

Minutes:

First Meeting of the European Network for Open Criminology (ENOC)

September 6th, 2023, 11am-1pm

Annual Meeting of the European Society of Criminology

Florence, Italy

Apologies: Samuel Langton, Karl Kronkvist, Charles Lanfear, Marti Rovira, Thiago Oliveira, Ferhat Tura, Thom Snaphaan, Ana Belen Gomez Bellvis, Andy Newton, Alex Trinidad, Gian Maria Campedelli, Ian Adams, Asier Moneva.

Attend: Lucia Brisudová, Amy Nivette, Yuji Zocatelli Hashimoto, Jose Pina-Sánchez, Franziska Yasrebi-de Kom, Anthony O'Sullivan, Torbjørn Skardhamar, Kuralarasan Kumar, Stijn Ruiters, Christof Nägel, Matthew Ashby, Katharina Krüsselmann, Iain Brennan, Wim Bernasco, David Buil-Gil.

1.- Welcome and introductions

Amy Nivette and David Buil-Gil welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked participants for taking part in the first meeting of the European Network for Open Criminology.

45 researchers, based in 12 countries (Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA), have registered in ENOC.

It was announced that the Board of the European Society of Criminology accepted ENOC as a working group of the Society on September 5th 2023.

Participants briefly introduced themselves and explained their concerns and motivations to be involved in the open research community.

2.- Experiences of 'open criminology' across Europe

Participants were invited to share their experiences, concerns and hopes around open criminology attitudes and practices in their respective countries.

The following topics were raised by participants as priority areas:

- Data sharing and open data
- Code sharing
- Pre-registrations
- Open access
- Open software
- Teaching materials

Particular considerations regarding these topics included:

- Very few criminology journals accept registered reports at present – only 'Legal and Criminological Psychology'.

- It is important to normalise the sharing of data and code, and raise standards and expectations around open research.
- Previous research has found that the proportion of open access articles is smaller in criminology than other disciplines.
- Difficulty of sharing sensitive data in criminological research.
- Need to develop new diamond open access journals.
- Perhaps the open software movement is less pressing in our case, because the move towards the use of R and Python is well underway in criminology; the need for code and data sharing may be more pressing.
- Need to consider qualitative research in the open research movement.
- Need to develop both bottom-up (training, education, etc) and top-down (meetings with editors of journals, etc) approaches.

3.- Terms of Reference and launch of ENOC

The draft of the Terms of Reference was discussed.

It was accepted that the Steering Committee should be elected every two years.

Membership will be reviewed annually through an email sent to all members.

The Terms of Reference were approved unanimously.

4.- Election of co-chairs

Iain Brennan, Amy Nivette and David Buil-Gil presented their candidacy to co-chair ENOC.

They were elected unanimously.

5.- Activities for 2023/24

The following activities were agreed for 2023/2024:

- We will organise a **meeting with the editors-in-chief of journals of criminology**, policing, crime science, and related areas to discuss the need to embed open research into the journal publication systems. Mainly focus on data sharing and code sharing statements in journal articles, and possibly also discuss open access and pre-registration submissions.
[Action: David Buil-Gil, Amy Nivette and Iain Brennan will coordinate this action]
- Create a **website** for the Network. The website shall include (a) an introduction to the Network and its aims; (b) list of members and their areas of expertise around open criminology; (c) activities of the Network; (d) showcase other initiatives around open criminology; (e) tutorials and guidelines around specific areas.
[Action: Matt Ashby will coordinate this action]
- Organisation of online **seminar on data sharing** for quantitative and qualitative researchers.
[Action: David Buil-Gil will coordinate this action]

- Organisation of **training sessions at the next ESC meeting** in September 2024.
[Action: Iain Brennan, Amy Nivette and David Buil-Gil will coordinate this action]
- Consider the possibility of establishing an **award** to celebrate and disseminate open research practices around open research in criminology. We will discuss with the ESC Board the possibility that this award is given by the ESC.
[Action: Amy Nivette, Iain Brennan and David Buil-Gil will coordinate this action]
- Consider the possibility of putting together a proposal for a **COST Action network** (see next point).
[Action: Stijn Ruiter, Amy Nivette and Iain Brennan will coordinate this action]

6.- COST Action proposal

COST Action projects enable groups of researchers and practitioners from European countries to organise meetings and other activities to develop synergies around specific areas. Iain Brennan presented a paper on the possibilities and challenges of proposing and undertaking a COST Action project. Attendees discussed the possibility of a COST Action project around open criminology.

Stijn Ruiter, Amy Nivette and Iain Brennan will organise a meeting to discuss this idea, with the possibility that the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement coordinates a submission in October 2024.