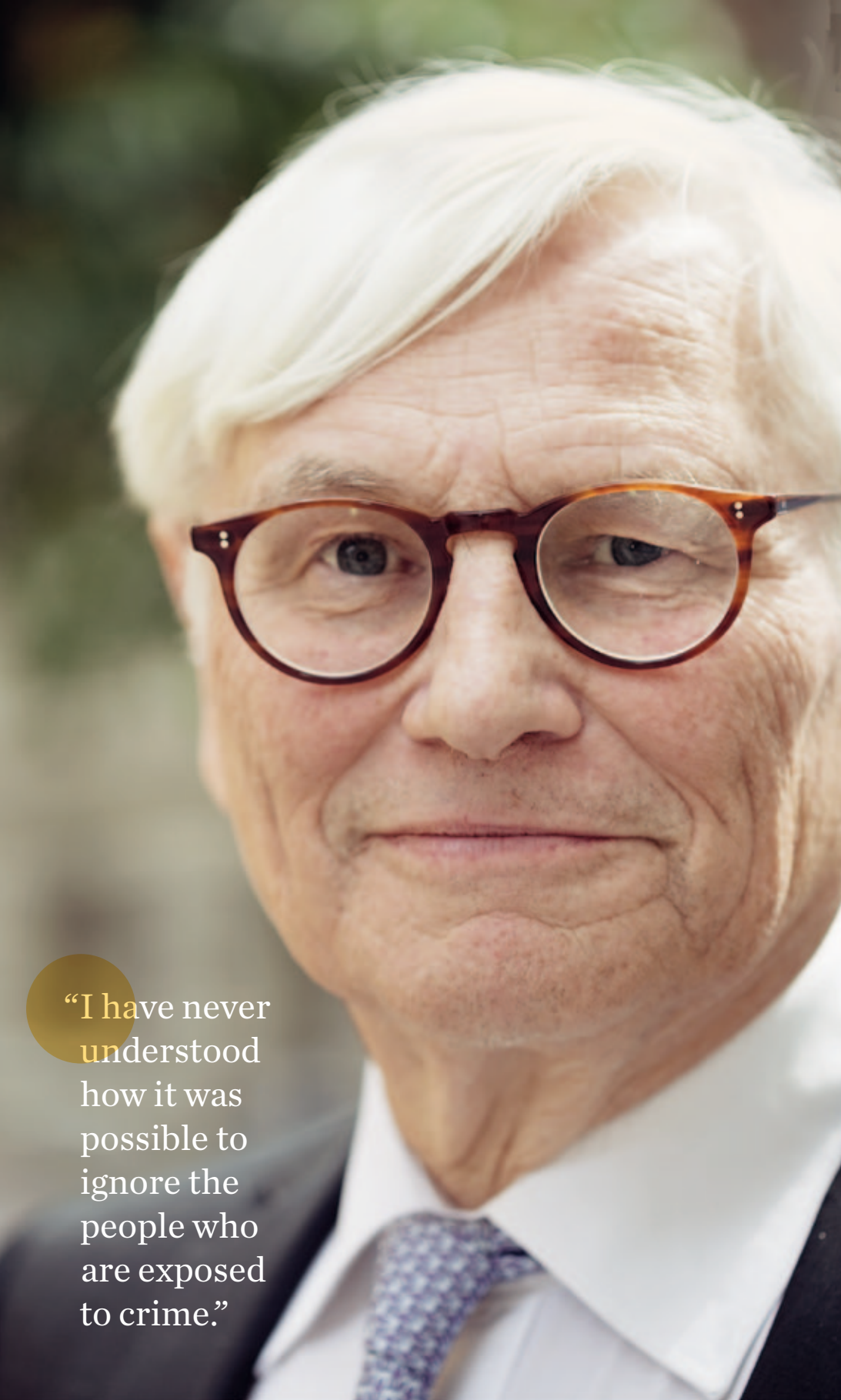
In conjunction with the Stockholm Criminology Symposium, the Stockholm Prize in Criminology was awarded to Jan van Dijk, Tilburg University, the Netherlands for his sustained leadership in

the International Crime Victim Survey (ICVS). Professor van Dijk contributed greatly to the Symposium by presenting his work in no less than five sessions.

This year also marks the establishment of the Stockholm Prize in Criminology Foundation. The creation of the foundation was made possible through major one-time financial contributions from the Swedish Government and the Torsten Söderberg Foundation, as well as by the yearly contributions by the co-founders, the Jerry Lee Foundation and the Hitachi Mirai Foundation. Through this initiative, the Stockholm Prize in Criminology will be able to continue to honor distinguished achievements in the area of criminology.

In this summary, we have brought together a sample from this wide variety of presentations, focusing on the crime victim theme. You will also find links, both to our website, where we have posted the presentations that presenters from the symposium generously have shared, as well as photos from the event, and to other websites of relevance and interest.

We hope to see you at next year's symposium, which will take place in Stockholm on June 10–12, 2013.



“I have never understood how it was possible to ignore the people who are exposed to crime.”

---

### Jan van Dijk

---

- NAME:** Jan van Dijk  
**FAMILY:** Wife, three children and seven grandchildren.  
**CAREER:** Professor of Victimology at Tilburg University's International Victimology Institute (INTERVICT). Former head of the Research and Documentation Centre of the Dutch Ministry of Security and Justice. Head of the UN crime prevention program in Vienna. Founder of the Dutch support organisation for crime victims, Slachtofferhulp Nederland.  
**ALTERNATIVE CAREER:** Essayist/writer of philosophical novels.  
**LIKES:** The flow of hard work, spending time with the family and a glass of red wine.  
**DISLIKES:** Bureaucracy and administrative work.  
**HIDDEN TALENT:** Knows a good deal about organic cultivation. Grows his own vegetables.

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### ICVS

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Since 1989, the ICVS has interviewed over 300,000 people in the course of five waves of the survey in a total of over 80 countries, with separate findings for 33 major cities. It is the largest ever multinational effort to apply the science of criminology to measuring and comparing rates and trends in the harm caused by crime, how it affects victims, and how crime victims perceive the governmental responses to their victimisation experiences. As is the case with global data on diseases, economies, climate and other universal concerns, the ICVS has provided a systematic resource for addressing a wide range of major questions.

---



# RECOGNISED FOR FOCUSING ON CRIME VICTIMS

**Jan van Dijk** – winner of the 2012 Stockholm Prize in Criminology

TEXT Annette Ulvenholm Wallqvist

PHOTO Pernille Tofte

**WHEN JAN VAN DIJK** started to become interested in crime victim issues during the 1970s, many regarded the subject as a little odd. For his part, van Dijk thought it was strange that crime victims should occupy such an obscure position in the research. He has now received a prize for his global surveys on victimization.

“I see being awarded the Criminology Prize as a form of recognition for crime victim issues”, says Jan van Dijk, who is Professor of Victimology at Tilburg University.

Historically, criminology, just like criminal justice, has primarily been focused on understanding the perpetrators, while the victims of crime have been less visible in the research. But more recently, crime victims have become more visible and have also been assigned a more important position in the justice process. This trend is welcomed by Jan van Dijk.

