Antonio M. Díaz-Fernández
Cristina Del-Real
Lorena Molnar *Editors*

Fieldwork Experiences in Criminology and Security Studies

Methods, Ethics, and Emotions

Springer

Fieldwork Experiences in Criminology and Security Studies

Antonio M. Díaz-Fernández
Cristina Del-Real • Lorena Molnar
Editors

Fieldwork Experiences in Criminology and Security Studies

Methods, Ethics, and Emotions

Springer

Editors
Antonio M. Díaz-Fernández
University of Cadiz
Cadiz, Spain

Lorena Molnar
University of Lausanne
Lausanne, Switzerland

Cristina Del-Real
Institute of Security and Global Affairs
Leiden University
The Hague, The Netherlands

ISBN 978-3-031-41573-9 ISBN 978-3-031-41574-6 (eBook)
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-41574-6

© The Editor(s) (if applicable) and The Author(s), under exclusive license to Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2023, Corrected Publication 2024

Chapters 1, 2, 9, 11 and 32 are licensed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). For further details see license information in the chapter.

This work is subject to copyright. All rights are solely and exclusively licensed by the Publisher, whether the whole or part of the material is concerned, specifically the rights of translation, reprinting, reuse of illustrations, recitation, broadcasting, reproduction on microfilms or in any other physical way, and transmission or information storage and retrieval, electronic adaptation, computer software, or by similar or dissimilar methodology now known or hereafter developed.
The use of general descriptive names, registered names, trademarks, service marks, etc. in this publication does not imply, even in the absence of a specific statement, that such names are exempt from the relevant protective laws and regulations and therefore free for general use.
The publisher, the authors, and the editors are safe to assume that the advice and information in this book are believed to be true and accurate at the date of publication. Neither the publisher nor the authors or the editors give a warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to the material contained herein or for any errors or omissions that may have been made. The publisher remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

This Springer imprint is published by the registered company Springer Nature Switzerland AG
The registered company address is: Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland

Paper in this product is recyclable.

Foreword

Fieldwork Experiences in Criminology and Security Studies: Methods, Ethics, and Emotions, edited by Antonio M. Díaz-Fernández, Cristina Del-Real, and Lorena Molnar, is an essential read for students and researchers interested in conducting sensitive research in criminology and security studies. The process of conducting empirical research in criminology as well as security-related topics is filled with numerous challenges and risks, especially when studying hidden, vulnerable, violent, and powerful individuals and groups, both online and offline. This book sheds light on these challenges and risks, providing valuable insights for readers.

The book offers a wealth of examples on how to approach sensitive research in criminology and security studies. Particularly noteworthy is the "lessons learned" section in each chapter, where readers can vividly understand what it is like to embark on such research in difficult situations. These valuable lessons and insights are often absent from the existing literature, leaving novice researchers unprepared for the obstacles they may face in these disciplines. The contributors of this book openly discuss dilemmas, imperfections, and how they overcame challenges, acknowledging that social research is far from flawless. Their shared experiences are immensely valuable to readers.

The editors state that their aim was to illuminate the multifaceted dimensions of fieldwork experiences; foster understanding, reflection, and growth within the research community; and provide guidance and inspiration to early career researchers. In accomplishing these goals, the book contributes significantly to the advancement of criminology and security studies.

The book's origins lie in the collaborative efforts of the three editors over several years, along with extensive interactions with researchers who eventually contributed their chapters. This collaboration resulted in contributions from 55 authors representing 40 universities and research institutions across 13 countries. Although the book focuses on sensitive research in criminology and security studies, it features authors from other social science disciplines like anthropology, psychology, and sociology.

The included chapters illustrate both shared elements and unique aspects among various research projects. From these chapters, readers can glean the following requirements for engaging in sensitive research in criminology and security studies:

- Thorough field preparation
- Careful consideration of participant recruitment methods, data collection locations, and techniques
- Ethical and moral consideration
- Assessment of risks and potential harm to both participants and researchers
- Appropriate exit strategies from the field

The discussions and examples presented in this book hold immense value for students and researchers, not only in criminology but also in other social science disciplines. I highly recommend this book, especially to novice researchers, as it imparts extensive knowledge on conducting research ethically and morally in extremely challenging environments while prioritizing emotional well-being and safety.

Pranee Liamputtong
Professor of Behaviour Sciences
VinUniversity
Hanoi, Vietnam

Introduction

During the course of preparing this book, numerous experiences and incidents have unfolded, exemplifying the dynamic nature of our research endeavors. These include the joyful arrival of three newborns, with two authors and an editor among the proud parents. Additionally, unforeseen challenges have arisen such as cases of COVID-19, a change of university, the illness of a family member, and an unexpected surgical intervention, demanding our attention and resilience. Furthermore, daunting tasks imposed by governmental bodies, coupled with newfound research and teaching responsibilities, have added further complexity to the project. Since the confirmation of Springer Nature's interest in this endeavor in May 2021, a dedicated team of 55 researchers (36 women and 19 men) has diligently contributed their expertise. However, the multifaceted nature of our experiences has necessitated several adjustments to accommodate these real-life incidents. Throughout this process, we engaged in shared reflections, collectively strategizing on how to approach the different sections, epitomizing our commitment to presenting an authentic portrayal of our fieldwork. These genuine accounts and the subsequent adaptations are of utmost importance to us, as they encapsulate the essence of this book.

The invaluable lessons and insights scientists have acquired throughout the research journey, as well as the profound impact of their experiences, often remain absent from the published works. The limitations imposed by articles of 6000–8000 words hinder the scientific community from conveying the full scope of what they have encountered, how researchers navigated through challenges, and how these circumstances influenced their research. These constraints prevent all of us from sharing both successes and mistakes, from acknowledging instances of inadequate foresight or poorly conceived steps, as well as recounting the triumphs resulting from well-considered strategies, extensive preparations, strokes of luck, and swift decisions made in unforeseeable situations. Consequently, we inadvertently project an image to the scientific community, and even to ourselves, that from the research design to the publication of results, everything meticulously adhered to the proposed roadmap, and that we, as researchers, are detached automatons meticulously collecting data with robotic neutrality. The latter has detrimental effects on the scientific enterprise and those involved in it such as depriving fellow researchers of the

opportunity to learn from the debates, challenges, and alternative approaches encountered by others. This impact is particularly pernicious for early career researchers, who may lack exposure to normalized processes and the chance to glean insights from the experiences of their peers.

