

EUROPEAN GROUP

FOR THE STUDY OF DEVIANCE & SOCIAL CONTROL

An international network working towards social justice, state accountability and decarceration since 1973

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Coordinator team 2022–2026: Simone Santorso, Maryja Šupa



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NEWSLETTER | 2024 (5) June


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Our Latest Newsletter is Here!

Hello everyone,

Our newest newsletter has arrived, filled with fascinating material and contributions! Here's a sneak peek of what you'll find inside: a thought-provoking post on the Grenfell Tower victims' struggle for justice: an in-depth exploration of the ongoing fight for justice; a deep dive into Julian Assange case: a reflection on the battles and implications surrounding Assange; updates about the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal on State and Environmental Violence in West Papua, organised by Queen Mary University of London; a call for paper for a special issue on Southern State Crime Criminology; a summary of the main outcomes from the 2024 conference in Belfast, titled North-South Criminology Conference: Criminology in Times of Conflict: Rights, Harms, and Responsibilities; stay informed with the latest news from around the world, and lots more goodies you won't want to miss 

We're also excited to present the Crime of Powerful Working Group's contribution in this edition – it promises to be fantastic! A big shoutout to the CoP crew for their amazing work in putting this together. 

Additionally, this newsletter includes the call for papers for the Resistance Power and Justice Conference in Vilnius. Don't hesitate to submit your papers!

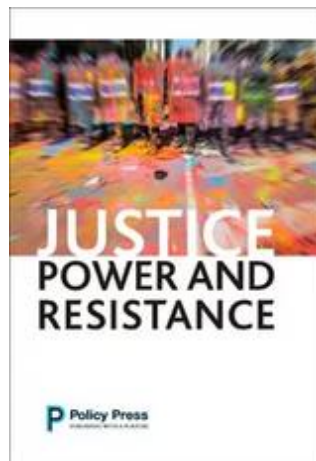
In solidarity,
Simone & Maryja

Upcoming EG conference!

The 52st annual conference of the European Group will take place **in August 27-29, 2024 in Vilnius.**

See the full call for papers at the [Conference webpage](#)

Contributions welcome!



"Justice, Power and Resistance" the journal initiated by the EG and dedicated to the critical analysis of justice, power, social harms, and resistance accepts articles, interventions and book reviews.

Contributions from EG members are very welcome!
More info: [Call for submissions](#)

Justice after Grenfell? – shared by Steve Tombs

Thanks to Joe Sim for his as-ever helpful comments on a first draft of this blog. The blog was originally posted on the seventh anniversary of the fire at <https://www5.open.ac.uk/research-centres/herc/blog/justice-after-grenfell> and <https://ccseljmu.wordpress.com/2024/06/13/justice-after-grenfell/>

Seven years today, on 14th June 2017, a fire broke out in Grenfell Tower, a 24-storey tower block on the Lancaster West estate in North Kensington, West London, a relatively poor and ethnically diverse area of social housing located in the richest Borough in England. 72 people were killed. The fire was not intended, but nor was it any accident - indeed, it was a site of [state-corporate violence](#), produced by the actions and inactions of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RKBC) and the Kensington and Chelsea Tenants' Management Organisation (KCTMO), a string of [central Government decisions](#), along with [a long list of private companies](#) involved in the refurbishment, including the production and sale of fatally flammable cladding.



The tragedy was not just avoidable, but one which the bereaved, survivors and residents had in fact predicted. As Grenfell Tower was being refurbished in 2014-2016, a residents' organisation – the Grenfell Action Group - raised repeated concerns about the lack of fire safety instructions, power surges, the single staircase egress in the event of a fire, along with the exposure of gas pipes within the flats as a result of the refurbishment. At 5am on the morning of the fire, as the Tower was still in flames, the Group [wrote](#), “Regular readers of this blog will know that we have posted numerous warnings in recent years about the very poor fire safety standards at Grenfell Tower and elsewhere in RBKC. ALL OUR WARNINGS FELL ON DEAF EARS and we predicted that a catastrophe like this was inevitable and just a matter of time”.

The starkest of these warnings had been published in November 2016, seven months *before* the fire, under the apocryphal but prescient headline '[KCTMO – Playing with fire!](#)', which warned of “a catastrophic event” which would lay bare “the ineptitude and incompetence of our landlord, the KCTMO, and bring an end to the dangerous living conditions and neglect of health and safety legislation that they inflict upon their tenants and leaseholders”. It emphasised that “only an incident that results in serious loss of life of KCTMO residents” would expose the failings of the KCTMO and “how appallingly our landlord has ignored their responsibility to ensure the health and safety of their tenants and leaseholders. They can't say that they haven't been warned!”

They *were* warned. They knew. They did not listen. The richest council in England took a decision during the refurbishment design to replace a fire-resistant zinc cladding “[with cheaper aluminium panels to save £293,368](#)”. So, 72 people were killed and countless others had their lives detrimentally affected, forever, by a fire that was not just avoidable but which the bereaved, survivors and residents had in fact predicted. To repeat: “They can't say that they haven't been warned!”



What then? A public inquiry sat between 2018-2022, with its final report not due until this September, 2024. The Metropolitan police have reported that they are investigating possible charges of corporate manslaughter, likely implicating the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea, the Kensington & Chelsea Tenants Management Organisation, Rydon as the lead contractor on refurbishment, and a series of other sub-contractors as well as private companies related to the

cladding so tragically used on the Tower. By [September 2023](#), 56 individuals – again, likely from the same organisations – have been questioned under caution for possible gross negligence manslaughter charges. A civil action against 14 organisations resulted in a [£150m settlement](#) for about 900 people in April 2023. If any criminal charges do follow, then they will not take place until [2027 at the earliest](#) – ten years after the fire.