“I have never understood how it was possible to ignore the people who are exposed to crime. It is only now that victimology is starting to become mainstream and the situation is becoming more normal. The question is why it didn’t happen sooner.”

Jan van Dijk has been interested in victimology since the 1970s. He was involved in several studies and European projects related to crime victims, he has

founded the Dutch support organisation for crime victims and he has also worked on victim issues as director at the UN.

He has been awarded the prize primarily in recognition of his work in co-ordinating the global victim survey known as the International Crime Victims Survey (ICVS). The survey asks samples of the population whether they have been victimized by crime during the last twelve months. The dataset includes crime victims from over 80 countries, all of whom have answered standardised questions about their experiences of crime and needs. Since the survey is focused on the victimisation experiences of ordinary citizens, it avoids the problems that arise when attempts are made to make international comparisons based on national statistics on crimes reported to the police, which only show the tip of the iceberg.

“This makes the ICVS the only usable source for international comparative studies on victims of common crimes”, says Jan van Dijk.

The survey was conducted for the first time in 1989 and has thereafter been repeated every four or five years. When the next wave of the survey is conducted in 2013, all of the EU countries will participate.

On the basis of this comprehensive material it is possible to draw a number of conclusions about crime. Amongst other

things, Jan van Dijk feels the data support the proverb ‘opportunity makes the thief’ – something he spent a large part of his prize-winner lecture illustrating.

“Most criminologists proceed from the Marxist idea that poverty causes crime, but this is only partly true. We need to free ourselves of this one-sided way of thinking and see that the available opportunities for crime, including the use of situational prevention measures by victims, also matter a great deal.”

If it were poverty and social injustice that generated crime, crime levels should be much lower in countries such as Sweden and the Netherlands. Instead, exposure to crime is relatively high, which according to Jan van Dijk is due to the fact that there are plenty of opportunities to commit crime in our prosperous societies.

At the same time, the victim survey shows that robberies and theft offences have declined over the past twenty years throughout the western world. For Jan van Dijk, this is primarily due to the fact that preventive security measures have become increasingly common.

“I continue to be surprised about the negative attitude towards technical security measures that can be seen in the Scandinavian countries, especially in Denmark. It is directly reflected in levels of exposure to crimes such as household burglaries”, says Jan van Dijk. ■

# More can be done for crime victims

TEXT Susanne Eriksson  
PHOTO Pernille Tofte

**“IT IS VERY IMPORTANT** for me to improve the situation of crime victims”. These were the words of Sweden’s Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask when she spoke at the opening of the Stockholm Criminology Symposium.

The principal theme of the seventh Stockholm Criminology Symposium was victimology, the study of crime victims.

“The problem is that we don’t always know what is effective. We need to know more in order to be sure that we do the right thing”, said Beatrice Ask, Sweden’s Minister for Justice, who also announced that arrangements had been made to secure the long-term funding of The Stockholm Prize in Criminology.

Participating in the opening panel debate were also Paula Teixeira da Cruz, the Portuguese Minister for Justice and some of the world’s most prominent researchers in the field of victimology.

The Portuguese Minister for Justice shared that her country has a strong focus on crimes against children, but she

views the situation in the courtroom as a major challenge.

“We need courts that aren’t intimidating to those who provide testimony”, she argued.

The other panellists agreed with this. They raised the issue of video links as an alternative to the need for being physically present in the courtroom. But the prize winner, Professor Jan van Dijk expressed doubts, and referred to a study which shows that young children are more afraid of this kind of situation than they are of meeting people face to face.

**“WE NEED COURTS  
THAT AREN’T  
INTIMIDATING TO  
THOSE WHO PROVIDE  
TESTIMONY”**

Beatrice Ask said that in Sweden, we have special children’s assessment centres:

“These bring together all the relevant professions in a more home-like environment. The interviews are filmed and conducted by individuals with specialist competence in dealing with children.”

Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović, Professor and Director of Victimology Society of Serbia and President-elect of the European Society of Criminology told the panel that the legislation for crime victims has evolved quickly in Serbia. She went on to note that international documents had played an important role in this process and she emphasized the importance of new EU directive of establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime.

Professor Sandra Walklate, Eleanor Rathbone Chair of Sociology from University of Liverpool, UK, reminded the panel that only about three percent of crime victims end up in court. She also argued that the majority of crime victims get on with their lives without suffering any lasting harm.

“They are not particularly punitive and what they want most is to get their things back”, said Sandra Walklate.

Jan van Dijk agreed and argued that it is important not to confuse the victims of serious crimes with the vast majority of crime victims who are exposed to relatively minor offences.

Dr. K. Jaishankar, from Manonmaniam Sundaranar University in India spoke of how inadequate the legislation is in the field of cybercrime and of how it paid no regard to the victims. He called for international legislation in this area.

All the panellists agreed that the justice system in its present form is not succeeding in meeting the needs of crime victims.

Jan van Dijk described the researcher Susan Herman’s proposals for an alternative system of justice for meeting the needs of crime victims, which also provides for the victims of crimes where the offender is never identified.

“State compensation can be seen as a form of such parallel justice. It is underrated. Being awarded a modest sum of compensation by the state has an important symbolic value for many victims.” ■



Victor Jammers, Policy Director of Victim Support Netherlands, to the right, moderated the Opening Panel Debate.

## IN BRIEF



## Japanese victims want appropriate punishments and compensation

TEXT Susanne Eriksson

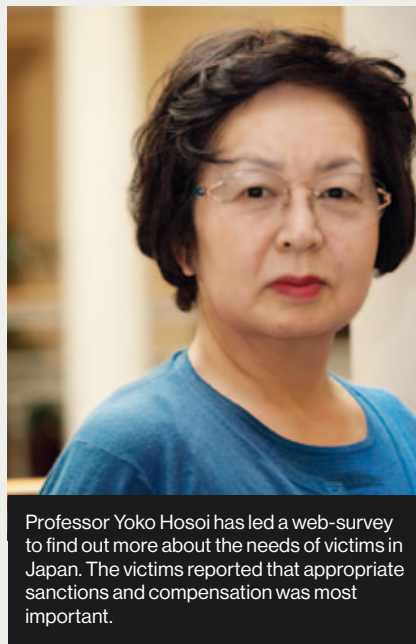
**SINCE THE END** of the 1990s, the criminal justice system in Japan has shifted its focus from offenders to victims, says Professor Yoko Hosoi from Tokyo University. According to her there are two reasons for this. The first is a series of serious crimes. The second is a report commissioned by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) which shows that although Japanese citizens are exposed to relatively few crimes compared with the citizens of other countries, they are nonetheless more fearful about going out on the streets after dark. 35 percent of interviewed Japanese citizens stated that they felt insecure when going out on the streets after dark.

In order to find out more about Japanese attitudes towards victims and the needs of victims, the Japanese Cabinet Office conducted a web-survey, led by Yoko Hosoi.

“The victims reported that what was most important for them to be able to get back to their ordinary lives was that the offender was given an appropriate

sanction and that they themselves received compensation”, she says.

In addition, many victims wanted to be given information about the offender. There were differences in the needs of victims, however, depending on the type of crime to which they had been exposed. Victims of car crime more often wanted compensation and an apology. The victims of violent crime wanted both an appropriate sanction for the offender and counselling for themselves. A total of just over 6,400 individuals participated in the survey, of whom slightly under 1,100 reported having been exposed to crime.



