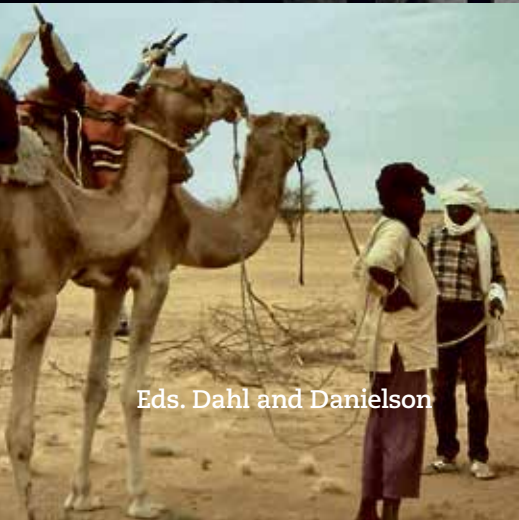




Faculty of Social Sciences  
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# Department of Criminology

Henrik Tham

ON MAY 15, 1946 a constitutive meeting of the Criminology Institute Association of Sweden was held in the parliamentary rooms of the First Civil Law Committee. The association's objective was to establish and maintain an institute of criminology. A parallel association for criminological research was formed at the same time, with the task of supporting the Institute of Criminology at Stockholm University College (*Stockholms högskola*) and promoting criminological research. With this meeting, the foundation was laid for what would later become the Department of Criminology at Stockholm University.

This does not, of course, mean that no empirical analyses of crime and punishment had been conducted in Sweden prior to this point. Analyses of this kind had indeed been conducted both within and outside the universities and within the framework of governmental inquiries. One inquiry from the period around the beginning of World War II pub-

lished by the Central Association for Social Work, which attracted a lot of attention, focused on gang criminality and opens with the words: "Over the past few years, the evidently increasing anti-sociality among the young has raised powerful concerns in our country" (Ligabrottsligheten 1942). In a broader sense, criminological questions were embedded in issues such as vagrancy, imprisonment, poverty and alcohol consumption. The interest in criminology and crime policy also manifested itself in the Society of Swedish Criminalists that had been established as early as 1911. In 1945, members of this association formed the Crime Policy Society, with a desire, following the Danish model, to "discuss criminological issues more often and within a more exclusive circle" (Kriminalpolitiska sällskapet 1945). Several of the members of the society were later active in the emergence of the Department of Criminology at Stockholm University.



The departmental seminar room and library at the 6<sup>th</sup> floor in Building C, Södra huset. (Photo: Mats Danielson)

One special tradition in the field of research on crime and punishment has been the study of crime statistics. Sweden is particularly lucky in this regard, having the world's oldest official statistics, due to the establishment of the *Tabellverket* as early as 1749. One reservation that should perhaps be mentioned here is that the Finns argue it is they who have the oldest official statistics, since at that time Finland and Sweden were a single kingdom, and Finland's time zone lies one hour ahead of Sweden. The earliest statistics, however, were not related to crime but rather emerged in the form of population statistics: information on the deceased provides an opportunity to develop a series relating to homicide, and documenting the size of the population allows for a description of

the trend in the prison population. Sweden has conviction statistics from the 1830s onwards, as is the case in several other western countries.

The scientific criminology of the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was primarily linked to the fields of medicine and psychiatry, however. There were extensive studies of psychiatric illnesses considered as causes of crime, and on the mental disposition of, for example, vagrants and individuals convicted of incest (Qvarsell 1993). A doctoral thesis in Sociology from the University of Gothenburg on the history of forensic psychiatry has the title *Sanningen om brottslingen* (The truth about the criminal), which provides an indication of how it was believed that science could discover the causes of crime by rational means through testing and clinical observation (Börjesson 1994). This strong position held by forensic psychiatry also led to the introduction of various indeterminate prison sentences, such as preventive detention, internment and youth prison, with the idea being that the convicted individuals would only be released once their treatment was completed – with the risk for recidivism being specified by experts.