But whatever the outcomes of these legal processes – should they in fact follow – what does this mean for justice for the bereaved, survivors and residents? I cannot and would not claim to speak for those individuals and households of course. But I do have experience of working, directly or vicariously, with those bereaved by [deaths at work](#) and also those killed in the [custody of the state](#). Overwhelmingly, a key demand of those so-affected are for the *truth* as to why their loved ones died – and it is a hope that the Grenfell Inquiry will formally acknowledge what many already know about the killings at Grenfell and how they could and should have been prevented. It follows that whatever recommendations ultimately emanate from the Grenfell Inquiry, these must be implemented – although sadly the fact is that such inquiries, not to mention a plethora of other official reports on avoidable deaths, are routinely ignored by powerful state and corporate bodies. It is precisely for this this reason that the charity INQUEST is leading a campaign for a [National Oversight Mechanism](#) to provide better learning, prevention, transparency and accountability for bereaved families following these and similar deaths. In this context, it is gruesome to note that had the coronial recommendations after the fire which killed six people at another tower block, [Lakanal House](#), in South London in 2009, been implemented by government, then Grenfell may never have happened.

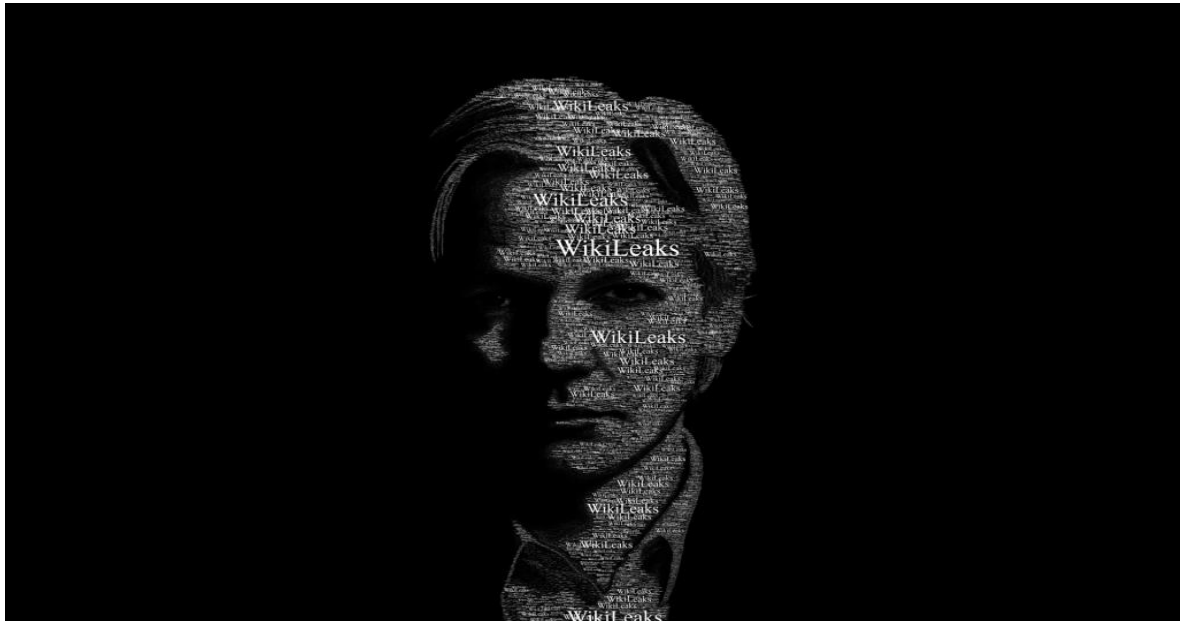


But, then, whatever criminal justice may deliver in terms of corporate and individual prosecutions, an overwhelming demand of families affected by such tragedies is that other families do not experience similar, searing grief and loss, life-changing detrimental harms and life-long trauma. Historic, structural factors meant that the lives of those in Grenfell Tower counted for less than those of others in the richest Borough of England. Addressing such factors requires *transformative* not criminal justice: [“a way of making things right” which do not rely on the state but “actively cultivate ... safety for all”](#) – that is, radical changes in the ways in which we organise our society, with a bottom line being a commitment to treating all people with respect and dignity, which also means listening and responding to them. The challenge then becomes, to [paraphrase](#) Mia Mingus, to determine ways – democratically – which do not merely address specific instances of violence, but transcend the oppressive relationships that allow these to happen. Grenfell surely highlights the need to “transform the conditions which help to create acts of violence or make them possible. Often this includes transforming harmful oppressive dynamics, our relationships to each other, and our communities at large.” Such outcome may provide some element of justice after Grenfell.

Steve Tombs, Emeritus Professor in Criminology, The Open University

Guilty of Mobilization: Julian Assange and the Common Sense of Democracy - Shared by Vincenzo Scalia

The post was originally published in Italian on *Studi sulla Questione Criminale*, available at this [link](#)



On June 26, 2024, around 10 am GMT, Julian Assange landed at Canberra Airport, returning to Australia, his homeland, after 14 years spent between Sweden and England. The last five years, spent in the high-security Belmarsh prison in London, were the worst and raised concerns about his physical and mental health. Finally, the Australian government pressured US President Biden, negotiating a five-year sentence for violations of espionage laws, equivalent to the time Assange had already spent in prison.

Thus, it was possible to put an end to a case that has captivated global public opinion since 2010, when Wikileaks, the organization for which Assange was the spokesperson, published classified documents, including videos, related to US bombings of civilians.

From a criminological standpoint, Assange's case has been exemplary from two perspectives: as an activist of a less institutional organization, Assange could be considered a true outsider (Becker, 1963; Scalia, 2024). His activity, in fact, falls outside the widespread norms and common sense that prioritize state reason and almost uncritically accept US foreign policy as it has developed since the fall of the Berlin Wall. Additionally, his and Wikileaks' operations outside the standards of increasingly embedded journalism (Maurizi, 2022), ever more revolving around the leisure industry, left him without sufficient support from his colleagues, save for some commendable exceptions, paving the way for his stigmatization and criminalization before broad segments of the public.

