

3 September 2025



Pre-ESC 2025

Interactions between knowledge, policy and practice in the field of policing.
Discussions on the role of (early career) researchers, practitioners and third parties'

P.1

**Reflections from our
head of communication**

P.10

In the spotlight

P.3

**Pre-conference
overview**

P.11

Need to know

Reflections from our head of communication

My first ESC conference was in Malaga in 2022. It was my first major conference, and travelling to another country to meet in person the scholars whose work I had read so many times was an unforgettable experience. I still vividly remember the first day, nervously peeking around the corner of the room where the ESC Policing Working Group pre-conference was taking place. I saw Larissa Engelmann, the current co-chair, welcoming us. I wasn't sure what to expect from the pre-conference, but I was immediately struck by the openness and warmth of the conversations between academics.

What surprised me most was how approachable everyone was, especially for junior researchers. I didn't have to address anyone as professor; I could simply use their first names. Many senior scholars genuinely cared about supporting early career researchers, generously sharing tips and insights about navigating academic life. That pre-conference removed my initial anxiety about attending a large conference and replaced it with excitement for the days ahead.

A year and a half later, the renewed board, with Marleen Easton as chair, reached out to ask if I would be interested in joining the board as head of communication. I was deeply honoured. That invitation reflected the spirit of the ESC PWG. It is more than a space for discussing the content or theories of police research; it is a community where scholars share experiences, discuss the realities of researching policing, and exchange insights across all stages of a career. Both junior and senior researchers come together to learn from one another and engage in open dialogue.

Reflections from our head of communication

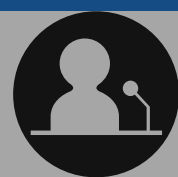
As I embark on the final year of my PhD, it makes me very happy to see how the group has grown and continues to evolve. While each board member has a dedicated role, our work is defined by collaboration. We engage with each other, discuss the future direction of the working group, and ensure that the community thrives. My contribution has been to bring a bit of Gen Z flair to the way we communicate, making messages engaging and visually appealing while still sharing the important information.

Reflecting on our latest conference, it was clear how much our community has grown, and we even had to switch rooms after exceeding capacity, a wonderful sign of the enthusiasm surrounding this vibrant network. That spirit of growth and inclusion is something I hope we continue to nurture. At the same time, maintaining continuity is essential. If you have ideas for webinars, future events, or relevant news and opportunities to share with the community, please reach out to us at escpolicingworkinggroup@gmail.com

Jasper De Paepe

Head of communication,
ESC Working Group on Policing





Pre-ESC 2025

Interactions between knowledge, policy and practice in the field of policing.

Discussions on the role of (early career) researchers, practitioners and third parties'

On 3 September 2025 the Policing Working Group of the European Society of Criminology held its annual Pre-ESC event in Athens. The theme was Interactions between knowledge, policy and practice in the field of policing: discussions on the role of early career researchers, practitioners and third parties. The day brought together a diverse international group of scholars to explore how police and academia can work together in ways that are both effective and sustainable.

Setting the scene

The day opened with a welcome from *Larissa Engelmann* the University of Leeds (UK). This was followed by a keynote from *Marleen Easton* of Ghent University (Belgium), 'Rebalancing policing research in Europe: a plea for reflexivity'. Marleen Easton encouraged participants to reflect on power relations, institutional constraints and assumptions that shape the production of knowledge in policing. This call for reflexivity provided a strong frame for the discussions that followed.



Roundtable 1: The institutionalization of the relationship between police and academia in Europe.

The first roundtable, chaired by *Guðmundur Oddsson* of the University of Akureyri (Iceland), brought together *Layla Skinns* of the University of Sheffield (UK), *Ian Marder* of Maynooth University (Ireland) and *Fotios Spyropoulos* of the University of West Attica (Greece). The session addressed questions of leadership, financing and responsibility. Who pays and who leads, and what does this mean for both academics and practitioners? Panelists explored national differences in institutional arrangements, the role of pracademics and the importance of resource commitments.



Pre-ESC 2025

Roundtable 2: The cultural dimension of the relationship between police and academia

The second roundtable, chaired by *Marleen Easton*, featured *Angela Workman-Stark* of Athabasca University (Canada), *Danielle Watson* of Queensland University of Technology (Australia) and *Rute Pereira* of the University of Porto (Portugal). The conversation focused on cultural barriers and expectations. How can academics and practitioners work together when they hold different ideas about the purpose and value of research? The panelists highlighted the importance of trust, mutual respect and open communication. They argued that cultural awareness is just as essential as institutional support if partnerships are to succeed.



Roundtable 3: Opportunities, boundaries and compromise in the relationship between police and academia.