The genesis of this collaborative book stems from extensive discussions held by the three editors over the course of several years, as well as numerous interactions with esteemed colleagues, many of them authors of the chapters composing this work. These conversations have taken place in informal settings, as well as within the ethical committees of our universities, and have emerged during conferences and scientific gatherings where anecdotes and experiences from our collective fieldwork have been shared. These exchanges have encompassed a wide spectrum of emotions, ranging from amusing and even hilarious accounts when viewed in retrospect, to deeply concerning and potentially research-jeopardizing situations. These personal accounts were shared in informal settings, serving as a means of decompression among peers who can truly comprehend the profound anguish experienced when facing situations such as engaging in interviews with terrorists, venturing into paramilitary zones for the first time, grappling with the uncertainty of how to prevent revictimization during a study, procuring a valid sample without prior knowledge of inmate characteristics, or persuading the IT managers of our university to authorize the installation of software on their servers for a study on the digital footprint of hackers. These shared confidences capture the essence of the human experiences intertwined with our research endeavors, highlighting the complexities and challenges we encounter in our fieldwork. By unearthing and documenting these moments, we hope to shed light on the intricate and often overlooked aspects of research, providing our peers with a deeper understanding of the multifaceted reality we navigate. Through the candid exploration of our collective experiences, we aim to foster empathy, provoke thoughtful discussions, and ultimately contribute to the growth and improvement of our scientific community.

The essence of our project, encapsulated in the title "Fieldwork Experiences in Criminology and Security Studies: Methods, Ethics, and Emotions," aimed to delve into the personal encounters and challenges researchers face in their pursuit of scientific knowledge. Unlike existing publications on research techniques and methods, our focus was specifically on the intricacies of fieldwork experiences. Our project revolved around three core elements: methods, ethics, and emotions. In exploring methods, we sought to uncover how researchers navigated the investigation of sensitive subjects and concealed collectives, adapting established techniques or developing new methodologies for areas such as cyber research. Ethics played a crucial role as we examined the guidance provided by universities, ethical dilemmas encountered, and the measures taken to protect both researchers and participants. We addressed not only confidentiality but also re-victimization prevention and the potential stigmatization of groups resulting from research findings. Recognizing the significance of emotions, often overlooked in publications on sensitive topics, we acknowledged their intrinsic role. Convincing some authors to embrace the inclusion of emotions in their chapters required discussions and clarification of the importance of acknowledging our own subjectivity in the field. While objectivity

remains vital, we cannot dismiss the emotional experiences inherent in our work. Sharing strategies for managing and navigating emotions was particularly valuable for early career researchers. Ultimately, our project aimed to shed light on the multifaceted dimensions of fieldwork experiences. Through an exploration of methods, ethics, and emotions, we sought to foster understanding, reflection, and growth within the research community. By providing guidance and inspiration to early career researchers embarking on their scholarly quests, we aimed to contribute to the advancement of criminology and security studies.

The final map of contributors represents 40 universities and research centers from 13 countries: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Finland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. The process of selecting authors for this collective project was itself a valuable learning experience. Our goal was to achieve a balanced representation of authors by combining the experience of established experts who had shaped research dynamics over the past two decades with the fresh perspectives of early career researchers who could contribute with innovative approaches and techniques. In addition, we aimed to incorporate a wide range of disciplinary perspectives coming not only from criminologists, but also anthropologists, psychologists, psychiatrists, sociologists, political scientists, and lawyers. Moreover, we actively sought experiences from the Global South but encountered significant difficulties in this endeavor. Despite identifying researchers with relevant expertise in our desired topics, we often found that their current research centers or universities had changed. Even when attempting to focus solely on specific countries, we faced obstacles. It appeared that certain countries – including Australia, the United States, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Canada – had implemented robust researcher recruitment policies, resulting in many researchers from the Global South today working in universities within those countries. This reality of the research landscape is important to acknowledge, and we wish to be honest with the readers about why this specific distribution of authors, regions, and universities is present in the book. Undoubtedly, there may be other researchers from the Global South, but despite our 9 months of searching, they remained invisible to us, at least within our scope. By providing this explanation, we aim to convey the realities of the research landscape and our sincere efforts to ensure a diverse and inclusive range of perspectives in this book. We acknowledge the limitations and challenges encountered during the selection process and strive to maintain transparency with the readers about the specific composition of authors and regions represented.

The book is divided into five parts. The first one, *The Powerful*, narrates scholars' experiences of their research journeys in the realm of power and influence towards various actors who play significant roles in different spheres: intelligence services, police officers, armed forces, political elites, the Church, and probation officers. These authors exert control, maintain order, and enforce policies, each with its own distinct agenda and authority. The second part – *The Invisible* – relates to research experiences with ethnic minorities, people involved in the night and leisure industry, persons experiencing homelessness, prison inmates and sex workers, and groups that face unique struggles and vulnerabilities. The third part addresses *The*

Vulnerable, composed by juvenile victims, victims of human trafficking, and refugee women. These individuals often find themselves in precarious situations, exposed to exploitation and abuse, and these specificities pose unique research methods and dilemmas. The fourth part relates to *The Violent* addressing research experiences with participants who are engaged in terrorism, radicalization, domestic and intimate-partner violence, organized crime groups, gangs, pedophilia and child abuse, as well as respondents who suffer from psychopathy. These subjects contribute to a climate of fear and endanger the well-being of communities and researchers require specific training during their field studies. The fifth part addresses one of the latest challenges for our societies – *The Cyber* – by narrating the experiences of scholars who study cybercriminals and cybersecurity, focusing on extremism, dark markets, and cyberbullies.

The pursuit of internal coherence in this book aimed to address the sensitive issues within a manageable scope. It was understood that attempting to cover all potential sensitive topics would be unfeasible. Instead, our focus was on identifying chapters that offered elements for cross-cutting readings. For instance, although there is no dedicated chapter specifically on police elites, relevant experiences can be found by examining different chapters on political elites, probationers, cybersecurity police officers, and the military. By employing this approach, researchers can adapt the insights from these diverse chapters to their specific area of interest. A similar logic applies to chapters by Molnar, Menih, and Feixa, which provide different perspectives on street work. Furthermore, chapters exploring the realities of individuals in state-managed centers, such as Pereda, Halty, and Güerri and Martí, contribute to a thematic and cross-cutting understanding of the subject matter. Emphasis was placed on maintaining internal homogeneity despite the diversity of the chapters, and the authors' commitment to the proposed structural approach is reflected in the rigorousness of their contributions and the resulting conclusions.