This medical-psychiatric oriented criminology was often grounded in a humanist approach, and its representatives wanted to reduce the suffering of inmates. However, it opened the way for arbitrary decisions and violations. In the context of a number of high-profile cases, forensic science became the subject of public criti-

cism. The level of distrust towards the psychiatric treatment of offenders, and others, increased (Qvarsell 1993). Once National Socialism in Europe had compromised the use of medical treatment in relation to “undesirable” individuals, the influence of this perspective declined from the end of World War II. In a context of growing youth crime, it also became more difficult to reduce the explanation of crime trends through the characteristics of specific individuals. These factors, together with a belief that society could be changed through social reform and the emergence of the social and behavioural sciences, provided a basis for investing in criminology during the post-war period.

The creation of the Criminology Institute Association immediately following the war can be seen as an expression of the endeavour to expand criminological research beyond the boundaries of the medical sciences. It was also a clear manifestation of a scientific optimism – criminological research was expected to produce knowledge that could make crime policy more effective. The proclamation that led to the formation of the association notes that:

For a couple of decades, active reform work has been underway in this country in the field of crime policy. The legislation has in many ways improved the opportunities for the rational crime policy treatment of law-breakers. Good legislation is of relatively little value, however, if it is not applied by

people with sufficient insight into the bio-psychological characteristics of the aetiology of crime. Despite a growing interest in these problems and, not least in this country, relatively lively research activities in this area, our knowledge remains incomplete. In order to develop crime policy to the point where it is in line with the intentions of legislation, it is therefore important to stimulate interest in criminology.<sup>1</sup>

The individuals behind the proclamation were Ivar Agge, professor of criminal law at Stockholm University College, County Governor and former Minister of Justice Thorwald Bergqvist, the Director General of the Board of Health Thorwald Höjer, Professor of Forensic Psychiatry Olof Kinberg, the President of the Court of Appeals and former Minister of Justice Karl Schlyter, in addition to Doctor of Law, and later Professor of Criminal Law at Uppsala University, Ivar Strahl. At the time of its formation, the association had 34 members, of whom one was a woman. The number of professors and associate professors was striking, and included among others Sweden’s first professor of sociology, Torgny Segerstedt, later vice-chan-

1 The description of the Criminology Institute Association is based on material from two archive boxes that have been preserved in storage at the Department of Criminology, Stockholm University: 1. Kriminologiska institutets protokoll (Minutes of the Criminological Institute) 1946–1947. 2. Handlingar rörande Kriminologiska institutet/Kriminalvetenskapliga institutet (Documents relating to the Criminological Institute / Institute of Criminal Science) 1951–1965.



cellor of Uppsala University, and the two future Professors of Philosophy Ingemar Hedenius and Konrad Marc-Wogau. There were also a relatively large number of physicians, including the social physicians Gunnar Inge, John Takman and (Skå-)Gustav Jonsson.

Kinberg became the chairman of the Institute that was formed. As early as 1939 he had presented a proposal for a criminological research institute that was to include experts in criminal anthropology, criminal sociology, criminal psychology and crime statistics (Qvarsell 1993:251). Kinberg had previously succeeded in obtaining funding for criminological research from the Rockefeller Foundation. For renewed funding, however, the Rockefeller Foundation required that funding should also be obtained from Sweden. One of the central tasks for the new association was thus that of working to obtain research funds.

Agge was a driving force in the work of the Institute, together with the association's secretary Strahl. From 1960, the Institute came to comprise three strictly separate units, one for clinical and medical criminology, one for criminal sociology and one for general criminology. It is here that the title of 'Professor in General Criminology' originated, a title that was only finally abolished in 2014. Agge's interest in criminology lay in the subject's significance for criminal law and crime policy. The division of the Institute into three units should also be under-

stood against the background of the fact that Agge wanted to reduce the influence of the medical perspective, and that he felt that Kinberg was unable to collaborate with the social scientists.