Professor Yoko Hosoi has led a web-survey to find out more about the needs of victims in Japan. The victims reported that appropriate sanctions and compensation was most important.



## Call for greater efforts on anti-bullying programs

TEXT Annika Larsson

**THOSE WHO HAVE** bullied others more often commit offences and those who have been exposed to bullying have a higher risk of developing depression. That shows a research review of studies from around the world.

The review has been conducted by Professor David Farrington, Professor Friedrich Lösel, Dr. Maria Ttofi, and Ph.D. candidate Nikos Theodorakis, all of the University of Cambridge.

The results are very clear, and according to the researchers they show that bullying is not only a problem that affects schools.

Having controlled for other known risk factors, the risk that a bully would later be convicted of a crime was over 50 percent higher than normal. And for those who had been exposed to bullying, the risk of suffering depression later on in life was 50 percent higher.

“The relationship is slightly weaker for those who have been exposed to bullying because the victims of bullying often move to a different environment and thus break the pattern. A bully who moves, on the other hand, will as a rule find new victims in the new context”, says Friedrich Lösel.

The research group argues that from a macro-economic perspective the results indicate the need for greater efforts to be focused on anti-bullying programs in schools, and that this work can also be seen as both a crime prevention measure and a public health initiative.

In their earlier work, the researchers have shown that good conditions at home and a high IQ have a protective effect, as does the social support of one's peers.



## Police unaware of victims' needs

TEXT Susanne Eriksson

**POLICE OFFICERS** are unaware of what leads to victim satisfaction in their contacts with the police. This was the message of Andis Rinkevics from the Latvian police. The Latvian state police have recently conducted a combined victim survey and survey among police officers on victims' needs. The surveys were conducted in response to a 2010 study which showed that half of crime victims were dissatisfied with the police's response.

The initial results show that the police believe that working in a professional manner – i.e. investigating the offence proficiently and identifying the perpetrator – is sufficient to produce victim satisfaction. According to the results, however, the victims say that in order to be satisfied with the police, police officers should also meet their needs for safety, support and information. The Latvian police are now working on a training program for police officers.

## Offenders are often victims themselves

TEXT Susanne Eriksson

**THERE IS A TENDENCY** to forget the victim-offender overlap. Victims who are also offenders are often viewed as second-class victims and are not referred to in policy-making, says Sir Anthony Bottoms of the Universities of Cambridge and Sheffield.

On the basis of police report data, Anthony Bottoms and his colleague Andrew Costello have divided up Sheffield into households in which an offender lives and households with no offender present. Their analyses show that the risk of being exposed to e.g. burglary is significantly higher in offender households than in non-offender households.



“We have long been aware that there is a victim-offender overlap in the case of violent crime. Now we have evidence that this is also the case in relation to household offences”, says Anthony Bottoms.

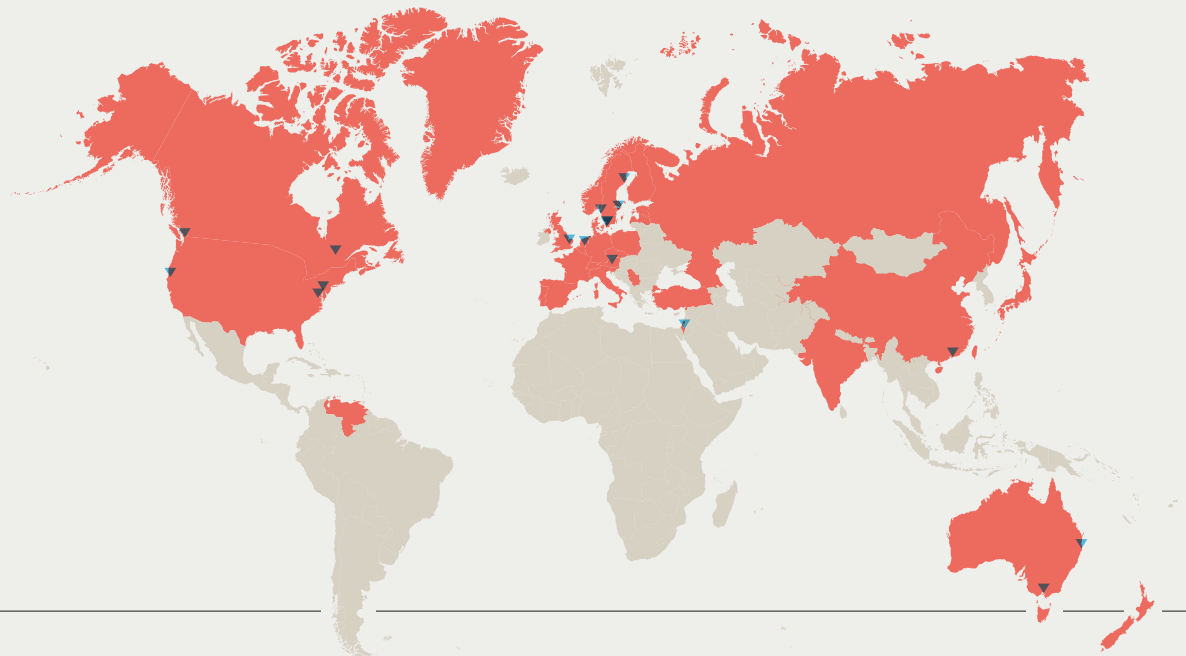
In order to follow up these findings, the researchers interviewed 100 offenders. A high proportion of these had been victimised.

“Two-thirds of those who had been burgled also thought that they knew who had committed the offence against them. This finding is very different from the picture that is usually found in crime victim surveys of the general public.”

## Participation

Stockholm  
Criminology  
Symposium  
2012

- Countries that were represented at the symposium
- ▼ Some of the universities that were represented at the symposium





## Women exposed to violence have to plan for their own safety

TEXT Susanne Eriksson

**FOR WOMEN** exposed to domestic violence a large part of the responsibility for protecting themselves and their children ends up on the shoulders of the women themselves. This was the message from Dr. Silke Meyer of the University of Queensland, Australia. She reported information from seven cases of violence against women where there was a high risk that the woman's children would also be exposed to violence. In all cases domestic violence orders had been issued against the perpetrator but were ineffective in stopping the ongoing harassment and abuse. As a result, women were expected to take additional protective measures themselves. In two cases the police had advised women in early middle age to move home to their parents. In a third case the police had advised the woman to move to an address that the perpetrator didn't know, and in another case the woman's brother had moved into the woman's home. "These results identify a need for diverse and on-going support to ensure initial protection and facilitate safe and sustainable living arrangements. There is too little focus on perpetrator accountability when domestic violence orders don't achieve the desired protective outcome," says Silke Meyer.

## It pays to prevent repeat victimisation

TEXT Annette Ulvenholm Wallqvist

**BY FOCUSING** on those who have been exposed to crime, new crimes can be prevented. This was the message of Louise Grove, who has conducted a systematic review of 31 evaluations of repeat victimisation prevention programs.

"When a person or place has been exposed to crime once, we know that they are at greater risk of being victimised again", says Dr. Louise Grove of Loughborough University in the UK.