As our conversations with the authors progressed, we discovered an additional objective of the book that was not initially apparent. It became evident that not all universities possess research ethics committees to which research proposals can be submitted. Furthermore, even in cases where such committees exist, they may lack in-depth knowledge of the specific sensitive and hard-to-reach topics and populations addressed in our work, or their evaluation criteria may be inconsistent. This inconsistency can be observed not only within a single university but also among different universities within the same country. In light of these challenges, we firmly believe that the wealth of experiences, approaches, and decisions compiled in this book can serve as a valuable resource for researchers. It can provide them with compelling arguments to support their methodological and ethical choices when engaging with ethics committees, especially regarding topics that may not align with the expertise or consistent criteria of their own institution.

For those scholars operating in the absence of such committees, the book offers a catalog of experiences and options utilized by fellow researchers from various countries, enabling them to shape their fieldwork with due consideration for ethics and emotional well-being. By sharing the diverse array of approaches and decisions made by researchers in different contexts, we aim to empower the scientific

community to make informed choices when confronted with methodological and ethical challenges. This compilation of experiences can contribute to a more robust and globally informed discourse on research ethics, bridging the gaps that may exist between institutions and between countries. Ultimately, we aspire to promote a more cohesive and ethical research environment where researchers can engage in fieldwork while adhering to universally recognized principles of scientific integrity.

Professor Pranee Liamputtong was chosen to write the foreword due to her extensive research experience and expertise in the evolving landscape of ethics committees and research techniques. As a qualitative methodology specialist focusing on vulnerable populations, she brought valuable insights to scholars from various disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences. We express our sincere appreciation for Professor Liamputtong's prompt and positive response to the book project. Furthermore, we extend our gratitude to Springer Nature and their editors and staff we have worked with for their support and professionalism throughout the 2-year collaboration. We express our heartfelt gratitude to all the authors for their remarkable honesty and willingness to engage in extensive discussions, emails, and video calls. These exchanges were aimed at effectively conveying their experiences, including their mistakes and achievements, within the intricate realm of criminology and security studies. Recognizing the emotional toll that researching marginalized groups, vulnerable populations, or individuals involved in abhorrent actions can have is a brave act and we deeply appreciate their introspection. Their dedication to reviewing their field journals and their genuine commitment to sharing their authentic research experiences with fellow scholars in the field of criminology and security studies is truly commendable.

To sum up, the scientific research – especially in social sciences – is far from flawless. Nevertheless, we firmly believe that acknowledging imperfections, identifying areas for improvement, and striving to progress are crucial endeavors. By recognizing and sharing the realities of our research journeys, we can foster a culture of learning and growing within the scientific community. It is imperative that we collectively embrace that the pursuit of knowledge is an evolving and iterative process, one that thrives on transparency, openness, and the collective wisdom derived from shared experiences. By openly and honestly sharing their methods, dilemmas, and findings, the authors have contributed to the advancement of knowledge and the improvement of research practices in these complex domains. Their insights will undoubtedly benefit current and future researchers, providing them with valuable guidance and a deeper understanding of the intricacies involved in studying such challenging subjects in criminology and security studies.

Cadiz, Spain — Antonio M. Díaz-Fernández
The Hague, The Netherlands — Cristina Del-Real
Lausanne, Switzerland — Lorena Molnar
June 2023

Contents

Part I The Powerful

1 Talking with Spies: From Naïve to Distrustful Researcher 3
Antonio M. Díaz-Fernández

2 Doing Research on, for and with Police in Canada and Switzerland: Practical and Methodological Insights 23
Christine Burkhardt and Rémi Boivin

3 Research in Probation Settings: Experience and "Field Policy" 43
Daniel Lambelet, Jenny Ros, and Laure Kloetzer

4 Silence of the Altars: Researching Sexual Abuse in Religious Institutions in Catalonia (Spain) 61
Marc Balcells and Josep Maria Tamarit

5 Studying the Military: Unlocking a Closed Organization 77
Rut Diamint and Rafa Martínez

6 Researching the Elites of Power: The Case of the Parliamentarians 97
Xavier Coller and Manuel Alcántara

Part II The Invisible

7 Challenges and Complexities When Researching Vulnerable Populations and Sensitive Topics: Working with Women Experiencing Violence and Homelessness 119
Helena Menih

8 Researching Party Zones: Drugs, Alcohol, and the Night 141
Tim Turner

9 Conducting Criminological Practitioner Research with Sex Workers in Switzerland 157
Lorena Molnar

10 Fieldwork and Ethical Challenges on Criminological Research with Immigrants 173
Bertha Prado-Manrique

11 Researching the Roma in Criminology and Legal Studies: Experiences from Urban and Rural Participant Observation, Interviews, and Surveys 189
Lorena Molnar and Marc H. Vallés

Part III The Vulnerable

12 Street Children, Criminological Research and Emotional Labour: Reflections from the Field 207
Sally Atkinson-Sheppard

13 Research in Child and Adolescent Victimization: Incentives, Threats, and Challenges 223
Noemí Pereda

14 Research with Trafficking Victims: Exploring Methods, Ethics and Emotions 241
Anette Brunovskis and Rebecca Surtees

15 How to Do Criminological Research on, for, and with Children and Young People 263
Esther Fernández-Molina and Raquel Bartolomé-Gutiérrez

16 Researching Imprisoned Persons: Views from Spain and Latin America 283
Cristina Güerri and Marta Martí

17 Language, Emotions, and Access to Refugee Women: Ingredients for Reflexivity 301
Gabriela Mesquita Borges and Rita Faria

Part IV The Violent

18 Gangs: Fieldwork Experiences, Ethical Dilemmas, and Emotions in Youth Street Groups Research 321
Carles Feixa

19 Exploring Organized Crime Beyond Institutional Sources 341
Ombretta Ingrascì

20 How to Investigate a Criminal Psychopath? 359
Lucía Halty

21 Researching Extremists and Terrorists: Reflections on Interviewing Hard-to-Reach Populations 375
Sarah L. Carthy and Bart Schuurman

22 Conducting Research with, and on Perpetrators of Domestic and Family Violence: Insights from Australian Research 399
Hayley Boxall, Silke Meyer, Lorana Bartels, and Kate Fitz-Gibbon

23 Protecting Them, Protecting You: Tips and Cautions When Doing Research in Sexual Offending 419
Nereida Bueno-Guerra

24 Control, Confusion, and Failure: Fieldwork in Areas of Violent Conflict and Limited State Authority 441
Berit Bliesemann de Guevara and Nerve V. Macaspac