The association and its members involved themselves in different ways in issues relating to criminology. The government was approached about the establishment of national police statistics in order to develop better knowledge about the crime volume. Applications were made for research funding in order to chart the geographical distribution of crime in Stockholm, with the motivation that the courts would be able to place those on probation and those released from prison in non-criminal areas, as well as in order to know where youth centres should be placed for preventive purposes. Members of the association participated as authors in the anthology *Kriminologi* (Criminology), which was published in Schlyter's *Kriminologisk handbok* (Handbook of criminology) series (Agge et al. 1955). The introduction was written by the best known Swedish criminologist by far, Thorsten Sellin. However, Sweden cannot take the credit for Sellin's work since he emigrated from Örnköldsvik at the age of seventeen, first to Canada and then on to the US. He is regarded as one of the pioneers of criminology, and was among other things the editor of the 'Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences' for 39 years, as well as giving his name to the prize that is



Vice-Chancellor Gustaf Lindencrona, Chair of the Parliamentary Justice Commission Gun Hellsvik and Professor Jerzy Sarnecki. (Photo: Yngve Fransson)

awarded by the American Society of Criminology to a prominent non-American criminologist, the Sellin-Glueck Award. It is also conceivable that Sellin may have exerted some influence over subsequent Swedish criminology. A range of documents written by the association's members emphasise the importance of the research adopting an empirical, Anglo-Saxon perspective. When a chair in criminology had first been discussed prior to the war, Schlyter had turned to his friend Sellin for assistance. Schlyter wanted Sellin to return to Sweden, but

Sellin was only interested in coming as a guest professor, which he did, coming to Stockholm University College in 1946/47 (Sundell 1998:222 f.).

The members of the association were highly engaged in the issue of a Nordic criminological collaboration. Following a proposal from Sweden, in 1956 the Nordic Council recommended the respective countries' governments to develop collaboration in the field of criminology. Following a Nordic criminological conference in Stockholm, the Norwegian Professor of Criminal Law, Johannes Andenæs, was given the

task of presenting a proposal for the form such a collaboration might take. Having rejected a proposal for a joint Nordic Institute, a Scandinavian Research Council for Criminology was proposed, and was then established in 1962. During the work conducted to examine possible forms for the collaboration, it was emphasised that it was important for each country to have a strong criminological research community – something which the Criminological Institute Association was able to refer to in its continued work.

The work became increasingly focused on establishing a chair in criminology. In addition to pressure being exerted by the association's members, the proposal was also suggested in a governmental inquiry, and received support from private members' bills in Parliament from both the Social Democrats and parties of the centre-right. The only bodies to oppose the idea of criminological research being concentrated at Stockholm University College were, perhaps understandably, the universities of Uppsala and Lund. The government, however, chose to postpone the issue of a chair in criminology.

Agge worked on persistently. He recruited Knut Sveri, holder of a licentiate in law, from the Department of Criminal Law and Criminology at the University of Oslo, in the hope that he would become the head of what he now wanted to call the Institute of Criminal Science (*Kriminalvetenskapliga institutet*). Sveri pre-

sented his doctoral thesis in Sweden in 1961. The government finally proposed the establishment of a chair in General Criminology at Stockholm University in 1964. The chair was thus established at the same time as the Faculty of Social Sciences, but came to be shared with the Faculty of Law. Sveri became the first incumbent of the chair in 1965.

The creation of the chair and the institute were typical of the time. The people who formed the Criminology Institute Association, and also the association's membership in general, were committed individuals from the upper and upper-middle classes. It was a top-down movement comprised of experts and high-ranking officials. The issues were not driven by politicians, social movements or voluntary organisations. The point of departure was a fundamental humanism, and there were major expectations that policy would be improved if it were to be based on scientific knowledge.

At the time, politicians shared this hope about the practical value of criminology. A private member's bill from the Social Democrats argued that criminological research "would substantially improve the chances of successfully combating crime" (Wallentheim et al. 1957). A private member's bill from the centre-right parties also argued for the creation of a chair in the subject so that crime policy could be based more on science (Munk-tell et al. 1957). This suggests that crime policy

at this time was not an issue of party politics. The reasons for the expectations placed on criminology in the parliamentary bill from the centre-right may however be somewhat different. An earlier parliamentary question from one of the centre-right members behind the bill suggests that one of the objectives of criminology could be to stop expensive reform work that had not been founded on sufficient knowl-

edge (Munktell 1954). This criticism appears to have been directed at, among others, the Roxtuna prison, an institution with a focus on providing modern treatment for difficult young offenders. The prison has since been closed and may perhaps be best remembered for having inspired a collection of poems written by a psychologist at the prison, Tomas Tranströmer.