Louise Grove's review provides support for the view that repeated victimisation can be prevented. It found that by comparison with control groups, one-sixth of subsequent crimes had been prevented.

The review primarily included evaluations of programs relating to business and residential burglaries, but also some where victims had been exposed to partner violence or sexual assault.

Preventive measures that have a general focus, such as public information, have shown themselves to be less effective. Instead it is measures that are adapted to the specific situation that produce an effect.

Statistics show that repeat victimisation occurs relatively quickly after the



Louise Grove would like to see all crime victims given individual advice on how they can protect themselves in the future.

first crime. Louise Grove would therefore like to see all crime victims given individual advice on how they can protect themselves in the future.

"Sadly this rarely happens in practice. But this study presents the evidence we need to be able to say that it pays to prevent repeat victimisation, irrespective of the type of crime involved", says Louise Grove.

### Quick figures

Stockholm Criminology Symposium 2012

478

Total participants

215

Speakers

62

Sessions

16

Posters

# LAWS BASED ON EMOTION

TEXT Annika Larsson

**VIOLENT CRIMES** stir up emotions and create fear among the public, which sometimes leads to new legislation. But laws that are based on emotion are often flawed, as several researchers have shown.

Crimes that attract a major amount of attention sometimes lead to new legislation and in some countries, these new laws come to be named after the victims. One example is found in Caylee's Law in the USA, which was introduced after a parent failed to report her daughter missing for a total of 31 days. The law means that a parent must now report a missing child within 24 hours.

Professor Nina Persak of the University of Gent, who has studied how laws have been produced in the aftermath of high profile crimes, questions whether a law of this kind really does any good.

She argues that even though such laws may be seen as a way of paying respect to the victim, in practice they are often rushed onto the statute books without much forethought and then turn out to be ineffective.

"There is also a risk that crime victims are exploited in a way that can produce additional victimisation. Their stories are publicised and they are expected to appear in the media and talk about their experiences again and again", says Nina Persak.

Dr. James Oleson, of the University of Auckland in New Zealand, has also studied legislation that has sometimes emerged as a result of high profile

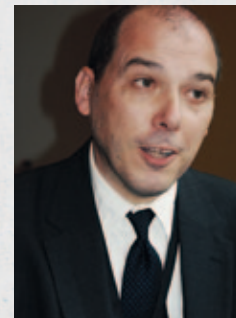
crimes, such as the 'three strikes laws'. Similar laws can be found in a number of countries, including New Zealand since 2010, but there is nowhere that the laws are so harsh or used so frequently as in California.

In California the law was introduced following two homicides of young girls, and means that an individual who has previously been convicted for a serious offence will have their sentence doubled if they are convicted of another felony, irrespective of the nature of the second offence. If the individual is convicted a third time, they are looking at a sentence of 25 years to life in prison.

"In California, 3,700 of those serving long prison sentences have received a third sentence for a minor offence", says James Oleson.

It is argued that it is the three strikes law that has produced the decline in crime in California, but according to James Oleson this decline had already started before the law was introduced and crime levels are also in decline in states that do not have a law of this kind.

"I believe a three strikes law may have some form of deterrent effect in relation to certain types of crime, such as robbery, car theft and perhaps burglary. But I also think that there is a risk the justice system will lose legitimacy if the public feel that people are not being treated fairly", says James Oleson. ■



It is argued that it is the three strikes law that has produced the decline in crime in California, but according to James Oleson this decline had already started before the law was introduced.

# JUSTICE

## A LONG WAY OFF FOR VICTIMS OF GENOCIDE

TEXT Susanne Eriksson  
PHOTO Pernille Tofte



Rianne Letschert and Stephan Parmentier argue that it is difficult to satisfy victims of genocide within the criminal justice system.



# 74%

of victims interviewed in Uganda wanted compensation in the form of livestock such as goats and cattle.



In Bosnia people were more sensitive to seeing their suffering recognised by others than about material reparations.

**RIANNE LETSCHERT** and Stephan Parmentier have both studied victims of genocide and war crimes, crimes which are dealt with in the context of international law, more particularly human rights, humanitarian law and international criminal law. They argue that it is difficult to satisfy hundreds of thousands of victims within the criminal justice system.

What distinguishes victims of international crimes is that entire villages constitute a part of the victimological context and that individuals may be both victims and perpetrators.

According to Professor Rianne Letschert, from the International Victimology Institute in Tilburg, the Netherlands, one of the problems with international law is that there is too much focus on the perpetrators, and it is often the ‘major’ perpetrators who are prosecuted, while the ‘smaller fish’ go free. Also, victims are not always aware that a case is being prosecuted before an international tribunal.

“International tribunals and courts in The Hague are in many ways a long way away. An international court such as the International Criminal Court in The Hague has to try to satisfy hundreds of thousands of victims and that’s no easy task. With the way the international criminal court functions today, there is a risk that victims will be subjected to secondary victimisation.”

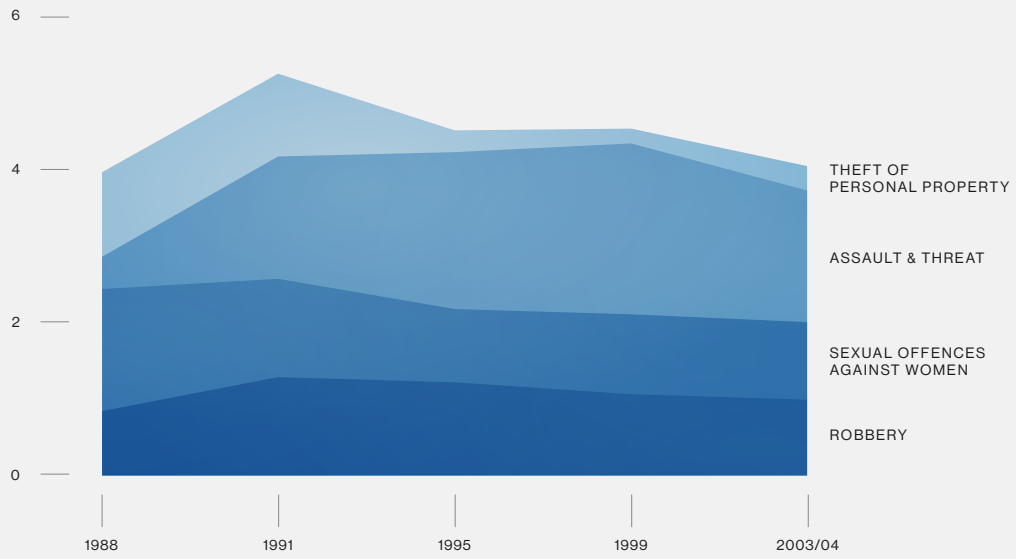
Another problem with the international legal process is that it is very costly, says Rianne Letschert.

“Perhaps there are more pressing needs in the eyes of the victims to be dealt with than focusing all our available energy on international justice”, she says.