25 Using Ethnography to Access, Understand, and Reflect on Video Observation of Violence 461
Camilla Bank Friis, Lenneke van Lith, Marly van Bruchem, and Marie Rosenkrantz Lindegaard

Part V The Cyber

26 Researching Cybersecurity Governance: Insights from Fieldwork with Cybersecurity Experts and End-Users 485
Cristina Del-Real and Tommy van Steen

27 Fieldwork Experiences Researching Cybercriminals 511
Asier Moneva, E. Rutger Leukfeldt, and Marco Romagna

28 Hidden Platforms for Cybercrime: Experiences Investigating Darknet Services 535
Matthew Ball and Roderic Broadhurst

29 Conducting Psychosocial Research with Victims of Sexting and Online Sexual Victimization in Spain 553
Aina M. Gassó and Esperanza L. Gómez-Durán

30 Researching Cyberbullying: A Colourful Palette of Methods and Experiences 569
Heidi Vandebosch and Sara Pabian

31 Researching Hate: Negotiating the Digital as Field Site in the Study of Extremist Cultures and Propaganda Online 589
Ashley A. Mattheis

32 Conclusions: Deciphering the Unspoken: A Collective Examination of Sensitive Fieldwork Experiences in Criminology and Security Studies 609
Antonio M. Díaz-Fernández, Cristina Del-Real, and Lorena Molnar

Correction to: Fieldwork Experiences in Criminology and Security Studies C1
Antonio M. Díaz-Fernández, Cristina Del-Real, and Lorena Molnar

Index 637

The original version of the book has been revised. A correction to this book can be found at https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-41574-6_33

About the Editors

Antonio M. Díaz-Fernández is an Associate Professor of Criminal Law at the University of Cadiz (Spain). He holds a doctorate in Political Science and Administration from the University of Barcelona and has been awarded university degrees in Law and Political Science. He also holds a Master's Degree in Peace, Security, and Defence awarded by the University Institute "General Gutiérrez Mellado." He is a member of the Doctorate Committee of Security, Criminology, and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Cadiz. Additionally, he serves as a member of the Research Ethics Committee of the University of Cadiz. Antonio Díaz has been a visiting research fellow at the International Centre for Security Analysis (King's College, London), the Brunel Centre for Security and Intelligence Studies (Brunel University, London), the University of Glasgow, and Dublin City University. He has been recognized with prizes in 1997 and 2003 from the Spanish Ministry of Defence for his research on security. He previously served as the deputy editor of *The International Journal of Intelligence*, *Security, and Public Affairs* and has worked as an expert evaluator in the FP7, H2020, Horizon Europe, and MSCA programs. Currently, he manages the cooperative agreement between the University of Cadiz and the Spanish Intelligence Service. He is also a member of the Forum against disinformation campaigns in the field of National Security of the National Security Department, which is attached to the Office of the Presidency in the current Spanish government.

Cristina Del-Real is an Assistant Professor of Cyber Crisis at the Institute of Security and Global Affairs (ISGA) at Leiden University (The Netherlands) and Research Fellow at The Hague Program on International Cyber Security. She is part of the NWO-funded project "Cyber Security by Integrated Design" (C-SIDe). Her research explores the intersection between society, technology, and security policy, with specific areas of interest in cyber security governance in public and private organizations. Cristina's other areas of interest include public perception of intelligence agencies, security governance in smart cities, and research ethics. She has worked on online research methods to study hidden populations and the ethical and

emotional risks of working with sensitive topics in criminology. She has been a visiting researcher at the Center for Urban Informatics and Progress (University of Tennessee, USA) and the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (University of Glasgow, UK).

Lorena Molnar is a post-doctoral researcher at University of Lausanne (Switzerland) and a scientific collaborator at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland (HETS-FR). She holds a PhD in criminology from the University of Lausanne. Her main domains of interest are the victimization of hard-to-reach vulnerable populations, crime prevention, and comparative criminology. She has conducted studies on the victimization and drug use of sex workers, of the homeless, and people of Roma ethnicity. She is also a member of the SPACE (Statistiques Pénales Annuelles du Conseil de l'Europe) team and of the European Sourcebook Group and co-author of the sixth edition of the *European Sourcebook of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics*.

About the Authors

Manuel Alcántara holds a PhD in Political Science and Sociology from Complutense University. He is Emeritus Professor at the University of Salamanca and Visiting Professor at UPB (Medellín). He has been visiting professor at numerous universities including Georgetown University, Tulane University (New Orleans), Université Sorbonne (Paris III), SciencesPo (Lille), and Kobe International University. His field of work is comparative politics, especially with regard to Latin America. He is the sole author of *Sistemas políticos de América Latina; Gobernabilidad, crisis y cambio*; *¿Instituciones o máquinas ideológicas? Origen, programa y organización de los partidos políticos latinoamericanos*; and *El oficio de político*. His most recent publications can be found at www.manuelalcantarasaez.com

Sally Atkinson-Sheppard is a criminologist and strategist from the UK. She was awarded her PhD from King's College London after completing an ethnographic study into street children's involvement in organized crime in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Sally began her career as a researcher for the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) in London, where she worked with young offenders engaged in violent offending, developed the MPS first Gangs Manual, and represented the MPS in a collaborative study with the British Prison Service, which explored the psychology of gang-related violence. Sally went on to advise on a variety of criminal justice reform projects in Bangladesh, including leading the Bangladesh Prison Directorate and the Bangladesh Anti-Corruption Commission through the development of their first strategic plans. Sally recently returned to the UK after living and working in Beijing for 3 years, where she led a large-scale qualitative study into migrant children's involvement in gangs and organized crime in China. She now works as a lecturer in Criminology at the University of Westminster.

Marc Balcells graduated in Law and Criminology, Master in Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences as well as Master in Criminal Justice, and Doctor in Criminal Justice from the City University of New York at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. His R&D activity deals with crimes against cultural heritage and its

inclusion in transnational (organized crime, terrorism) crime. Specifically, Balcells is an expert in the criminological analysis of archaeological looting and the illicit trafficking of this type of heritage. He has also investigated other crimes against cultural property, such as theft and forgery of works of art. His other research interest is victimology (member of the consolidated investigation group VICRIM).

Matthew Ball is the Laboratory Coordinator of the Australian National University's Cybercrime Observatory. His interests include philosophy, computer science, Asian studies, and criminology.