From the perspective of state crime (Rothe & Kauzlarich, 2016), Assange also fits doubly into this view: as an observer, as he exposed the US government's commission of an International Domestic Governmental Crime (IIGC), a state crime that violates both international and domestic laws, committed outside its borders, and as a victim. In this case, Assange suffered a Domestic International Governmental Crime (DIGC), experiencing the infringement of a fundamental right, recognized internationally, by the British government.

Last but not least, Assange's case fits into the struggle for regulating the use of the web, with practices aimed at making the internet an open and undifferentiated public space against those who would regulate it through the criminalization of activists, regulating and restricting the use of digital tools by creating a new moral panic (Cohen, 1971; De La Gasnerie, 2017).



In light of the approaches we have outlined, the liberation of Julian Assange, although welcomed by activists who have long fought for the release of the Australian journalist, may leave some puzzled about how it happened. The main concern is that Assange had to plead guilty, a choice that sounds like passive acceptance of the existing legislative regime, thus the labels of "spy" and "web pirate." According to sceptics, Assange's decision would legitimize the arcane imperil logic pursued by governments to justify behaviours that exceed the rules of the rule of law, first and foremost,

freedom of the press. In other words, it would legitimize the aforementioned state crimes.

The second concern regards the threat to the exercise of civil liberties. Upon closer reflection, the judicial persecution, capture, and inhumane detention conditions Assange was subjected to sound like a real intimidation against those who want to exercise press freedom. Wikileaks has been significantly weakened since his arrest in London, and Assange's release can be seen as a signal that the objective has been achieved. It is understood that the operator must not be disturbed, at serious risk to freedom, reputation, and physical safety. By pleading guilty, Assange would have legitimized his status as an outsider and legitimized the dominant norms and common sense.

The third concern relates to the supposed instrumental nature of Assange's release, orchestrated by Biden to boost his poll numbers and rally the liberal electorate. While we understand the reasons for these three concerns, we want to offer another interpretation of the case.

Regarding the criminal case, it is necessary to consider the difference between the continental and Anglo-Saxon criminal systems, where Assange's trial took place. If it had happened in Italy, Assange would have had the possibility to appeal up to the Supreme Court. In the UK and the USA, this possibility is not considered. Once the trial is closed and a verdict reached, either new exculpatory evidence is presented, or the sentence is served in full. In a potential criminal trial in the USA, where he risked 175 years in prison, Assange would have had few options to obtain a favourable sentence and could have served 175 years in prison (!) for crimes that, as they threaten state security, do not allow for parole, which can be requested after at least 10 years of detention. Therefore, negotiating to receive a sentence 35 times less than what he risked if he went to trial represents, even technically, a great victory.

Secondly, pleading guilty does not necessarily mean legitimizing state laws. Apart from the case of the Rosenberg couple, who were tried, sentenced to death, and executed in 1953 for the same crimes, Assange was accused of, a trial about which many jurists raised more than one objection, it is common to declare oneself a political prisoner. It could be argued that Assange was not questioning the US state structure nor was he working to overthrow it violently.

However, like political prisoners, Assange took responsibility for his actions. On the one hand, he admitted to violating espionage laws. On the other hand, he did not deny that he did so to exercise one of the main civil rights, namely freedom of the press. If anything, he exposed an internal contradiction within Western democracies and, in particular, US legislation, which subordinates civil liberties to state security that, as shown by the documents and videos publicized, is only presumed, as it is unclear how US citizens are safer if civilians in Iraq die from indiscriminate bombings.

The aspect of guilt/innocence introduces us to the concerns about civil liberties. The Anglo-American philosopher Thomas Paine, whose pamphlet "Common Sense" catalysed the independent spirit during the revolution of the thirteen colonies, stated that in the face of unjust laws, one must rebel. This is exactly what Assange did, and what all journalists do who, defying censorship and state laws, exercise the right to report.

They are aware of violating existing laws, of being guilty from a criminal standpoint, but are perfectly legitimized on an ethical and value-based level, as well as ideally.

Even those who occupy houses, public buildings, places of production, those who try to hinder the construction of large projects that waste resources and destroy the environment are fully aware of opposing the laws in force. And they take responsibility for it, as Assange did. But criminal responsibility is not political responsibility. While it is true, regarding journalism, that Wikileaks has been significantly weakened by what happened to its spokesperson, it is equally incontrovertible to affirm that today, freedom of the press, although in danger, is still exercised from Palestine to Ukraine, from Mexico to Kurdistan, by all journalists who live their profession as a vocation. The liberation of Assange must be a source of inspiration for them and for all that part of the public opinion that looks at their work with interest.

It is precisely to this section of public opinion that we owe Assange's liberation. This is the fourth point, and perhaps the most important, of this reflection. It is very likely that President Biden released him for electoral reasons. There is no need to be scandalized. Once it would have been said that internal contradictions within the dominant groups were exploited. But this is not the point. Assange's case risked being limited to Sweden's complicity, Ecuador's complacency, which allowed British police to arrest him inside its embassy, and the political and cultural subordination of the UK to the USA. Instead, it ended up generating an international mass mobilisation, bringing traditionally excluded actors to the public debate, involving, for example, some Italian municipal councils that granted Julian honorary citizenship, and culminating in the protest of the UN Commissioner against Torture to the British government. This allowed the current outcome to be reached. In conclusion, Julian Assange managed to mobilize global public opinion, triggering a grassroots democratic exercise that a lifeless West vitally needs. We really must thank him, wish him well, and hope that the widespread democratic fabric created around his case does not disperse but instead strengthens, in the face of the many struggles that await us.