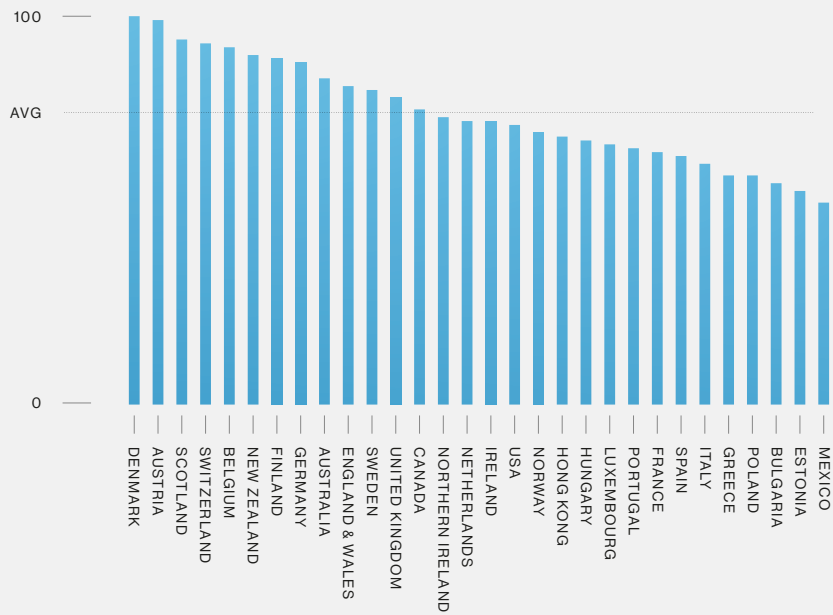
Professor Stephan Parmentier, from University of Leuven, has studied victims’ views on reparative measures in connection with violent conflicts. His own work relates to field research in Bosnia and Serbia in 2006 and 2007, and he has also reviewed other studies that have been conducted in Africa.

He notes that victims tend to report other needs than those commonly accepted in theoretical writings or court judgments. In Bosnia, e.g., people were more sensitive to seeing their suffering recognised by others than about material reparations. In the Central African Republic, on the other hand, 60 percent stated that they wanted restitution of their land and household. And 74 percent of those interviewed in Uganda wanted compensation in the form of livestock such as goats and cattle. In Africa, only a small proportion, ranging between 5 percent in the Democratic Republic of Congo and 31 percent in Liberia, wanted an apology.

“One reason for these differences could be that people living in poverty attach higher importance to material forms of reparation than others”, says Stephan Parmentier. ■



Trends in crime: average of one year prevalence rates for three contact crimes and theft of personal property in the 15 countries that participated four times or more. 1989–2005 ICVS and 2005 EU ICS.



Country ratings on ICVS-based Police Performance Index for 2004/05. 1996–2005 ICVS and 2005 EU ICS.

# MANY PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS FOR CRIME VICTIMS

TEXT Susanne Eriksson  
PHOTO Pernille Tofte

When some of the world's most eminent criminologists came together at the Stockholm Criminology Symposium, a large number of suggestions emerged on how to improve the treatment of crime victims. Examples included a system in which victims meet representatives of society and providing opportunities for crime victims to follow their cases online.

**THE THEME** of the 2012 Stockholm Criminology Symposium was victimology, the study of crime victims.

For a long time, the focus of researchers was primarily directed at the offender. Victim surveys were viewed exclusively as a means of dealing with the problem of the dark figure in official crime statistics.

"Nobody cared very much about the victims. And several groups of victims were also missing from the agenda, not least women and children", says professor Leslie Sebba, from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

But at the end of the 1970s, voluntary organisations started to involve themselves in crime victim issues. They developed the victim support systems that today often operate outside the justice system and other public sector agencies.

In 1989, the International Crime Victim Survey (ICVS) was conducted for the first time. The survey focused on the experience and needs of victims, and it is the reason for Professor Jan van Dijk from Tilburg University being

awarded the 2012 Stockholm Prize in Criminology.

It was Jan van Dijk who initiated the ICVS, with the assistance of Pat Mayhew and Martin Killias. Since 1989, the ICVS has interviewed over 300,000 people in the course of five survey waves in over 80 countries. It is the largest ever multi-national effort to apply the science of criminology to measuring and comparing rates and trends in the harm caused by crime, how it affects victims, and how crime victims perceive the governmental responses to their experiences of crime.

**"AS THINGS ARE NOW,  
THERE ARE NO  
CONSEQUENCES IF  
THE CRIME VICTIMS'  
RIGHTS ARE IGNORED."**

Many countries have now developed some form of victim-focused legislation and also victim support services. And at the EU-level, a directive is currently being processed that will specify certain minimum rights for victims.

"But the role and needs of crime victims in criminal proceedings are still generally not addressed sufficiently, and the level of victims' rights continues to differ significantly between different countries", says Professor Joanna Shapland from the University of Sheffield.

Joanna Shapland feels that the issue of victims' real needs has been pushed into the background by the debate on who should receive support and whether the state should bear the costs. There has also been a lot of debate about what form this support should take and who should provide it.

She also feels that rules have to be legislated into the legal process before victims' rights will be properly provided for.

"As things are now, there are no consequences if the crime victims' rights are ignored."

Like Joanna Shapland, Professor Paul Rock of the London School of Economics and Political Science also spoke about how victims cannot go to the courts if their rights have not been provided for.

“Victims do not have enforceable rights. Instead you have to complain to an agency such as the police if your rights are not fulfilled. And these agencies do not keep statistics on these complaints or monitor what happens to them.”

Joanna Shapland is of the view that trials of websites which would provide crime victims with the opportunity to follow their cases through the justice system online and being given a contact person in the form of a leading officer would be a good thing.

“We know that information on a case’s progress through the justice system constitutes an important need for victims.”

And this may be about to happen, since as recently as June 2012 the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) recommended that some form of ‘Track my crime’ system should be introduced in England and Wales.

Since victims’ needs are rarely met within the justice system, alternative systems are also being discussed, along with the question of whether these should be located within or outside the criminal justice system.

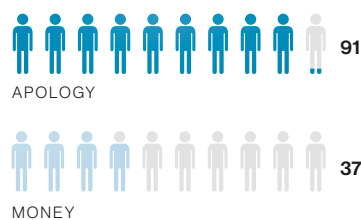
During the 1990s, a movement advocating restorative justice – a process in which the involved parties themselves work to find a solution regarding the consequences of crimes – has grown increasingly strong.

“While the justice system appears to concentrate on material issues, you only need to talk to a victim for five minutes to

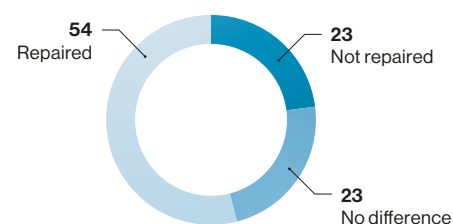
**“WHILE THE JUSTICE SYSTEM APPEARS TO CONCENTRATE ON MATERIAL ISSUES, YOU ONLY NEED TO TALK TO A VICTIM FOR FIVE MINUTES TO REALISE THAT IT’S ACTUALLY ABOUT EMOTIONS AND ABOUT REPAIRING EMOTIONS”**

## Restorative justice

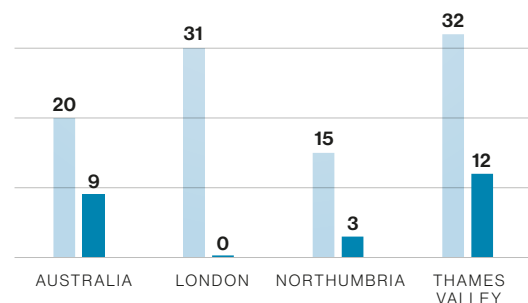
What did the Canberra victims want? (%)



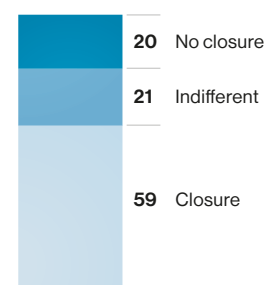
Effect of RJ conference on repair of harm (%)



Percentage of victims afraid before and after RJ conference



Effect of RJ conference on sense of closure (%)



Source: Heather Strang

realise that it’s actually about emotions and about repairing emotions”, says Dr. Heather Strang from the University of Cambridge.