Camilla Bank Friis is a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Sociology, University of Copenhagen. She is affiliated with the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR). Her research interests include interactional dynamics of conflict and violence, emotions, observational methods, group culture, and motivated action. In her work, she uses interviews, participant observation, and video observation of conflict behavior from body-worn camera and CCTV footage.

Lorana Bartels is a Professor of Criminology at the Australian National University (ANU) and Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Canberra and University of Tasmania. She is also a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law and life member of Clare Hall at the University of Cambridge. She has published 5 books and over 110 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters. Her research interests include courts, sentencing, and the treatment of women in the criminal justice system. She is or has been a member of the Australian Capital Territory Government's Domestic Violence Prevention Council Advisory Group and Sexual Assault Law Reform Working Group and the ANU's Coercive Control Working Group and Gender Institute. She is also the *International Journal of Offender Therapy & Comparative Criminology*'s Gender and Justice section editor and a member of the editorial board of the SAGE Handbook of Domestic Violence.

Raquel Bartolomé-Gutiérrez is Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Castilla-La Mancha. She is a researcher at the Centre for Research in Criminology (UCLM). Her areas of specialization and research are self-reported antisocial behavior and female delinquency.

Berit Bliesemann de Guevara, PhD, is Professor of International Politics at Aberystwyth University, UK, and principal investigator of the GCRF-AHRC Network Plus Creating Safer Space, which explores unarmed civilian protection and community self-protection amidst violent conflict. Her research focuses on violent conflict, international statebuilding, local peace processes, the politics of knowledge, and creative (textile) research methods. She has conducted fieldwork in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Colombia, Kosovo, and Myanmar, as well as in Berlin, New York, and Washington DC, and is co-editor of *Doing Fieldwork in Areas of International Intervention: A Guide to Research in Violent and Closed Contexts* (Bristol University Press 2020, with Morten Bøås).

Rémi Boivin, PhD in Criminology, is an Associate Professor at the School of Criminology of the Université de Montréal. He is a former analyst at the Montreal Police Service and continues to collaborate with several police organizations for research projects. He is the author and co-author of several articles and books about crime analysis, police practices, and training. For example, he currently leads the follow-up study of academic and professional trajectories of police officers in Quebec (Canada), a longitudinal project that aims to survey aspiring police officers on a variety of topics including police culture and work ethics.

Gabriela Mesquita Borges, PhD in Criminology, has a master's degree on woman and child abuse. She is currently an invited professor at the University of Minho, where she teaches Criminology at degree and master degree level. Her research interests include victimology, feminist and refugees' studies, and gender-based violence. She is also very interested in the use of qualitative methodologies in creating scientific criminological knowledge, and she is a member of the Working Group on Qualitative Research Methodologies and Epistemologies (WG-QRME) of the European Society of Criminology.

Hayley Boxall is the Manager for the Violence against Women and Children Research Program at the Australian Institute of Criminology. Over the past 12 years, Hayley has published extensively on domestic and family violence (DFV) and has been the primary investigator on a number of projects aimed at understanding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on victims-survivors experiences of DFV, improving criminal justice responses to DFV and victim/survivors, and pathways/trajectories into DFV offending and intimate partner femicide. Hayley is also a course convenor at several Australian universities where she teaches research methods and theory.

Roderic Broadhurst holds the position of Emeritus Professor at the School of Regulation and Global Governance (RegNet) and serves as a Fellow at the Research School of Asian and the Pacific, Australian National University (ANU). With a career spanning over 45 years, he has gained extensive experience as both a practitioner and a researcher in the field of criminal justice. His diverse expertise includes working in prisons, addressing public health issues in remote areas, studying organized crime, conducting homicide investigations, and researching cybercrime. Throughout his career, Broadhurst has maintained a deep commitment to reducing re-offending risks and rehabilitating offenders through the principles of restorative justice. He currently leads the ANU Cybercrime Observatory and has taught courses on subjects such as crime theory, cybercrime, and violence.

Marly van Bruchem is a PhD Candidate at the Open University and the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR). Her research project focuses on the role of bystanders in police work and the interactional dynamics between police officers and citizens. She has experience with interviewing, participant observation, and video observational analysis of surveillance footage in public space.

Anette Brunovskis is a sociologist and Senior Researcher at the Norwegian center for violence and traumatic stress studies, currently researching the mental health and everyday life of military veterans and their families. Over the past two decades, she has conducted interviews with victims of human trafficking and other persons in sensitive and precarious situations in several countries and has published numerous articles, book chapters, and reports on a variety of topics in the anti-trafficking field, as well as other issues such as research ethics and methods. Her PhD examined anti-trafficking policies and the experiences of exploited persons, from identification, assistance, prosecution, and return to country of origin, with a particular focus on the significance of local institutional landscapes for the implementation of international policies.

Nereida Bueno-Guerra is a psychologist and criminologist with a Doctorate in Comparative Psychology by the University of Barcelona in collaboration with the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology. Her main interest is the prevention of child sexual abuse. To that aim, she collaborates with correctional centers to understand the mind and behavior of people who have committed sexual offences and discuss whether separate treatments are needed for child offenders and/or for people who suffer from pedophilia. So far, she has spent 6 years interviewing inmates and conducting workshops with them. As this is a double-side phenomenon, she has also recently started interviewing adult victims of child sexual abuse to propose guidelines on how to empathically respond to disclosure.

Christine Burkhardt, (M.Law) is a Research Fellow and PhD candidate in Criminology at the School of Criminal Science of the University of Lausanne. For her PhD, she received a 4-year research grant from the Swiss National Science Foundation for a study on the effectiveness of policing strategies in reducing crime and insecurity. She collaborates with several police organizations for research projects. Her research interests are crime prevention, policing, fear of crime, and cybercrime. She is also co-chair of the European Society of Criminology Working Group on the impact of COVID-19 on the Crime and Criminal Justice System.

Sarah L. Carthy, PhD, is an Assistant Professor at Leiden University's Institute of Security and Global Affairs (ISGA). She is a graduate of the University of Galway where she completed her BA and PhD in Psychology. Her research mainly focuses on the role of narratives in radicalization, evidence-based approaches to prevention, and understanding non-involvement in terrorist violence.

Xavier Coller holds a PhD in Sociology (Yale University) and a Chair in Political Science at the Department of Political Science and Administration (UNED). He has taught in several universities in Europe and the USA and has been a visiting fellow at Warwick University (UK), University of California (Berkeley), Yale, Harvard, Princeton, Georgetown, Université de Montpellier 1, and LUISS. He is the Seventh Prince of Asturias Chair, Georgetown University (2005–07), Director of the three surveys to MPs in Spain, and correspondent of the Comparative Candidates Survey.