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Call for special issue papers of *Justice Power and Resistance* – Technologies of Oppression, Technologies of Resistance

The editors of *Justice, Power and Resistance* invite submissions for a special issue based on the theme of [European Group for Deviance and Social Control's 52nd annual conference: Technologies of Oppression, Technologies of Resistance](#)

Abstract submission deadline: **15 September 2024**

Conference call

From human interactions in everyday life to automated policy, technology has hundreds of facets to be observed, interpreted, and discussed. While it is a truism that states and corporations use new technologies as a means of social control, the ways in which it happens are far from straightforward. Technology is also inherent in the shaping and negotiation of new norms, defining which transgressions are possible, and how they are carried out. Technology offers the opportunity for subversion and engagement, and understanding how it works sometimes makes the difference between empowerment and oppression. And prevailing techno-optimistic and techno-pessimistic discourses deserve critique for diverting attention from the actual problems at hand.

What are we looking for?

This conference and the resulting special issue of *Justice, Power and Resistance* will critically explore the role of technology in and the ways in which technology enables oppressive practices or how it can prevent harm and facilitate resistance. In particular we invite submissions addressing (but not limited to):

- use of technology in and by systems of justice, policing, and punishment;
- capital and the technologies of war;
- power differentials ingrained in technologies;
- social harms of technological solutions;
- migration, digital and biotechnological colonialism and resistance to it;
- technological empowerment of dissent and activism;
- the impact of technology on bodies, genders, sexualities, and biological worldviews;
- theorising technology in studies of deviance and social control;
- technologies in critical pedagogy.

The list is far from exhaustive. We hope that these directions will find resonance no matter what specific area of research you are working in.

We invite submissions of [Research Articles](#), [Interventions](#) and [Book Reviews](#) from scholars, practitioners and activists.

Information for contributors

Abstracts (250 words) should be sent to jprjournal@outlook.com by **15 September 2024**.

Authors will be notified whether their abstract has been selected for the special issue **by 15 October**.

Please note: All research articles will undergo the Journal's standard double anonymous peer review process, once the full version has been submitted. Please see our [author instructions](#) for guidance on preparing and submitting your full article.

If you would like to discuss your submission please contact the journal editors at jprjournal@outlook.com.

Key dates and deadlines

- Deadline for extended article abstracts or draft articles: **15 September 2024**
- Notification of the editors' initial decision: **15 October 2024**
- Deadline to submit full research article: **12 February 2025**
- Notification to authors of first decisions including revisions to be made: **15 May 2025**
- Deadline to submit first revisions: **15 July 2025**
- Further revisions, as needed: **15 August 2025**
- Publication: JPR aims to publish the Special Issue in **late 2025**

Scan the code below to read the call for papers, or visit our [webpage](#)



EUROPEAN GROUP
FOR THE STUDY OF DEVIANCE & SOCIAL CONTROL

Overview and video links on the North-South Criminology Conference: Criminology in Times of Conflict: Rights, Harms and Responsibilities - shared by Vicky Canning



The 15th Irish North-South Criminology Conference was held in June in Belfast, where the first-ever meeting was held in 2006. This is an especially appropriate return as this year marks the 30th anniversary of the Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice (and the field of criminology) at QUB.

An overview of the three days has been outlined by QUB PhD candidate Conor Flannery here: <https://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofLaw/research/law-lab/crim-con-24.html>

Plenary 1: Witnessing Harm and Ascribing Responsibility in Ongoing Asymmetrical Conflicts – available to watch here/listen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7tulRE9jnY>

Plenary 2: Institutional Abuses: available to watch/listen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cP1YQdGOWFQ>

Plenary 3: Borders, State Control and Harm; available to watch/listen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVWQhO0-Pn8>

Special Issue: Southern State Crime Criminology – shared by Sophia Knowles-Mofford

The State Crime Journal invites proposals for a special issue on 'Southerning State Crime Criminology', to be coordinated by the editorial team under the leadership of **Professor Valeria Vekh Weis and Professor Kristian Lasslett**.

This call stems from the urgent need to address imbalances in the criminological discourse on state crime. While a significant proportion of state crime occurs in the Global South, the dominant criminological canon has been shaped predominantly by scholars from the Global North, particularly the US and the UK, often neglecting Southern studies. Additionally, recent strides in Southern, decolonial, and countercolonial epistemological approaches in criminology have yet to permeate the study of state crimes, with a few exceptions (Agozino et al. 2021). The lacuna is particularly notable in the absence of intersectional perspectives.

This situation within the Anglophone criminological literature necessitates a transformative shift. Southern perspectives unveil the impact of global inequalities on scientific production and the extended disregard of valuable knowledge and experiences from the Global South. Beyond seeking epistemic justice, Southern viewpoints offer a fresh lens for exploring overlooked instances of state crime, showcasing the work of marginalized Southern scholars (e.g., Zaffaroni 2022, del Olmo 1990), and integrating local epistemologies rooted in ongoing experiences of oppression.

Recognizing the role of structural publishing inequities in these epistemic inequalities, the special issue marks a pivotal moment that will persist as part of the journal's policies, challenging existing disparities. Instead of reinforcing English language hegemony through translation support, the first step involves accepting submissions in other languages. While the original-language articles will feature in the special issue, an AI-translated version in English will be published on the journal's website. Additional changes include disrupting the mainstream, Western-centric writing structure and inviting submissions adhering to alternative styles while upholding scientific rigor. We are committed to ensuring that peer reviewers possess the necessary linguistic and epistemological skills for a fair evaluation. Lastly, acknowledging that relevant analyses from a criminological standpoint may exist in other languages under different disciplinary labels, this call embraces diverse approaches as long as a clear connection to criminology is established.

We welcome proposals on the following topics, which serve as indicators rather than limitations: • Exploring Southern perspectives in state crime criminology

- Contrasting Southern, decolonial, counter-colonial, and post-colonial viewpoints on state crime criminology
- Intersectional theorisations and applications of Southern perspectives to state crime.
- Comparative analysis of state crime in the Global North and South • Historical examinations of state crime in the Global South
- Present and future challenges in the realm of state crime in the Global South
- Decolonizing the publishing system in state crime criminological research
- AI as a tool for achieving epistemic justice in state crime criminological research
-

Scholars from marginalized groups are strongly encouraged to submit proposals. We also invite collaborative submissions between authors from the Global North and South, as well as partnerships between academics and activists. Kindly submit your proposed article (fully anonymised, and 5–6,000 words) to **s.knowles-mofford@qmul.ac.uk** by **15 October 2024**.