The Office of Student Affairs on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. (Photo: Mats Danielson)



### The initial period

In 1969, the new professor of criminology applied for criminology to become a degree subject. He motivated the application by stating that there was a need for academics with a specialist education in criminology in correctional treatment, social care, the police force, the prosecution service and in the courts. He also argued that there was a substantial interest in the subject among students, and that an undergraduate programme would have a positive effect on criminological research, which would in turn be of significance for crime policy.

The application was sent out for consultation to all Sweden's universities, to the Swedish National Union of Students, the National Police Board, the National Prison and Probation Authority and the National Board for Health and Welfare. All of these bodies supported the proposal – some in very positive terms. The National Prison and Probation Administration stated that courses in criminology would in the future be a requirement for all 450 officials with an academic background working for the prison and probation service. The National Police Board also stated that it looked forward to having access to professional criminologists and noted in its consultation paper the significance of criminology for the work to combat crime and for the treatment of offenders (Tham 1977).

The undergraduate programme in criminology, the equivalent of one and a half year of

full-time education, was formally initiated in 1970, but the teaching appears not to have started until the following year. Criminology became an independent section within the Department of Sociology. It was not until 1987 that the Department of Criminology became a department in its own right. Around 30 or so students are estimated to have registered at the start of the programme. Over the following 20 years, there was limited growth in student numbers. At the end of the 1980s, criminology still produced no more than a total of 50 or so complete annual performances. There were few full-time posts, and much of the teaching was conducted by doctoral students and external teachers.<sup>2</sup> Besides the professor and two administrative posts, there was a part-time lectureship, a post-doctoral research fellow and a part-time assistant lecturer. Leif Lenke was a member of staff from the day the Department of Criminology first opened its doors until his premature death in 2008. This makes him the longest serving criminologist in Sweden. His research was innovative and original, in the best sense of the word, and he played an important role in developing the form and content of the Department's teaching.

Between the time the Department was first established and the end of 1993, a total of 13

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<sup>2</sup> Information on the Department of Criminology prior to 1993 is largely based on documents from the Department's archive at the University.

doctoral dissertations were published. The five that were published during the 1970s were all written by individuals who came from other disciplines or other countries. The first dissertation published by an individual who had been through the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes at the Department itself came in 1981 and had the title *Mot monopolisering? NO:s verksamhet under 25 år* (Towards a monopoly? The work of the Anti-trust Ombudsman over 25 years; Holmberg 1981). The dissertation was typical for the new 1970s research focus on economic crime. The crimes of ‘the powerful’ were to be scrutinised, and the dissertation found that crimes against the Competition Restriction Act were negotiable. In another incident, that was also typical of the time, a researcher from another university had his copy of the dissertation confiscated at a customs control in East Germany. It seems likely that the word ‘monopoly’ was on a list of censored topics, and that there was a suspicion of some form of criticism of a Communist regime.

Several of the early dissertations had a focus that may be said to have been in line with the original idea of research serving as a basis for crime policy decisions. They chart areas such as drink driving, sanctions, the use of special powers, the police and crime prevention, and they describe the character of crime and its geographical distribution. Several pic-

es of work by law students also had a direct focus on issues relating to the justice system. A number of dissertations employed a more critical and historical perspective, however, and focused on crime at school viewed from a Marxist perspective, the state’s adaptive policy in relation to spying during World War II, and the emergence of the prison institution in Sweden.

A governmental inquiry was appointed in 1992, which resulted in the report *Kriminologisk och kriminalpolitisk forskning* (Criminological and crime policy research; SOU 1992:80). One of the underlying reasons for the inquiry was that the researchers at the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (*Brå*) wanted to become professors (*ibid.*:22). This did not happen because the centre-right government determined that professorships should only exist at universities. The inquiry should also be viewed against the background that research funding was being detached from the employees’ investment funds and that research and development activities in a number of areas were being placed under review. The leader of the inquiry, Liberal Party member and former Undersecretary of State Ola Nyqvist, also placed a strong emphasis on the importance of research in criminal science as a means of contributing to reducing the costs of crime. The inquiry proposed funding a number of new positions at the university.