She argues that while emotions are strongly regulated in the courtroom, restorative justice instead focuses on providing a forum for these emotions.

Heather Strang has conducted a review of eleven randomized control trials of restorative justice conducted between 1995 and 2005, four in Australia and seven in the UK. The trials included both

violent and property offences and the majority were focused on adult victims.

The review shows that the victims’ motives for participating in restorative justice were first and foremost in order to have a say. A secondary motive was getting the opportunity to express their feelings. 91 percent wanted an apology.

“After participating in restorative justice they felt less anger, fear and anxiety, and more understanding for the perpetrator”, says Heather Strang.

The great majority were also more satisfied with what they got out of the experience.

“We often underestimate victims’ anger and their desire for revenge. But following restorative justice, the desire for revenge declines, especially among the victims of violence. There is almost no evidence that restorative justice harms victims, but there is consistent evidence of victim benefits. No alternative can show a reduced trauma effect like that found in restorative justice”, she continued.

Restorative justice can also reduce the level of clinically diagnosed post-traumatic stress, says Dr. Caroline Angel of

the University of Pennsylvania. She says that it is normal for victims to have nightmares, flashbacks and to feel anxiety, and that they also avoid certain individuals and places.

“But there are some who do not get over this. Post-traumatic stress is a clinical diagnosis with serious consequences for individuals’ lives.”

Caroline Angel has studied 154 victims of robbery and burglary. Among these victims, there were 55 percent fewer clinical cases of post-traumatic stress symptoms among those who received restorative justice than there were among those who received conventional justice.

“It would be justifiable to include a health budget for restorative justice in the form of face-to-face conferencing”, says Caroline Angel.

According to Victor Jammers, Policy Director of Victim Support Netherlands, victim support is relatively well-developed in the Netherlands and also has a relatively professional status. Those who work at the organisation are primarily comprised of trained volunteers, although part of the organisation’s work, labelled case management, is conducted by paid staff.

There are two different forms of case management. The first is offered to the relatives of homicide victims, and this area of work has been in existence for a few years now, while the other is offered to those who are victims of serious violence or sex crimes.

“We help the victim with psycho-social, legal and practical issues. If necessary, we help the victim to check for damage and to make claims from e.g. insurance companies and offenders. We also help them to formulate a victim impact statement for the court. And we accompany the victim to the public prosecutor and to court”, says Victor Jammers.

When Victim Support Netherlands follows up its work, 89 percent of the victims say that they are satisfied with the psycho-social support they have received and 82 percent are satisfied with the legal support. But one of the questions currently under discussion is how the police and the public prosecutor should provide information to victims. Like Joanna Shapland, Victor Jammers



Heather Strang



Victor Jammers



Joanna Shapland

has experienced this to be an important need among crime victims.

According to the majority of the researchers, however, restorative justice is not the whole solution. In its original form it requires both the identification of the offender and voluntary participation in order to work, and thus it is not appropriate in all cases.

“We therefore have to think about including the victims in the criminal justice system. And we have to show that victims are important. Otherwise we will have a lack of confidence in the justice system, in the police and in politicians”, says Joanna Shapland.

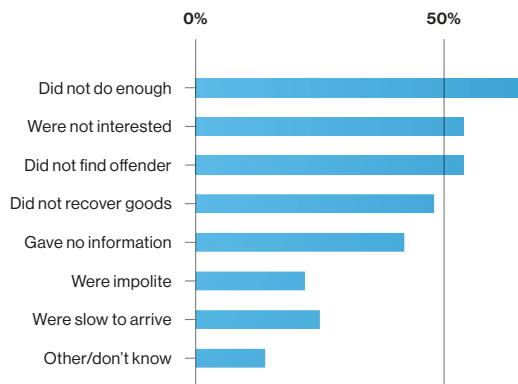
Victor Jammers also sees difficulties with incorporating restorative justice into the criminal justice system because of the requirement for voluntary participation.

“If it becomes compulsory within the criminal justice system, it is difficult to know whether the perpetrators are truly feeling remorse or whether they are cooperating because it will have a positive effect on their sentence”, he says.

Like many of the researchers, Professor Lawrence Sherman of the Universities of Cambridge and Maryland emphasized that only a tiny portion of victims ever know who their offenders are, let alone having their offenders convicted in court. He argued that an active community of researchers and policy makers is needed to formulate a victim policy for ‘offenderless’ crimes, which is what most victims face.

**Police dissatisfaction**

Reasons for dissatisfaction with the police (percentages\* for the last incident in a period of five years). 2004–2005 ICVS and 2005 EU ICS.





Lawrence Sherman

He thinks the notion of increasing financial compensation fails to address what victims want: to be heard, not paid off:

“There is a lot of money earmarked for offenders to compensate victims sitting in Philadelphia Probation’s bank account, because poor victims move often and cannot even be located. If the system started with victims, they could be given much better support than by starting with offenders.”

Sherman proposes a parallel system for victims where the offender can’t be found or proven. He wants to field-test a system where a police officer is the representative of society in a face-to-face meeting with each victim and their families. “Victims need people who listen for an hour or two, much like at a funeral where you can share your grief, a sense of emotional involvement.”

**“VICTIM POLICY NEEDS AS MUCH TESTING AS NEW PHARMACEUTICALS, WITH JUST AS MUCH CARE.”**

He feels that it needs to be a formal meeting and that it is important that the system is endorsed by the state.

“It might not work, of course, but if we don’t test different methods we will never know. Victim policy needs as much testing as new pharmaceuticals, with just as much care. That is the kind of research and development criminology needs to pursue in future”, says Lawrence Sherman. ■

## THE RESEARCHERS’ PROPOSALS



### DO NOT TREAT EVERYBODY THE SAME

Victims’ needs may vary. Be aware that the victims whose voices are heard in the media are not representative of everyone.



### PROVIDE TRAINING FOR JUSTICE SYSTEM EMPLOYEES ON THE NEEDS OF CRIME VICTIMS

It is not certain that employees in the justice system are aware of victims’ needs, which means that victims will not be satisfied with either their treatment or the measures provided.



### FORMULATE LAWS ON THE RIGHTS OF VICTIMS

...that can also be tried by the courts in cases where these rights are not provided for.



### TEST A STATE-SANCTIONED LEGAL PROCESS

...where the victims of offenderless crimes are able to meet and talk to competent individuals.