Full information on submission guidelines can be found here: <http://statecrime.org/journal/notes-forcontributors/>.

See the index for other language translations of this call (generated with AI)

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From the Crime of Powerful Working Group

The Crimes of the Powerful' working group provides a network and database for teachers, researchers, students and activists across and beyond Europe who have an interest studying and confronting corporate and state crimes and harms – in their various forms. The working group will provide an opportunity to share our knowledge of corporate and state harm and help establish new links with activists and academics who critically engage with the current forms, extent and nature of such crimes and harms. The working group will thus provide an opportunity to connect local campaigns with a wider network through which we can collectively provide solidarity and support. The working group also aims to foster a greater understanding of criminal and harmful corporate and state activities; offer possibilities for collaborative research; and work towards emancipatory change.

Working Group Coordinators: [Anne Alvesalo-Kuusi](#), [Vickie Cooper](#), [Hannah Wilkinson](#)

Based upon observations and insights offered by academic research, investigative journalism and the struggles of campaigning and activist organisations, we recognise that:

- State and corporate crimes and harms take a diverse range of forms (to be inserted)
- Many corporate and state crimes and harms are either legal or sit at the borders of il/legality
- Many corporate and state crimes and harms, if they are at least 'punishable', never get processed through any legal system

The economic, physical, emotional and social costs of corporate and state crimes and harms vastly outweigh the costs associated with the harms and crimes upon which criminal justice systems and civil law overwhelmingly focus

Corporate and state crimes and harms victimise ubiquitously, but do not do so in an undifferentiated nor randomised way – their effects generally flow along cleavages of class, gender, ethnicity and other structured social divisions. Corporate and state power makes knowing about the harms and crimes which are produced by such entities and their interactions relatively difficult – casting a critical gaze up, to power, is in general more difficult than casting such a gaze downwards, towards the 'usual suspects'. To resist corporate and state harms and crimes we must first be able to expose them, document them, make them known – and in these efforts we know that we face obstacles and resistance, since one of the bases and effects of power is to seek to protect that power from critical scrutiny.

These features of state and corporate crimes and harms require an energetic, co-operative and sustained response. This group seeks to provide one forum for galvanising such a response. To this end, we are committed to the following:

- Developing links between those seeking to expose criminal and harmful corporate and state activity
- Pooling resources, expertise and experiences in a non-exploitative and mutually supportive fashion
- Providing a series of resources in the form of tools, tactics and strategies, as well as documents...
- Acting as a forum that can provide speedy responses to egregious corporate and state activities, utilising resources offered by Universities and academics
- Supporting those threatened by power as a result of their efforts to expose corporate and state wrongdoing

In seeking to achieve these commitments, the Group aims to provide a forum for the free exchange of ideas which is at the same time a space free of sexist, racist or class-based prejudices, either in the form of words or actions.

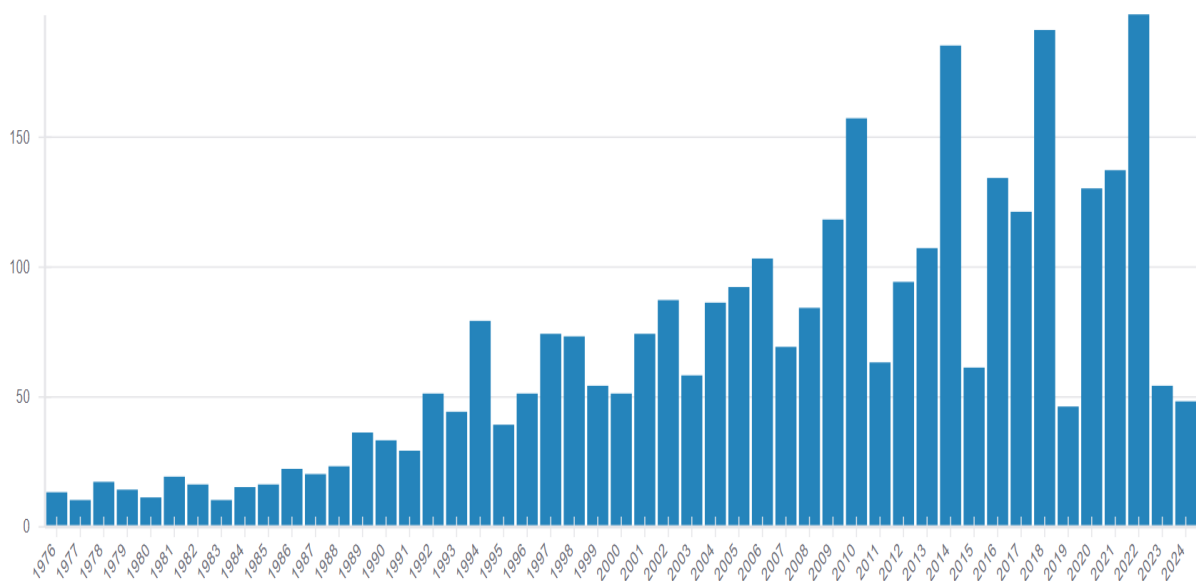
We recognise that there are a plethora of groups and individuals long engaged in these practices .. and ... the aim of this group is neither to usurp nor to act parasitically upon any of these activities... As academics, we do not privilege academic activity. But we do recognise that, even in an era of marketized education many academics enjoy resources and privileges which it is our obligation to make as widely available as possible.