He has authored over 100 articles on social theories, research methods, collective identities, political elites, and complex organizations (parties, multinationals). He is the author of *Political Power in Spain: The Multiple Divides between MPs and Citizens* (Palgrave 2018) edited with Antonio M. Jaime and Fabiola Mota, (also published by CIS in 2016), *The Selection of Politicians in Times of Crisis* (edited with Guillermo Cordero and Antonio M. Jaime-Castillo, Routledge 2018), *Democratizing Candidates Selection. New Methods, Old Receipts?* (edited with Guillermo Cordero, Palgrave 2018), and *Politicians in Hard Times* (with Leonardo Sánchez, Palgrave 2021). More information: https://upo.academia.edu/xavierColler

Rut Diamint is Principal Investigator at CONICET (National Scientific and Technical Research Council) and Professor at the Department of Political Science and International Studies at the University of Torcuato Di Tella. She specializes in democracy, human rights, international security, and military issues. She is a member of the Advisory Board of the *Club de Madrid* and served as an advisor for the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters (2013–2016). Since 2016, together with Laura Tedesco, she has been conducting research on the Cuban armed forces. Her latest books are *Sin Rumbo. Estrategias de defensa en América Latina* (Universidad Sergio Arboleda 2021) and *Demócratas o usurpadores. Un análisis de líderes sudamericanos*, co-authored with Laura Tedesco (EUDEBA, 2019).

Rita Faria holds a PhD in Criminology and is currently Assistant Professor at the School of Criminology of the University of Porto. She is also Director of the Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Crime, Justice and Security and Director of the PhD program in Criminology at the University of Porto. Her research interests include white-collar and corporate crime, as well as environmental crime. She has been specializing in the use of qualitative methodologies in Criminology and is co-chair of the Working Group on Qualitative Research Methodologies and Epistemologies (WG-QRME) of the European Society of Criminology.

Carles Feixa is a full professor of social anthropology at Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona). He has a PhD from the University of Barcelona and an Honoris Causa from the University of Manizales (Colombia). He has specialized in the study of youth cultures, conducting fieldwork research in Catalonia, Mexico, and Colombia. He is the author or co-author of more than 50 books, including *Global Youth?* (2006), *Youth, Space and Time* (2016), *El Rey. Diario de un Latin King* (2020), and *El Iti y su banda: Mierdas Punk*s (2022). Currently, he serves as the Principal Investigator of the European Research Council project TRANSGANG.

Esther Fernández-Molina is Associate Professor in Criminology and the director of the Centre for Research in Criminology at the University of Castilla-La Mancha. Her research interests have been centered on the juvenile justice system and attitudes of the criminal justice system. Since 2018 she has led a research project about access to justice. Currently she is Editor-in-Chief of the Spanish *Journal of*

Criminological Research and Chair of the Social Research Ethics Committee of the University of Castilla-La Mancha.

Kate Fitz-Gibbon is a Professor of Social Sciences and Director of the Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre in the Faculty of Arts, Monash University (Victoria, Australia). She also holds affiliated research appointments with the School of Law and Social Justice at the University of Liverpool (UK) and the Research Center on Violence at West Virginia University (USA). Kate is an internationally recognized scholar in the field of family violence, femicide, responses to violence against women, and the impact of policy and practice reform in Australia and internationally.

Aina M. Gassó is a Forensic Psychologist specialized in criminal court cases regarding child sexual abuse and family custody. She is an expert in cybercrime and cyber victimization, and her research focuses on sexting, online sexual victimization, and psychopathology. She is currently a Lecturer of the Master's Degree of Forensic, Criminological, and Legal Psychopathology at Universitat Internacional de Catalunya, and of the Master's Degree in Cyber Crime at Universitat Oberta de Catalunya.

Esperanza L. Gómez-Durán is an adult psychiatrist and forensic doctor, Senior Researcher and Associate Professor of Forensic Psychiatry and Legal Medicine, and the Director of the Master's Degree in Forensic Psychopathology at UIC Barcelona. She has extensive experience in the assessment of sexual offenders and victims, and her main research interests focus on the interface between Medicine, Psychiatry, and Law, including violent offending, sexual offending, and victimization.

Cristina Güerri holds a PhD in Law and is Tenure Track Professor in Criminology at Universitat Pompeu Fabra. Her research has mainly focused on prisons and imprisonment, where she has worked on topics like quality of prison life, prison officers, imprisoned migrants, body searches, or complaints and requests.

Lucía Halty is a Doctor of Psychology with over 10 years of experience in the field of criminal psychopathy, working with both adults and children. Her research has centered on personality, approached from a neuroscientific perspective, and she currently focuses on identifying and understanding behavioral issues in childhood. Lucía is the author of several publications related to the study of psychopathy and criminal profiling. Additionally, she holds multiple master's degrees, including in the fields of Criminal and Forensic Psychology, Intelligence Analysis, Data Analysis, and Cognitive Neuroscience.

Ombretta Ingrascì (PhD University of London) is a Postgraduate Fellow in Sociology at the University of Milan, where she teaches "Global Criminal Organizations" and is Assistant Director of the "Summer School on Organized Crime". She is a member of the research team of the University of Milan partner of the H2020 project "ITHACA Interconnecting Histories and Archives for Migrant

Agency: Entangled Narratives Across Europe and the Mediterranean Region". Her research activities have focussed mainly on organized crime from a gender perspective. Her last publication on this topic was *Gender and Organized Crime in Italy: Women's Agency in Italian Mafias*, IB Tauris, London, 2021.

Laure Kloetzer is a professor of sociocultural psychology at the University of Neuchâtel. Following avenues opened by the revolutionary work of Kurt Lewin and of Lev S. Vygotski, her research focuses on the ways in which psychology as a science of human development can contribute to social change. She thus calls upon methods from the field of Activity Clinics to co-design dialogical spaces that also serve as spaces for the development of thought and individual and collective activity.

Daniel Lambelet is a psycho-sociologist and an associate professor at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland, in the Lausanne Faculty of Social Work (HETSL/HES-SO). He conducts research on socio-judicial interventions in the community, focusing in particular on the professional activity of probation officers and its articulation with the practices of other actors of the penal or social and health fields.