The proposal probably came just in the nick of time for the Department of Criminology. The inquiry's report notes that:

As regards the Department of Criminology, the inquiry emphasises that the Department has had very few permanent positions over the years, and a heavy teaching load that has been carried out at the cost of desirable research efforts. Over the course of 1991/92, the Department has a research budget of slightly less than one million SEK [...]. Given among other things the fact that the Department is considered to fall below the 'critical mass required to function effectively', a working group focused on reviewing the university's departmental organisation has proposed various alternatives that threaten the independent status of the Department; among other things, a transfer 'as a unit' to the Department of Sociology is being proposed, or a merger with the Department of Law (*ibid.*:12 f).

### **Expansion in staff numbers and research from the beginning of the 1990s**

The governmental inquiry into criminological research led to a second professorship and a post-doctoral research position for the Department of Criminology. Following the retirement of the first professor at the beginning of the 1990s, the existing professorship was also made available and it also became possi-

ble to appoint two research lectureships using departmental funds. The new professor, Jerzy Sarnecki from the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention, also became head of department and the Department started to expand. The doctoral programme was greatly expanded by means of permanent funding and stipends. Over time, successive expansions of the Department's teaching obligations opened up the possibility for employing additional staff. Since 1999, the Department has produced 34 doctoral dissertations and 12 separate licentiate dissertations. In 2014 the Department has eleven permanent teachers/researchers (of whom five are professors), a further three researchers, ten doctoral students and two administrative posts. Over 400 students register for the undergraduate programme each term, and around 50 register for the advanced level programme. In 2013 the Department produced a total of 247 complete annual performances. The popularity of criminology as a subject has meant that the number of applicants for student places has greatly outnumbered their availability – there has been an average of five applicants for each available place on the Department's teaching programmes – which has also meant that the Department has been blessed with highly motivated and gifted students.

Since the beginning of the 1990s, the research conducted at the Department has, of course,



Surveillance at the women's prison Hinseberg. (Photo: Sofia Wikman)

covered a wide range of different questions. The tradition of research broadly based on crime statistics has been strong. The issue of crime trends, and in particular societal trends in the use of violence, has been a central one in the crime policy debate. Analyses of hospital data and data from self-report studies among youth have led to the development of new indicators of crime. Convictions data and statistics have been used to conduct cohort studies and historical analyses of crime trends, producing results with clear implications for crime policy. One piece of work produced by the Department in this area that is likely to stand the test

of time is '*Brott och straff i Sverige*' (Crime and Punishment in Sweden; von Hofer 2011).

Crime policy research has played a prominent role at the Department. The focus has not been directed at evaluations of various areas of the justice system, although a couple of studies have focused on the police. Instead, the work has in particular been directed at studying the factors that determine crime policy: How and why has crime policy changed, e.g. towards an increasingly powerful focus on the crime victim and on violence against women? How does crime policy in Sweden, e.g. the trend in imprisonment, differ from that found in other countries?

In what ways has the shift towards the risk society been reflected in crime policy? What new forms of control are emerging, and how are they influencing traditional policing? How should the issue of immigration and crime be understood? Can sentencing and the choice of sanctions, which is now becoming a political issue, be legitimised by reference to the public sense of justice?

Certain categories of crime have elements of crime policy clearly defined into them. In the case of economic crime, for example, interest is directed less at the characteristics of the individual offender and more towards economic structures and the way the legislation is formulated and applied. It is in this way that research at the Department has been conducted into corruption, accountancy and environmental offences and the regulation of the road-haulage industry. Another field with a natural relevance for policy is found in the area of alcohol and drugs. In addition to studies of substance users and consumption patterns, a number of studies have focused on Swedish drug policy. In this area, an intra-faculty collaboration with SoRAD, the Centre for Social Research on Alcohol and Drugs, has been central. Several doctoral dissertations in criminology have been written at the Centre.

A number of projects have conducted victimological research. Hate crimes in general, and hate crimes against homosexuals in particular,

have been charted and analysed. The fear of crime has been studied among school youth and adults. Other studies have focused on exposure to crime in the workplace, trends in victimisation and inequality, the emergence of victim-offender mediation, the relationship between crime victims and state criminal injuries compensation, and also exposure to crime among persons convicted of offences.