### WHEN THERE IS AN IDENTIFIED OFFENDER AND A PERSONAL VICTIM, SUGGEST RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

This reduces negative emotions in the victim and provides more victim-satisfaction than a court trial. Requires voluntary participation.



### INCLUDE A HEALTH BUDGET FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS

This reduces the number of clinical cases of post-traumatic stress disorder.



### PROVIDE VICTIMS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY

...to follow their case through the justice system – ‘Track my crime’ – and a contact person at the police.



### IN MANY CASES, THE VICTIMS THEMSELVES HAVE TO TAKE MEASURES TO ENSURE THEIR SAFETY

It is the victims who have to move out of their homes or restrict their life-space. The treatment and measures provided by society in this type of case need to be developed and improved.



# Methodological differences can affect the results of victim surveys

TEXT Åsa Irlander

**WEB-SURVEYS** can produce results showing higher levels of victimization than telephone interviews. But researchers at the Stockholm Criminology Symposium argued that it can be difficult to get different countries to agree to use the same method.

The prize winner Jan van Dijk's lecture showed that international victim surveys have created unique opportunities to study the victims of crime, compare crime levels and study crime trends in different countries. But there are also difficulties that must be overcome in order to produce comparable results.

Bart Buelens, methodologist from Statistics Netherlands, Natalie Guzy from the Federal Criminal Police Office in Germany and Heinz Leitgoeb from the University of Linz in Austria presented examples of two studies where researchers have found significantly higher levels of exposure to crime when they have used online questionnaires than when they employed telephone interviews. This was the case even when they controlled for the fact that different methods can produce differences in response frequencies and in the age and gender composition of those who choose to participate.

"It is possible to use mixed data-collection methods, but only if you know a great deal about how the differences will affect your specific survey", says Bart Buelens.

He described how it is possible to use calibration methods to attempt to harmonise the results of surveys that have not been conducted in a uniform way.

Agnieszka Litwinska and Eduardo Barredo Capelot, Director of Social Statistics from Eurostat also presented

examples from a survey using mixed data-collection methods, the EU Safety Survey (EU-SASU). The survey, which will probably be conducted in 2014, includes questions on exposure to crime, safety and confidence in the justice system.

"The reason for allowing the use of different data-collection methods is that the relevant conditions differ a great deal between the EU member states. For example, in some countries it is not appropriate to use the telephone register for telephone interviews, in some countries the population is spread so thinly that home visit interviews would be too expensive and several countries already have established, national victim surveys employing a specific data-collection method", says Agnieszka Litwinska.

In another session, Robert Manchin, Managing Director from Gallup Europe in Belgium, predicted an international trend.

"We are approaching a paradigm shift in the survey method whereby surveys will be centralised from the word go instead of relying on attempts to harmonise them later on", he says.

He argued that in the future, technology will make it possible to conduct completely centralised surveys with a minimum of variation over time and between countries.

In an EU-wide survey on violence against women that is being conducted by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) in 2012, only one type of data-collection method is permitted, personal interviews. The study is the first EU-wide survey in this field, explains Joanna Goodey, Head of Department Freedoms & Justice, and Sami Nevala, Team Coordinator for Statistics and Surveys from the FRA. The sample is comprised of 40,000 women in the EU and Croatia.

"The goal is to collect reliable and comparable data on women's exposure to physical, psychological and sexual violence", says Joanna Goodey.

The first results from the study will be presented in 2013. ■



## RISK BEHAVIOURS INCREASE EXPOSURE TO CYBER CRIME

TEXT Johanna Hagstedt

PHOTO Pernille Tofte

**A LARGE PROPORTION** of the population has personal experience of cyber crime, and engaging in risky behaviour on the internet increases the risk of being victimised. Doubts that the police will be able to do anything prevent victims from reporting offences and the lack of international legislation makes cyber crimes difficult to investigate.

The definition of cyber crime has expanded over time, from typically having been thought of as an attack on the machine to providing assistance in the commission of traditional crime.

Dr. K. Jaishankar from India's Manonmaniam Sundaranar University presented a typology of cyber crime victimisation, dividing potential victims into four groups: governments, organisations, individuals and victimless crimes. He went on to speak about the extent of online victimisation; studies show that a majority of the adult population have personal experience of cyber crime.

Reactions to victimisation include feeling powerless, lacking confidence that the crime will be investigated successfully and the offender brought to

justice, or no reaction at all. A study conducted to find out more about why there is such a large discrepancy between the number of people who state being victimised and the number of cases reported to the police, showed that many were unaware that what they had experienced was in fact a crime.

“Additional reasons for not reporting were that the damage was not sufficient to motivate a report, a feeling that the police were incompetent, or being ashamed about having been tricked or scammed”, says Anna Burgard from the Austrian Road Safety Board.

Debarati Halder, co-founder of the Centre for Cyber Victim Counselling in India, presented a model of what she and K. Jaishankar term as ‘victim turned offender’. In the process of feeling desperate and unable to get help from legal authorities, victims of cyber crime may become inclined to seek revenge by the same means. This leads to a risk that the original offender may press charges against the victim.

“There are important gender differences when it comes to cyber crime victimisation. Males are more likely to commit offences, while females are more

likely to be victimised”, says Debarati Halder.

Men are more often victims of economic and property crime while women are often the target of sex crimes, but the inequality of victimisation relates not only to types of crime, but also to the impact of victimisation.

“The effects of morphed pictures may lead to serious psychological harm for female victims in a European country and in India it can ruin the life of the victim by eliminating the chances of marriage”, says Debarati Halder.

The nature of cyber crime will continue to change. As new forms develop, the best way to prevent cyber crimes continues to be raising awareness about these



crimes and how to avoid them. K. Jaishankar predicts an increase in the targeting and use of mobile phones in cyber crime, new trends in selling non-financial data and increased victimisation as more and more internet users can be targeted through key internet sites with millions of users each day.

Existing legislation is often poorly suited to online situations, leaving huge grey areas for example in the context of e-prostitution, sexting and online gambling. The question of what should be considered illegal and what is just unethical online behaviour needs to be addressed. For example, there are different perceptions about the right to free speech, which has major importance for the ability to investigate and prevent cyber crimes.

K. Jaishankar’s main area of expertise is cyber criminology and cyber crime victimisation.

“There is a misconception that you can write anything about anyone on the internet”, he says.

At this year’s symposium he also raised the topic of culturally biased legislation and the effects of the U.S. dominance and the influence of colonial rule on how the legislation of countries on the Indian subcontinent is constructed. At the same time, uniform definitions and legislation are needed in order to combat cyber crime successfully:

“The border between what is virtual and what is real is a problem with cyber crimes”, he says, “a holistic perspective is necessary to prevent and investigate cyber crime.”

The global nature of the internet also requires a homogenisation of the legislation, which is a difficult task given the differences that exist in both legislative and cultural practices.

“Cyber crimes must be recognised universally by legal systems and victims must be recognised in order to prevent secondary victimisation”, says K. Jaishankar. ■

**“Cyber crimes must be recognised universally by legal systems and victims must be recognised in order to prevent secondary victimisation”**



K. Jaishankar says that the global nature of the internet requires a homogenisation of the legislation.



# Grooming requires special investigative methods

TEXT Johanna Hagstedt  
PHOTO Pernille Tofte

**FEW CASES** of online grooming have led to convictions, giving rise to doubts about whether grooming legislation has had the intended effect. Problems include not being able to use certain investigative methods, difficulties preventing crimes before sexual abuse has occurred and the need to identify vulnerable children who are likely to become victims.