E. Rutger Leukfeldt is a senior researcher at the NSCR and director of the Centre of Expertise Cyber Security at THUAS. He has been doing research into the human factor of cybercrime for 15 years. During that period, he was involved in both fundamental academic research and applied research for companies and governments. Rutger carries out both quantitative and qualitative studies, but his expertise lies in qualitative methods. Over the years, he has analyzed numerous large-scale police investigations and interviewed both cybercriminals and victims.

Marie Rosenkrantz Lindegaard is a Professor of Sociology at the University of Amsterdam and a Senior Researcher at the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR). Her research focuses on interactional dynamics of violence and crime, public space behavior, and the role of law enforcement officers and bystanders in interpersonal conflicts. Marie has experiences with ethnographic fieldwork in South Africa and the Netherlands and uses video observations to study real-life behavior.

Lenneke van Lith is a PhD candidate at the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law enforcement (NSCR) and University of Amsterdam. Her research focuses on interactional dynamics of police-citizen interactions, with a specific focus on how police officers can minimize the risk of conflict in these interactions. She uses participant observation and video observation of body-worn camera footage.

Nerve V. Macaspac, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Geography at the City University of New York (CUNY) and co-investigator of the GCRF-AHRC Network Plus Creating Safer Space. His current research focuses on peace zones amidst violent conflict to better understand the spatialities of peace and conflict. He has

conducted fieldwork in the Philippines, Mexico, and Colombia. His previous research examined the participation of Cambodian-Americans in the Khmer Rouge tribunal through interviews and population-based surveys conducted in California and Massachusetts. He integrates documentary film-making into his research. Originally from Manila, he is currently based in Brooklyn, New York City.

Marta Martí holds a PhD in Law and is a Research Consultant in Criminology in Spain and Latin America. Her research has mainly focused on prisons and the analysis of the criminal justice system from a gender perspective. She is also a professor at Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Spain) and Universidad Gerardo Barrios (El Salvador).

Rafa Martínez is professor of Political Science (University of Barcelona). He has been a research Fellow at the University of Pau (France), FNSP (Paris, France), and the University of California-Riverside (USA). He received the National Research Award granted by the Ministry of Defence of Spain (2002). His main publications are *Los mandos de las Fuerzas armadas españolas del siglo XXI*, Madrid, CIS, 2007 (2008 Best Book Award, Spanish Association of Political Science); "Objectives for democratic consolidation in the armed forces" in David Mares & Rafael Martínez (eds.) *Debating Civil-Military Relations in Latin America*, Brighton, Sussex Academic Press, 2013 (2015 Best Chapter Award, Spanish Association of Political Science); "Subtypes of coups d'état: recent transformations of a 17th century concept" *Revista CIDOB d'Afers Internacionals* n.108 (2015 Best Article Award, Defence, Public Security and Democracy Section of the Association for Latin American Studies); co-authored with David Pion-Berlin, *Soldiers, Politicians and Civilians. Reforming Civil-Military Relations in Democratic Latin America* (2017) (Cambridge University Press) (2019 Best Book Award, Spanish Association of Political Science and Giuseppe Caforio ERGOMAS Award 2019 Best Book); co-authored with Nicole Jenne, "Domestic military missions in Latin America: Civil-military relations and the perpetuation of democratic deficits" in *European Journal of International Security*, 7 (2022):58–83 (2022 Best Article Award, Defence, Public Security and Democracy Section of the Association for Latin America Studies); and *El papel de las Fuerzas Armadas en la América Latina del siglo XXI* (2022) Centro de Estudios Políticos y Constitucionales, Madrid.

Ashley A. Mattheis is a postdoctoral researcher at the Cyber Threats Research Centre in the Hillary Rodham Clinton School of Law at Swansea University. Her work brings together cultural studies, media studies, and rhetorical criticism, through the lens of feminist theory to explore the digital cultures of the "Momosphere," the Alt-Right, the "Manosphere," and #Tradwives with a goal of better understanding how gendered logics are used to promote racial discrimination and to (re)produce dominant structures. Her work has been published in peer reviewed and practitioner journals, including the *Journal for Deradicalization*, *Interventionen*, and *The Resolve Network*.

Helena Menih is Lecturer in Criminology in Crime, Justice and Legal Studies in the Social Inquiry Department. She is a graduate of Griffith University, with a Masters of Criminology with Honours (2010) and a PhD in Criminology (2015). Helena also holds a Bachelor of Socio-cultural Anthropology from the University of Primorska (Koper, Slovenia) and has extensive experience working with women experiencing family/domestic violence and other vulnerabilities. Her chief research interest is exploring intimate and family/domestic gender-based violence and the broader societal impacts of this (i.e., homelessness and family law).

Silke Meyer is the Leneen Forde Chair in Child and Family Research in the School of Health Sciences and Social Work at Griffith University. She is a member of the Griffith Criminology Institute and the Griffith Centre for Mental Health. Silke is a criminologist and social worker by training, bringing practical and theoretical expertise to her research, teaching, and writing. Her research centers on different aspects of domestic and family violence, including women and children's safety, wellbeing, and recovery; men's accountability in their role as perpetrators and fathers; experiences specific to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; and the role of domestic and family violence-informed practice in child protection, policing, and court proceedings. She is an expert in holistic and collaborative service responses to individuals and families affected by domestic and family violence, including evidence-based policy and practice reform.

Asier Moneva is a postdoc at the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR) and the Center of Expertise Cyber Security at The Hague University of Applied Sciences (THUAS). He is a criminologist interested in how, when, and where cybercrimes occur, focusing on the human factors involved. He mainly relies on quantitative methods and data science to do research and enjoys collaborating with researchers from other disciplines, practitioners, and professionals. With his research, Asier aims to generate knowledge to better understand cybercrime and to find solutions to reduce it or mitigate its impact.

Sara Pabian, PhD, is Assistant Professor at the Department Communication and Cognition of Tilburg School of Humanities and Digital Sciences, Tilburg University (the Netherlands). Since 2011, she has conducted research on different forms of online aggression, such as cyberbullying. Her research is focused on understanding why adolescents and adults are involved in online aggression, but she also looks at (long-term) outcomes of online aggression. She is also involved in research projects aimed at developing and testing technological intervention and prevention tools. Besides online aggression, Sara is interested in online persuasive communication, including influencer marketing.