The organisation of the European working group on corporate and state crime and harm is undertaken by a steering group that will consist of at least the following: a working group coordinator; the coordinator of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control; the secretary of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control. Members of the working group may also be invited to join a steering group. The working group will meet every year at the annual conference of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control and members are encouraged to organise other events, meetings and conferences throughout the calendar year to help generate ideas, networks and direct interventions. Such events may be full meetings for the whole working group or specially convened meetings of local activists in one given region/nation. A separate mailing list will be maintained and other European Group media sources, such as Facebook, YouTube, twitter and crim-space, will be used to disseminate information about the working group and its activities. The working group coordinator will be elected at the European Group annual conference and full details of the membership of the working group will be detailed on our website www.european-group.org

Research infrastructure for the intersections of law and politics under construction

written by Anne Alvesalo-Kuusi, Kimmo Elo, Elina Pirjatanniemi, Istvan Rytkönen, Nea Peltoniemi and Marjaana Sjölund

Some of you may have been present at the Barcelona conference in 2019 where we introduced Lawradar, a research infrastructure for legislative documents then in its beta-testing phase. Lawradar, developed at the University of Turku, has been in full operation since 2020. A lot has happened since Barcelona 2019. Lawradar service (lakitutka.fi) enables advanced word searches into legislative materials, and after the relevant data has been identified, it can be effortlessly downloaded onto one's own device for further quantitative or qualitative analysis. In addition, the contents of documents can be downloaded in different formats, e.g. PDF, for software developed for qualitative analysis. If researchers are interested in security speech, they can find all governmental law proposals referring to "security*" ("turvallisuus*") in a heartbeat.



The number of searches conducted in Lawradar has surged from a yearly 13,063 (May 2020 – April 2021) to 42,805 (May 2023 – May 2024), and over the last 12 months there has been 3,567 searches per month. In 2023 we got significant funding from the Research Council of Finland to expand RI. The [LAWPOL](#) research infrastructure (RI), now under construction, will offer a constantly expanding, comprehensive digital data repository of legislative and political documents with an exceptional added value. It is the first-ever open-access research infrastructure that enables access through a single portal to legislative documents, plenary debates, and party and government programmes covering the whole timespan of Finland's independence since 1917.

Established in 2023, LAWPOL builds on three existing research teams: Lawradar, FINPARL and the ÅAU Institute for Human Rights. Lawradar, an RI for legislative documents, was developed at the UTU Faculty of Law for legal and socio-legal purposes. FINPARL at the UTU Faculty of Social Sciences provides a machine-readable corpus consisting of plenary minutes, MP biographies and other documents of the Parliament of Finland. The ÅAU Institute for Human Rights provides expertise in fundamental and human rights issues relevant to the RI.

Traditionally, the disciplines of sociology, political science, and legal studies have been divided into 'separate tables', which has generated knowledge gaps, hampered dialogue, and thus hindered scientific progress and innovation. The starting point of LAWPOL is that law and politics are deeply interconnected in several ways and these connections and interdependencies deserve more attention. Therefore, LAWPOL is based on the idea that

as law is both the groundwork for, and the final product of, politics, it is too important to be left solely to lawyers. Politics influences the creation of public policies and the enactment, amendment, or repeal of laws. Politicians propose and debate laws which reflect the values, interests, priorities, and ideologies of the political parties, interest groups, corporations and individuals in power. The interconnections of law and politics are not limited to what happens in the parliamentary processes and other obvious spheres of political activity. Furthermore, political conflicts do not come to an end when legislation is enacted, but they continue in the courtroom. To tap into this interface, LAWPOL will enable research that reveals the interconnections between legal decision-making and politics.

Our long-term goal is for LAWPOL to provide an integrated research ecosystem consisting of large data repositories and dedicated research tools. By doing so, LAWPOL will significantly improve the use of these documents by researchers from a broad spectrum of disciplines, as well as by media, civil society actors and ordinary citizens. LAWPOL collaborates with experts on language technologies and computational linguistics with plans of creating new tools based on modern AI-based solutions and designed to answer research questions typical and topical for human sciences. Our aim is to develop LAWPOL into an internationally established forerunner and model for respective RIs in other countries. If you are interested in our work, please don't hesitate to contact!

Anne Alvesalo-Kuusi, Kimmo Elo, Elina Pirjatanniemi, Istvan Rytönen, Nea Peltoniemi and Marjaana Sjölund

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Updates from the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal on State and Environmental Violence in West Papua



The Centre for Climate Crime and Justice at Queen Mary University of London will host a [Permanent Peoples' Tribunal](#) (PPT) on State and Environmental Violence in West Papua on 27th-29th June.

A panel of 7 Tribunal judges will hear evidence in person and live from West Papua from people facing political repression and from witnesses of state atrocities and environmental destruction. West Papua hosts the third largest rainforest in the world and it is currently under threat from industrial development. Because of its significance to the planet, the ongoing state repression and environmental degradation in the region affects us all.

The tribunal will hear evidence that links the extra judicial killings, disappearances, torture and mass displacement to the aggressive profiteering of global corporations. Witnesses will show how the suppression of the political aspirations of the Papuan people for self-determination are at the root of both state and corporate violence. As the leading West Papuan lawyer Gustaf Kawer argues,

The annexation of West Papua into the State of Indonesia is part of a long history of environmental destruction and state violence against Papua's people and its natural resources. Our hope is that the international community and the UN will respond to the situation in West Papua and evaluate the Indonesian state so that there can be recovery for natural resources and the Papuan people.

This is the 53rd PPT to be held since the organisation was founded in 1979 to continue the legacy of the Russell Tribunals on Vietnam (1966-67) and on the dictatorships in Latin America (1973-76).

The Indictment that will be considered by the Tribunal can be found [here](#). All details about the proceedings will be updated on the Centre for Climate Crime and Justice website [here](#).

NO MORE DEATHS CAMPAIGN



The campaign is available at this link: <https://www.inquest.org.uk/no-more-deaths-campaign>

Public and private bodies have a duty to keep us safe from harm and protect our lives, but every year hundreds of people die **preventable state related deaths**.