Two sessions at this year's symposium focused on online grooming – a process by which a person befriends a child online to facilitate online sexual contact and/or a physical meeting with the goal of committing sexual abuse. In practice, this often involves setting up profiles on social networking sites and in chat rooms frequented by young people. Gifts or threats may then be used to further push the

victims into exposing themselves online or agreeing to an offline meeting.

With the passing of the 2011 EU Directive on combating sexual abuse, sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, all EU member states now have until the end of 2013 to incorporate the directive into their national legislation. To date, only four countries in Europe have grooming legislation: the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Sweden and Norway.

Presenters from these countries were critical of the effect of the grooming legislation as it has proved difficult to work with in practice and has led to very few convictions.

“I wonder whether the penalisation of grooming has produced any added value”, says Dr. Renée

Kool from Utrecht University in the Netherlands.

In practice, the Dutch cases that have led to conviction had already resulted in the sexual abuse of the victim by the time the crime was detected. Since the sexual abuse of minors is already regulated in the legislation and carries a more severe penalty than grooming, there is doubt whether the grooming legislation has had the intended protective effect.

On the other hand, it is not known how many cases are intercepted by the police without there being a strong enough case to present in court. Thus the preventive effects of the legislation may be larger than are shown by official crime statistics.

Dr. Heidi Mork Lomell from the Norwegian Police University College discussed the difficulties associated with criminalising attempted offences and preparatory acts.

“Where do you draw the line? At what point do you impose criminal liability?” she asks.

The preparatory events that the legislation is trying to target shift policing to the border between preventing and reacting to crime. This could become

problematic in relation to the presumption of innocence.

Dr. Elena Martellozzo from Middlesex University described how the police in London work to identify and convict online groomers by pretending to be either vulnerable children or adults with an interest in children. Here too there are problems however. There is always a risk that the most cautious offender will invoke an entrapment defence, and once a meeting has been agreed, it is not certain that the offender will show up.

Several of the studies presented had looked at the characteristics of the perpetrators and victims of grooming. The male groomers (hardly any female groomers had been found) were a heterogeneous group. They were of different ages and had differing social statuses. While some had a documented interest in child pornography, many of those convicted were first time offenders.

Professor Julia Davidson from Kingston University and Stephen Webster – Head of Crime and Justice Research at National Centre for Social Research (NATCEN) in the UK presented findings from the European Online Grooming Project. Offenders were categorised into

three groups: offenders seeking intimacy, adaptable offenders and hypersexual offenders. While the first group often invested time to build a relationship with the victim and described their interest in terms of looking for a romantic relationship, the latter were very open and explicit about their sexual interests and preferences. Some groomers were also in touch with one another online, sometimes sharing pornographic material and passing on victims between one another.

The results show that a majority of children are resilient to online grooming, and are very aware of how to avoid or actively distance themselves from potential groomers. However, two groups at high-risk of victimisation were identified: the vulnerable and the risk-takers.

“The internet does not make all children vulnerable, it does however make already vulnerable children more accessible”, says Heidi Mork Lomell.

The vulnerable group comprised children who were often known to the social services, had trouble in their family relationships or a history of physical and/or sexual abuse or psychological disorders resulting in low self-esteem and loneliness. ■

**“The internet does not make all children vulnerable, it does however make already vulnerable children more accessible.”**



In the European Online Grooming Project two groups at high-risk of victimisation were identified: the vulnerable and the risk-takers, said Julia Davidson.

# Mingle

This year's symposium gathered people from all over the world to share experiences, network and enjoy meeting colleagues.

PHOTO Pernille Tofte & Susanne Lekegård



Jan van Dijk was awarded the 2012 Stockholm Prize in Criminology. Here with Her Majesty the Queen of Sweden at the Prize Ceremony.



Ulf Johansson, Stockholm County Police, at the Welcome Reception.

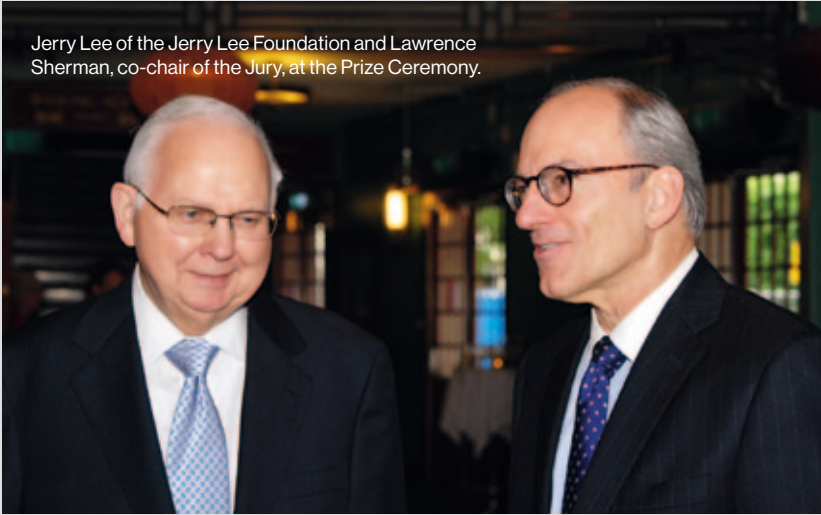


The Welcome Reception and Poster Session at Norra Latin was well attended.



Jury member Hiroshi Tsutomi at the Symposium registration.

Jerry Lee of the Jerry Lee Foundation and Lawrence Sherman, co-chair of the Jury, at the Prize Ceremony.



Sweden's Minister for Justice, Beatrice Ask, at the Opening Ceremony



Onno Peers from the Dutch Centre for Crime Prevention and Safety at the Welcome Reception



Rianne Letschert, Jaap de Waard and Victor Jammers at the symposium

NEXT YEAR



DAVID FARRINGTON

Winner of the 2013 Stockholm Prize in Criminology

The 2013 Stockholm Prize in Criminology will go to a champion of early-life crime prevention programmes that have been tested with strong evidence: Professor David Philip Farrington of Cambridge University, author of many books and hundreds of scientific articles on developmental crime. The prize ceremony will take place at Stockholm City Hall in conjunction with the Stockholm Criminology Symposium 2013.

# Mark your calendar for 2013!

The next Stockholm Criminology Symposium takes place on June 10–12, 2013 at City Conference Center in Stockholm.

One of the two themes for the Symposium will relate to the prize winner Professor Farrington's work, and the other is Contemporary Criminology. The program will include a large number of parallel sessions, a poster session in conjunction with the Welcome reception, as well as a prize winner lecture.

To learn more about the Stockholm Criminology Symposium 2013, including information on how to submit an abstract, dates for registration, news on the program and to subscribe to our newsletter, please visit the Symposium website:

[www.criminologysymposium.com](http://www.criminologysymposium.com)

For more information about the Stockholm Prize in Criminology, please visit:

[www.su.se/criminologyprize](http://www.su.se/criminologyprize)

**brå**

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