The third roundtable, chaired by *Larissa Engelmann*, included *Ólafur Örn Bragason* of the University of Iceland and the University of Akureyri (Iceland), *Erik Reikrås* of the Norwegian Police University College (Norway) and *Hartmut Aden* of the Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Recht Berlin (Germany). This discussion encouraged participants to reflect on what success means and for whom. It raised important questions about boundaries, about what we are and are not willing to compromise on, and about how this impacts collaborative work. The panel also focused on how early career researchers can develop their own understanding of where they stand in these partnerships.



Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Policing Working Group provided an opportunity to update members on ongoing initiatives including the work of the Liaisons Group, the series of early career researcher webinars, communication efforts and future conference submissions. Members were invited to propose special interest groups.

Pre-ESC 2025: Meet the speakers



Layla Skinns is Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice and director of the Centre for Criminological Research. A key focus of her research has been police detention, in England and Wales, but also in other parts of the Anglophone world. In this setting, she is interested in police powers and their relationship with the law, police cultures and police discretion, and furthermore, how this impacts on equality and on state-citizen relations. She is also interested in how the public – particularly detainees – perceive the police, which links her research to discussions about police legitimacy and to 'good' policing.



Ian Marder is an Associate Professor in Criminology, having joined Maynooth University as Assistant Professor in May 2018. In the School of Law and Criminology, He is also Co-Deputy Director of the Centre for Criminology and Restorative Practices Officer. His research explores how to reduce, address and repair the harm caused by crime and criminal justice. Ian Marder writes about changing criminal justice and higher education, primarily through restorative justice and restorative practices.



Fotios Spyropoulos is an Assistant Professor of Law at Philips University in Cyprus and Professor of Criminal Law at the Hellenic Police Academy. He also teaches at the Hellenic Open University, the University of West Attica (Greece) and has taught as a visiting professor in several universities around the world. He holds a PhD in Criminal Law and Criminology from the Law School of the University of Athens on the topic of 'Penal and criminological aspects of hacking'.

Pre-ESC 2025: Meet the speakers



Following more than 24 years with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, **Angela Workman-Stark** joined the Faculty of Business in 2016. In her role as associate professor of organizational behaviour, she brings intersecting leadership and research skills, and a long-standing, values-driven commitment to diversity, inclusion, and organizational sustainability. Her research identifies the association of masculine cultures with several negative outcomes for organizations and people, particularly those with marginalized identities, and seeks to offer potential strategies to reduce harm.



Danielle Watson is an Associate Professor and Research Training Coordinator in the School of Justice. She is also an Affiliate of the Resilient and Sustainable Islands Initiative (RESI). Her research focuses on Pacific regional security, border security, policing, police/community relations, policing culturally and linguistically diverse communities and plural regulatory systems in the Caribbean and Pacific. She conducts research on (in)security in Pacific Island countries, capacity building for security service providers, recruitment and training as well as many other areas specific to improving security governance in developing country contexts.



Rute Pereira is a police officer at the Municipal Police of Gaia, Portugal since 2011. She graduated in Criminology in 2019 and currently is a PhD student, both at FDUP-Faculty of Law of the University of Porto. As a researcher she integrates the FDUP-Interdisciplinary Research Center in Justice of the School of Criminology and the LabRP from FPCEUP-Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences of the University of Porto, investigating job stress, burnout, aggressivity and suicidal ideation among police officers, topics that were/are the main theme in her different academic levels.

Pre-ESC 2025: Meet the speakers



Ólafur Örn Bragason is the Director of the Centre for Police Training and Professional Development at the National Police Commissioner of Iceland, where he has worked in policing for more than 20 years. He is also an Assistant Professor at the University of Akureyri's Institute of Police Science Research and a PhD candidate in Educational Science at the University of Iceland. His doctoral research examines how police education in Iceland has developed through reform and professionalisation. His main research interests focus on police education and training, professionalisation of the police, investigative interviewing, risk assessment, occupational stress, and integrity in policing.



Erik Reikrås started his career as a police officer in 2007 after earning a bachelor's degree in police science. Since 2022, Erik Reikrås is a PhD candidate at the Norwegian Police University College, conducting an ethnographic study of intelligence-led policing. His research explores how such policing is carried out across different levels of the organization and will be presented as a monograph. Alongside his doctoral work, he is involved in several research groups and he leads the group Intelligence in Policing: Practice, Training and Education, which brings together practitioners and scholars.



Hartmut Aden has been a professor at the HWR Berlin since 2009, Professor of Public Law, European Law, Political and Administrative Science since 2016 and Deputy Director of FÖPS Berlin since 2025, as he was between 2016 and 2020. From 2020 to 2024 he was also Vice President for Research at the HWR. He teaches and conducts research on legal and administrative science topics as well as comparative policy research. His research projects focus primarily on the interfaces between law, politics and administration, including a European and international perspective.