These include deaths of people in police and prison custody, mental health settings and following disasters including at Grenfell and Hillsborough.

In response, the public and bereaved families need **transparency, accountability and action**, so that changes are made to protect us and our families and prevent future deaths.

Hundreds of vital recommendations are made following inquests and inquiries. Yet there is no system in place to oversee them or ensure changes are made.

Potentially life-saving recommendations are too often forgotten, dismissed or simply not implemented. This leads to yet more preventable deaths and harms.

INQUEST is calling for a National Oversight Mechanism: A new independent public body responsible for collating, analysing and following-up on recommendations arising from inquests, inquiries, official reviews and investigations into state-related deaths.

WHY IS CHANGE NEEDED NOW?

The current lack of transparency, responsibility and accountability for recommendations has serious implications for bereaved families. It also undermines public trust in the UK's investigatory framework and has a significant human and financial cost.

WHAT WOULD A NATIONAL OVERSIGHT MECHANISM DO?

- **Collate** recommendations and public bodies' responses in a new database
- **Analyse** responses from public bodies & issue reports
- **Follow up** on progress, escalate concerns & share thematic findings

TAKE ACTION

- **[Sign the petition](#)**
- Write to your MP to ask for their support using **[our draft template](#)**. You can find your local MP and email them **[here](#)**. Please keep us updated and share responses via inquest@inquest.org.uk.
- Share the campaign on **[Facebook](#)**, **[Instagram](#)**, **[Twitter](#)** and **[LinkedIn](#)**.

72 people passed away and we can't bring our loved ones back. The impact it's had on our families and our community could have been prevented. We can't change that now, but we can change the lives of those we've lost to count, for their deaths not to have been in vain. There has to be change. We have to learn from this.

- Hanan Wahabi, Grenfell Tower fire survivor, whose brother and his family died in the fire

Recent publications:

- Aalto J. BinaryTech in motion: The sexgender in the European Court of Human Rights jurisprudence. *Leiden Journal of International Law*. Published online 2024:1-19

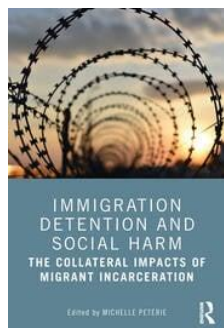
Abstract: Sexgender has become politicized by neo-conservative and populist movements in Europe and elsewhere. This article explores how the sexgender binary is foundational to the social and material construction of the non-heterosexual legal subject and unveils binary hierarchies embedded therein. Furthermore, it develops a new materialist methodology called BinaryTech, which exposes the binary formulas of inequality and difference in the Court's jurisprudence. This new materialist approach, based on Karen Barad's agential realism, is used to critically examine how differences are produced as stable features of subjects and objects. The human of the Convention being heterosexual is thereby the result, constructed on material-discursive differentiation of non-heterosexuals. The article concludes by describing how new materialist interventions and Nordic feminist perspectives on law can offer valuable insights within the emerging material turn. **Available [here](#)**

- Weis Vegh V. (2024) *Todo preso es político. Una historia sobre la (in)justicia pena*. CLACSO

Este libro, en coedición con Universität Konstanz, es a la vez un tratado, una historia y una investigación criminológicos, que abordan el concepto de la pena como castigo en el mundo occidental, desde los albores del capitalismo hasta nuestros días, sin dejar de lado la perspectiva latinoamericana. La autora, Valeria Vegh Weis, desarrolla a lo largo de los capítulos y apartados una rigurosa exposición teórica y empírica sobre las dimensiones de la criminalización en nuestras sociedades pasadas y presentes, lo que vuelve a este libro un material imprescindible para analizar la indiscutible relación entre crimen, pena y desarrollo capitalista. **It is possible to download the book [here](#)**

- Peterie M. (2024) *Immigration Detention and Social Harm. The Collateral Impacts of Migrant Incarceration*. Routledge

This interdisciplinary edited collection is the first internationally to comprehensively explore the harms immigration detention imposes beyond the 'detainee'. Bringing together research from North America, the



UK, Europe and Australia, it shows how the harms immigration detention imposes ramify beyond singular bodies, moments and locations – reverberating through families and communities and echoing across time. The book is structured in three parts. *Part One: Human Costs*, examines the harms immigration detention imposes on people who are not personally incarcerated, but whose lives are nonetheless entangled with detention regimes. *Part Two: Societal Consequences* highlights the corrosive impacts of immigration detention at the societal level, including the role migrant incarceration plays in naturalising and perpetuating inequalities and injustices. *Part Three: Ending the Harm* interrogates the possibilities of detention reform and detention abolition. This book will be a key reference text for scholars and students in the social and behavioural sciences who are interested in

immigration detention, human rights and/or incarceration. **Paperback available to order [here](#).**

European Group Statement In Solidarity With Palestine

February 2024

We are writing as a group of scholars, practitioners and activists working towards social justice, state accountability and decarceration to reaffirm our solidarity with Palestinians in their struggle for liberation. We express our profound outrage and condemn the genocide of the Israeli state against the people of Gaza since 7 October, carried out as a collective punishment and unprecedented massacre of civilians. We are extremely concerned by the dehumanisation of Palestinians by the Israeli state, echoed in Western media as a justification mechanism for their indiscriminate killing. We also denounce the intensification of the processes of ethnic cleansing and killing of Palestinians in the West Bank, and the blanket silencing and oppression of citizens of Israel, first and foremost Palestinians, but also anti-Zionist Israelis, who attempt to protest against the war. As a group dedicated to the critical study of state violence and harm, in all its forms, we contextualise this latest reiteration of violence within the decades-long Zionist settler colonial practices in Palestine. What is happening now cannot be understood in isolation from the global structures that enable, legitimise and produce oppression, such as racial capitalism, empire and carceral projects.