Noemí Pereda, PhD in Clinical and Health Psychology, is an associate professor in Victimology, ICREA Academia 2016 researcher, and director of the Research Group on Child and Adolescent Victimization (GReVIA) at the University of Barcelona. She is an expert in developmental victimology, known for her work on

the epidemiology of child victimization in Spain and Latin America. She has also analyzed the consequences of terrorism in childhood and adolescence, the adverse effects for children of their use as soldiers, the application of restorative justice measures in child victims, and the risk of child abuse as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bertha Prado-Manrique has a Law degree from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru and a Master's degree in Criminal Law and Criminal Policy from the University of Malaga. She is currently a PhD Fellow Researcher in the Criminal Law Area (Department of Public Law) of the University of Malaga and at the Andalusian Interuniversity Institute of Criminology, Malaga Section, where she is also a researcher at the Observatory of the Crime Control System towards Immigration (OCSPI).

Marco Romagna is a lecturer and researcher at the Centre of Expertise Cyber Security of THUAS. He has studied cybercrime both in its criminological and legal dimension, focusing on the human element. He mainly uses qualitative methods such as interviews and virtual ethnography. He is also a PhD candidate at Leiden University researching hacktivism and focusing on the motivations, modus operandi, and organizational aspects of hacktivists.

Jenny Ros holds a PhD in psychology from the University of Lausanne. Currently working as a researcher at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland, Faculty of Social Work (HETSL/HES-SO), she conducts research using methods drawn from the activity analysis approach in the field of professional social work practices.

Bart Schuurman, PhD, is an Associate Professor at Leiden University's Institute of Security and Global Affairs (ISGA). He has studied contemporary terrorism and counterterrorism from a variety of perspectives, including the role of public support in determining counterterrorism success or failure, the causes of homegrown jihadism, and the state of the field of research. His current project studies the differences between individuals who adopt extremist views but do not use terrorist violence and those who do.

Tommy van Steen, PhD, is an assistant professor in Cybersecurity Governance at the Institute of Security and Global Affairs, Leiden University, the Netherlands. He holds a BSc and MSc in Psychology from Radboud University in Nijmegen, the Netherlands, and a PhD in behavioral change from the University of the West of England, Bristol, United Kingdom. His research interests within the field of cybersecurity include behavioral change initiatives to improve end-user security behaviors, cybersecurity training for employees, and organizational cybersecurity culture.

Rebecca Surtees is an anthropologist and Senior Researcher at NEXUS Institute, conducting research globally on trafficking in persons and in particular on identification, protection, assistance, and reintegration of trafficking victims. She has

conducted interviews with trafficking victims in Europe, the former Soviet Union, and Asia and has published extensively on the issue of trafficking in persons. Her research includes some of the first research on trafficking in males, trafficking in the fishing industry, trafficking among refugees, research with unidentified and unassisted victims, and longitudinal research with trafficking victims. She has also written on research methods and ethics in the field of trafficking research.

Josep Maria Tamarit holds a degree in Law and a Doctorate in Law from the University of Barcelona. He currently serves as a Full Professor of Criminal Law at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya and the University of Lleida. His research primarily focuses on victimology and restorative justice. From 2005 to 2022, Josep was the coordinator of the research group on Criminal Justice System, which consisted of researchers from various Catalan universities. He has also led several research projects, including "Sexual abuse in religious institutions," which was funded by the Spanish Ministry of Science from 2018 to 2021.

Tim Turner, PhD, is Assistant Professor of Criminology at Coventry University. His research interests focus on atypical patterns of drug and alcohol use in party zones such as music festivals and nightlife tourist resorts. He is a volunteer research officer with The Loop, a ground-breaking service providing drug checking and harm reduction interventions within music festivals, clubs, and city centers. Prior to his academic career, Tim was employed as a Forensic Mental Health Nurse in London.

Marc H. Vallés holds a PhD in Law from the University of Girona (Spain), where he completed his doctoral thesis entitled "Ethnographic analysis of the Spoitor community from the commune of Gradistea (Romania): identification processes and domination mechanisms." He has also been a visiting researcher in the Department of Sociology of Law at Lund University (Sweden). His lines of research include legal and cultural pluralism, unofficial law, legal colonialism, Romani studies and history, law, and power. He is currently a lecturer and researcher at the Autonomous University of Barcelona and University of Girona.

Heidi Vandebosch is full professor in the Department of Communication Studies of the University of Antwerp (Belgium). She has been conducting research on cyberbullying since 2005. Heidi has investigated the prevalence of cyberbullying; the profiles of victims, bullies, and bystanders; and the impact of this specific form of online aggression. She has also studied how cyberbullying can be addressed: what is the role of schools, parents, teachers, the police, and social media platforms? and how can technologies (e.g., reflective interfaces, automatic detection systems, digital serious games, etc.) be used to prevent, detect, and solve cyberbullying?

Part I
The Powerful

Chapter 1
Talking with Spies: From Naïve to Distrustful Researcher

Antonio M. Díaz-Fernández

1 Intelligence Services as Research Object

At the end of 1998, I commenced my doctoral thesis on the Spanish intelligence services at the University of Barcelona, Spain, although all the fieldwork took place in Madrid at a recently established hybrid university institute somewhere between the National University of Distance Education and the Ministry of Defence: the *Instituto Universitario 'General Gutiérrez Mellado'*. The aim of my doctoral thesis was to describe the model of the intelligence services that Spain had adopted after its transition to democracy in 1978, the political and bureaucratic dynamics underlying that model, and the similarities of the Spanish model with respect to other Western ones. Since that initial study, most of my academic career has been centred on intelligence services, branching out to particular research areas on especially sensitive topics.

Oral sources of information have always played a major role in my research, due to the fact that other sources that are extensively used in other research fields, such as governmental reports, statistics, and archives, are inaccessible to the general public and hardly ever disclosed in Spain in view of the legal restrictions of the Law on Official Secrets of 1968, and its development in Law 48/1978, of 7 October. Over the years, I have conversed with former members of the intelligence services from the 1970s and 1980s who claim to have held onto internal documents, either as a protective measure or as part of a somewhat relaxed security culture that prevailed after the democratic transition. In any case, aware of its fragmented and individualistic features, I have never asked for access to that sort of material. However, I have been involved in some attempts to declassify blocks of confidential material, only released after protracted and wearisome administrative procedures.

A. M. Díaz-Fernández (✉)
University of Cadiz, Cadiz, Spain
e-mail: antonio.diazfernandez@uca.es

© The Author(s), 2023, Corrected Publication 2024

A. M. Díaz-Fernández et al. (eds.), *Fieldwork Experiences in Criminology and Security Studies*, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-41574-6_1