Pre-ESC 2025: Meet the speakers



Guðmundur Ævar Oddsson is an associate professor of Sociology at the University of Akureyri (UNAK) in Iceland. His research focuses on class inequality (particularly the subjective dimensions of class), social control and deviance. He earned his PhD in Sociology from the University of Missouri in 2014, and is a broadly trained Sociologist whose research focuses on class inequality (particularly the subjective dimensions of class), social control and deviance. Oddsson currently serves as Program Director of Social Sciences at the Department of Social Sciences at UNAK.



Larissa Engelmann is a research Fellow at the ESRC Vulnerability and Policing Research Centre exploring how the police and other services can best be harnessed to prevent and reduce vulnerabilities. She is currently working on a project exploring preventative approaches to online child sexual victimisation (OCSV), a project mapping the service provision for vulnerable populations in contact with the police across Bradford, and a project exploring if there is scope in domestic abuse responses to consider the vulnerabilities perpetrators may have and what this might look like in practice. Her PhD explored the role, value and culture of police learning in Scotland.



Marleen Easton is a sociologist and Professor and chair of the research group 'Governing & Policing Security' (GaPS) at the Department of Public Governance & Management at Ghent University. She has thirty years of experience conducting mostly qualitative, empirical research on policing and security related topics that include processes of (de)militarisation, community policing, radicalization, police (re)organisations, police culture, citizen participation, innovations in policing and the policing-science nexus. Her current research focuses on three research lines: (1) the governance of security in relation to flows, (2) innovations in relation to technology and security and (3) knowledge exchange processes.

Pre-ESC 2025: Prizes

The Policing Working Group were delighted to have been able to award three prizes during the European Society of Criminology Conference in Athens. The prizes were sponsored by Routledge, Palgrave and Boom Publishing for which we are grateful. Additionally, the prize-giving event was kindly sponsored by Elsevier who are the home of the International Journal of Law, Crime and Justice.

The **Early Career Researcher prize** is awarded to *Thiago Oliveira* from the University of Manchester in the UK for his article *Aggressive policing and undermined legitimacy: assessing the impact of police stops at gunpoint on perceptions of police in São Paulo, Brazil* published in the *Journal of Experimental Criminology*.



The **Policing Book Prize** was won by *Tomas Salem* from the University of Bergen in Norway for his book *“Policing the Favelas of Rio de Janeiro: Cosmologies of War and the Far-Right”* (published by Palgrave).



The **Policing Journal Article Prize** was won by *Holly Campeau* from the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada and *Laura Keesman* from Vrije University in the Netherlands for their article: *“You can't really turn it off”: The police “sixth sense” as cultural schema* published in *Sociological Forum*.



There will be more information in the Autumn about the awards for 2026 so do please consider nominating either yourselves or others in the field. We are keen to celebrate the work of policing scholars across Europe.

In the spotlight

The European Journal of Policing Studies (EJPS)

The European Journal of Policing Studies (EJPS) offers high-quality papers about relevant issues, topics of discussion and developments in policing and policing science. It focuses on issues that are of interest to the police and other actors in policing, and that may shape the future of policing in continental Europe. EJPS aims to provide authors ample room to present their empirical research results.

EJPS also publishes special issues, focusing on specific topics or themes that are relevant for both policy and practice of public and private policing. All research articles in this journal have undergone blind peer review, ensuring that all the articles we publish meet high academic standards. The peer review is based on editor screening and anonymized refereeing by two anonymous referees. EJPS was founded in 2013, but has been published by Eleven/Boom since 2022. For more information, see: <https://www.boomportaal.nl/tijdschrift/EJPS>



EJPS welcomes new submissions. Each year, two regular issues are published, for which articles can be submitted at all times. Twice a year, a special issue is published – watch the EJPS-website to stay informed about future calls for abstracts for special issues. Previous calls concerned police observation methodology, policing in cyberspace, AI-experiences and police academic partnerships.

Need to know about ESC and our Working Group on Policing

ESC membership



- Receive free access to the European Journal of Criminology and to the ESC Newsletter;
- Pay a reduced registration fee when participating in the ESC Annual Conference;

How to become a member of the Working Group on Policing?



- Membership to the Working Group on Policing is open to all members of the ESC.
- To become a member of the Working Group on Policing, please fill in our survey via the following link: <https://forms.gle/s8kBapNyKTK4K2Hs7>

Essentials on Communication



- Our mailing list: A mailing list for interested parties who may not be members of the ESC but who would like to be kept up to date with the group's work. To join the mailing list, please fill in our survey: <https://forms.gle/s8kBapNyKTK4K2Hs7>
- All other communication (feedback, suggestions, questions,...) or news to be shared (events, call for papers,...) please use escpolicingworkinggroup@gmail.com
- Follow ESC Policing Working Group on [LinkedIn](#)

Your ESC Working Group on Policing Board