We are deeply concerned and outraged by the increasing criminalisation and censorship of those who denounce crimes against humanity and express solidarity with Palestine. We also strongly support the legal action taken by South Africa before the International Court of Justice. Meanwhile, Western countries are silencing and punishing those who speak out against their governments' complicity, and their financial, military, and political support of Israel. The restriction of the rights to organise, protest, and speak as well as the deplatforming of scholars, artists, activists and workers is a violation of our basic rights and moral and political responsibilities to speak out against injustice.

We reject the conflation of criticism of the Israeli state or Zionism with anti-Semitism. Many Jewish voices opposing colonial occupation and war around the world have made it clear enough. We recognise anti-Zionism as a legitimate stance against a settler colonial and racist political movement and ideology premised on the subjugation, dispossession and erasure of Palestinians. The weaponisation of anti-Semitism tears apart communities and prevents a united front against all forms of racism.

We join the calls for an immediate permanent ceasefire and for a prisoner exchange deal.

We hope this tragic moment can be used to build the space and capacity to think and organise collectively and sharpen the tools to dismantle the structures and denounce the narratives that perpetuate oppression and violence. In the meantime, we continue to stand against the colonial genocide happening in Gaza, against permanent aggressions and human rights violations undertaken across West Bank, and in unequivocal solidarity with a free Palestine.

Ultimately, peace for all can only be achieved by dismantling Israeli settler colonialism and apartheid.

News from the world

From Italy:

The Meloni Youth: salutes to Mussolini and Sieg Heil, the face of Brothers of Italy's young members

A recent undercover investigation into Meloni's *Fratelli d'Italia* party's youth wing reveals that it is populated with far-right terrorists, self-declared fascists, and supporters of Mussolini. The co-chair of the group's European branch is even seen executing a 'gladiatorial' fascist salute.

The reportage is available [here](#)

From the UK:

Demand the UK pays climate reparations

Poorer countries across the Global South have contributed very little to global carbon emissions; yet bear the brunt of extreme climate breakdown. This year alone, flooding displaced 33 million people and submerged a third of Pakistan, while 55 million were people pushed into poverty and climate-induced famine by droughts in the horn of Africa. The effects of the climate crisis are hitting us all, but it is those least responsible for the crisis who are paying the heaviest price. While wealthier nations carry on polluting and refuse to pay for the damage they have caused, the effects of climate breakdown are growing — as are the costs for adapting to a heated world. Communities across the Global South are calling for financing for loss and damage: compensation for what they have lost. It is time the UK and other rich industrialised countries took responsibility for the climate crisis they did the most to cause — having produced 92% of historical excess global carbon emissions — by paying Global South countries climate reparations. Climate reparations mean countries must stop further harm by rapidly cutting their carbon emissions, repair harm by providing technology and funding to support people around the world to adapt to the crisis, and pay loss and damage compensation to Global South countries for harm that cannot be repaired. In his opening speech at COP27, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak talked the talk on the climate crisis. But for decades the UK government has been saying one thing and doing another. The UK government's reliance on oil and gas is worsening climate breakdown while driving up energy bills at home — contributing to the cost-of-living scandal, with the poorest in the UK hit the hardest. The UK government must hold the polluters to account. It must take responsibility for enabling fossil fuel companies to cement Britain's role as a major contributor to the climate crisis. The UK government prefers to rely on oil and gas rather than transitioning the country to alternative clean energy sources, all while letting UK-based fossil fuel giants pay pennies in tax. Paying climate reparations does not have to mean diverting money from UK public services. We have a choice between soaring fossil fuel company profits or putting the needs of people and planet first.

We demand justice, will you add your name to our call (available here: <https://secure.waronwant.org/page/117158/petition/1>)?

From Greece:

Greek shipwreck: Everything you need to know

On June 14, a ship capsized in the Mediterranean Sea, sinking off the coast of Greece. Despite a rescue mission that saved over 100 people, more than 80 have died. An estimated 500 more people are missing and feared to be dead. Each year thousands of people make this dangerous voyage across the Mediterranean Sea. It's all too common for these journeys to end tragically—with 2023 seeing the highest number of recorded deaths in the Mediterranean Sea in six years. Learn more about the shipwreck in Greek waters and what world leaders can do to address the humanitarian crises in the Mediterranean Sea. The full text is available here: <https://www.rescue.org/uk/article/greek-shipwreck-everything-you-need-know>

Call for Papers: Justice, Power and Resistance

Justice, Power and Resistance is an international, peer-reviewed journal promoting critical analysis and connecting theory, politics and activism. The scope of the journal includes a range of topics including the critical analysis of social harms; theories of state power, authority and legitimacy; gendered and racialised violence; the politics of social control; class, poverty and marginalisation; the legacies of colonialism, neo-colonialism and post colonialism; penal policies and penal practices; harms of the powerful; criminalisation; comparative studies and internationalist standpoints; abolitionist perspectives, social movements engaged in direct struggles of resistance and contestation; interventionist strategies and radical alternatives promoting human rights, social justice and democratic accountability.

The editors welcome theoretical, normative and empirical studies from interdisciplinary perspectives including sociology, zemiology, geography, law, history, criminology, penology, philosophy, social policy and social theory from scholars and activists. The journal is also committed to enhancing communication and collaboration across critical and radical networks. Consequently, it welcomes open submissions in the following forms:

Research articles of 6,000 - 8,000 words (including references, notes, tables and figures)

Interventions (including short papers, campaign updates, personal reflections and (auto)biographical accounts) of up to 5,000 words (including references, notes, tables and figures)

Book reviews of up to 2,000 words (including references, notes, tables and figures)

For any questions, please contact the editors individually or at jprjournal@outlook.com .

More info available on [the journal's homepage](#)

“For the powerful, crimes are those that others commit”

Noam Chomsky – 2010, p.73

Imperial ambitions: Conversations on the post-9/11 world. Metropolitan Books.

EUROPEAN GROUP
FOR THE STUDY OF DEVIANCE & SOCIAL CONTROL