Research on offenders and their life conditions constitutes a very broad field in which a large number of studies have been conducted. The Department has currently embarked on two large-scale projects on crime in a life-course perspective. Methods for studying criminal networks have been developed. Studies have focused on gang-related crime, graffiti and a range of aspects of the relationship between the police and offenders. Studies have been conducted with a focus individuals admitted to institutions, both youths and adult prison inmates. One central issue in the study of life conditions is that of marginalisation and exclusion at both the individual and the structural levels. Several studies have been conducted based on both interviews and analyses of register data.

The Department's research approach may in part be seen as being founded in an activist tradition. Several of the Department's employees have over the years been engaged in e.g. KRUM (The National Association for Penal reform),



the RFHL (The National Association for Help and Aid to Drug Addicts), Amnesty, LGBTQ groups<sup>3</sup> and anti-fascist activities. It may also be significant that several of the Department's researchers have backgrounds in other countries. Half have been born abroad, in Chile, Poland, the UK, Germany and Hungary. It may simply be accidental, but it may also be due to an interest based on experiences of being an outsider and of feeling different. It has at the very least served to broaden the Department's perspective.

The number of degree dissertations has also increased substantially at both the undergraduate and advanced study levels. The subjects examined have become increasingly varied and focused on different types of crime. The police, viewed in a broad sense of the term, provide the theme for approximately ten percent of degree dissertations, and this proportion has increased since the undergraduate programme was initiated. This may in part be viewed against the background of a shift in crime policy, which has led to increasing expectations being linked to the police as the solution to the crime problem. Another shift in crime policy is also reflected in the degree dissertations produced at the Department. Whereas the crime policy debate was previously focused on the offender and his rehabilitation, the focus has now shifted to the crime victim, and in particular to

men's violence against women. This change is clearly reflected in the themes being chosen for degree dissertations, not least violence, sexual offences, trafficking and constructions of gender.

In all essential respects, the Department's research has focused on Swedish phenomena. Until recently, the Department's research was primarily published in Swedish. Of the doctoral dissertations published over the past 20 years, only eight have been written in English. The number of articles published in English language scientific journals has increased substantially over recent years, however. One reason for having published so much in Swedish may have been the broader public interest in issues of crime and punishment. The Department's researchers may have perceived themselves as having a Swedish audience to a greater extent than researchers at most other university departments. The Department has endeavoured to produce a 'public criminology'. Compared with other departments, the Department of Criminology's researchers also appear relatively often in the national media. The university's media analysis of the social sciences faculty for 2012 shows that the Department of Criminology, despite its relatively small size, accounts for one tenth of the Faculty's media appearances. The list is also topped by a criminologist, and is characterised by a similarly skewed distribution to that found in relation to criminal convictions – a small num-

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3 Lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, trans-sexual and queer.



From the women's prison Hinseberg. (Photo: Sofia Wikman)

ber of individuals are responsible for a disproportionately large amount.

The Department's publication practice, together with its focus on Swedish conditions, is similar to that of the criminological research environments in the other Nordic countries. The public pressure on researchers in a subject such as criminology may be assumed to be greater in small countries than in larger ones. Over the years, there has been a strong collaboration among the Nordic Countries, not least within the framework of the Scandinavian Research Council for Criminology. The Research

Council is also responsible for the jointly published 'Journal of Scandinavian Criminology and Crime Prevention', and the Department's staff includes two previous editors of this journal. As an expression of the collaboration with our sister department at the University of Oslo, Nils Christie was given an honorary doctorate by our own faculty in 2004.

In a broad sense, the term 'public criminology' may perhaps also include the authoring of other, non-scientific, publications. Several of the students, doctoral students and researchers who have passed through the Department over the

years have published works of both fiction and non-fiction, naturally not least in the form of crime novels. Sven Sperlings wrote *Mälarmördaren*, the story of a mass murder in 1900 on a hijacked ferry steamer, Leif Persson, wishing to rehabilitate himself in the context of the so-called Geijer Affair, published the novel *Grisfesten* and by continuing to write in the same genre became affectionately known as GW by the Swedish population. In *Svensk Maffia* and follow-up books, Lasse Wierup presented a somewhat controversial picture of organised crime. Pontus Ljunghill wrote the novel *En osynlig* about the murder of a young girl in 1920s Stockholm. Jerzy Sarnecki portrays a piece of Central European history in a book describing his father's life, *Hillarys historia*. And even before completing his doctoral dissertation, Christoffer Carlsson has already published three books, of which the first two have been translated into several languages, while the third, *Den osynlige mannen från Salem*, received the 2013 Best Swedish Crime Novel award from the Swedish Crime Writers' Academy.

### Students, teaching and subsequent employment

In the hall leading from the University Library to *Södra huset* stands the artist Torsten Rehnqvist's Kangaroo. The artwork constitutes the University's annual teaching prize for the best teaching department. Its first winner, in 1996,

was the Department of Criminology. This prize has subsequently been added to by two of the Department's teachers being named Teacher of the Year within the Faculty. Winning the prize requires first being nominated by the students. These nominations were made by KRÄM, the department's student council. Through the student council, the students have been active in the work of the Department, among other things in the form of participation in the Department's board meetings, work groups and planning days. The council is also paid by



The annual teaching prize.  
(Photo: Mats Danielson)

the Department to conduct course evaluations.

Over the years, the development of teaching has had a high priority for the Department's staff. Course evaluations are followed up, the Department endeavours to employ a range of teaching and examination methods, and there is a major focus on the use of group exercises and on working with small constellations of students. All of the Department's professors have given one or more undergraduate courses every semester. The relatively small size of the Department, and the fact that some of the teaching takes place in the Department's own premises, may also have contributed to the students feeling that they have good contacts with the teaching staff.

As is the case at other departments, work to promote gender equality has been emphasised and the proportion of women among the students has increased dramatically. At the Department of Criminology, women now account for seven out of ten students. A clear majority of the Department's doctoral students are women, and over the past decade, women have produced twice as many doctoral dissertations as men. Despite this change, the Department's teaching and research posts are still dominated by men, something which should in part be viewed as a generational issue. When a professorship most recently became vacant, the Department worked actively to encourage



Corridor view outside the room of the Students' Council, KRÄM. (Photo: Mats Danielson)

female applicants, but this proved difficult. In 2009, however, Eva Tiby became the first female Swedish professor of criminology. Both the head and deputy head of department have been women since 2013.

The work to promote gender equality has also involved endeavours to promote the use of a gendered perspective in the Department's teaching. Criminology has traditionally been a very masculine subject, since males constitute a large majority of those who commit offences, and serious offences in particular, and 94 percent of prison inmates are men. This is naturally interesting from a gender perspective, however. If men were to become more like women, the majority of crime ought to disappear. Researchers at the Department have also focused on the significance of 'masculinities' to the understand-



Who types the most accurate? With or without alcohol? Poster at the Department.  
(Photo: Mats Danielson)

ing of crime and other forms of deviance, and have published an anthology on the subject, among other things for use in teaching (Lander et al. 2003).

What does a criminologist do subsequent to graduating? Over the years, a number of surveys have been conducted of the experiences of

the Department's alumni (Tham 1977, Frändén & Jansson 2004, Kinell 2011). The reason for having chosen to study criminology is often stated to have been a general interest in the subject rather than concrete career plans. When the time comes to look for work, however, questions are asked about the practical utility



of criminology. There have also been consistent demands from those looking for work that the programme should have a more practical focus and should include both study visits and work experience. Few feel that specifically having read criminology has been of merit when applying for jobs, but that it has rather been the university degree as such. Many do feel, however, that criminology has been useful to them in their work, and employers have noted that the Department's criminologists employ a critical and reflective approach. Approximately half of the Department's alumni also appear to have worked with some form of research or investigative work with links to the subject or within the prison and probation service. In the first evaluation, which was conducted in 1977, a striking number had a background in the prison and probation service prior to studying criminology at the Department. The prison and probation service's hope that courses in criminology would become a competence requirement for those with an academic background working at the agency does not appear to have been realised, however – none of those who had applied for a job at the agency felt that criminology had been viewed as a merit in connection with their applications (Tham 1977).

Of those who have published doctoral dissertations, approximately ten are employed at the Department. It may be viewed as problematic that the Department largely recruits from

among its own former students. The majority have, however, first left the Department with their doctorates and worked for a while in public sector agencies and other universities. Three are employed at universities abroad, and five at other Swedish universities, including the National Police College. Several of those who have graduated or obtained post-graduate licentiate qualifications are working in the police service. The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention has also employed a large number of criminologists. Of the agency's eleven employees with doctorates, seven published their dissertations at the Department. Several of the Department's teachers/researchers have also worked at the National Council.

### **The Department's relation to crime policy**

The work of the Department of Criminology today is conducted in a context that is quite different from that of the time at which the Department was established. One change that has occurred is that research on crime and punishment is today conducted within a large number of other disciplines in Sweden, such as sociology, psychology, political science, social work, economics, economic history, history, law and medicine. In several cases, this research is also organised at separate departments or divisions of larger departments. The Department of Criminology remains, however, the first and the

largest. Its location at a university in the country's capital has also influenced the Department's research as a result of its proximity to politicians and central civil service departments.

The Department's relations specifically with the government and parliament have changed since the Department was established. As has been described above, the initial expectations associated with the establishment of a criminology department were substantial. Criminology was to provide the basis for a rational crime policy, and in particular in a context in which crime was rising rapidly. The first professor also attempted to meet these expectations. The teaching material included a striking proportion of documents from governmental inquiries, and the students' dissertations were focused on 'descriptive criminology'. The utility of criminology for political decisions was also, quite naturally, a central focus of the governmental inquiry from 1992 (SOU 1992) on providing more funding for criminological research.

The establishment of a Department of Criminology coincided, however, with the period directly following the student revolt of 1968. The idea of providing treatment to offenders was rejected on both ideological and empirical grounds. Individual explanations of crime were replaced by structural explanations. The offence was viewed as constituting less of a problem than the reaction to the offence. Crime

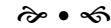
policy and state repression were made central. Criminologists started to question criminal law in general and the prisons in particular, and the majority sympathised with the inmate movement and KRUM, which was formed in 1966. Criminological research came increasingly to consist in a critique of drug policy, of alarmist descriptions of crime and of the crimes of the state.

At the same time, this 'critical criminology' meant that criminologists were no longer disposed towards finding 'solutions' to the crime problem. One dissertation from the Department has noted how negative criticism focused on social injustice failed to satisfy politicians and public sector agencies. Instead, a new category of 'administrative criminology' emerged, which was conducted within civil service departments and public sector agencies themselves (Andersson 2002). The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention arrived in 1974 and developed extensive research and investigative operations in the form of among other things evaluations and descriptions of the crime structure and crime trends. Politicians therefore came to perceive less of a need for university criminology. It also became increasingly uncommon for university criminologists to be commissioned to participate in governmental inquiries.

Statements in the media and the many responses written by the Department during

the consultation process for crime policy proposals issued by successive governments may also have contributed to criminologists not always being viewed as politically constructive. The Department's criminologists have also been criticised by both the government and in newspaper editorials. This political invalidation expressed itself particularly clearly when Sweden, in connection with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Scandinavian Research Council for Criminology, both unilaterally and against the wishes of the other Scandinavian countries, decided to leave the Council. The reasons given by the Swedish Minister for Justice were that criminologists were not delivering; they were no longer viewed as useful. At the same time, however, the Government determined to increase its support for the recently established 'Stockholm Prize in Criminology' and its annual symposium. One of the two chairpersons of the jury for this international prize is Jerzy Sarnecki.

In 2014, the last of the Department's teachers/researchers who were born in 1940s will be retiring. This event means that over the course of only a couple of years, the Department has undergone a generational turnover. The tradition of the Department of Criminology, together with the members of a new generation of teachers, researchers and doctoral students, inspires confidence in the Department's future.



This chapter has been sent for 'consultation' to the Department's employees. I am very grateful for the views and comments I have received, although I have not included all of them – the story of the Department could certainly be written in many ways.

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'The Assault' by Pieter Bruegel the Elder, part of the Stockholm University collection at *Spökslottet* (the Haunted Castle), an artefact that itself motivates strict security measures. Otherwise a suitable illustration both of criminology and economic history. (Photo: Erik Cornelius)







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