

The Stockholm Prize in Criminology 2006–2025

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'High-quality criminological research is essential for understanding the causes of crime and developing crime prevention strategies. Criminological research therefore contributes to the legitimacy and effectiveness of the justice system and to support for victims of crime. Criminology is an interdisciplinary discipline that involves several key areas of research, such as sociology, law, psychology, medicine and social anthropology etc. Research is essential for understanding and solving complex societal problems.

The Stockholm Prize in Criminology honours the world's leading researchers, or the application of research results by practitioners, for the reduction of crime and the advancement of human rights. Representing the founders of the Stockholm Prize in Criminology Foundation, we cannot emphasise enough the importance of profiling and discussing each year the latest leading international criminological research, with Stockholm as our base.'

Gunnar Strömmer,
Minister for Justice, Sweden

Maria Söderberg,
Chair, Torsten Söderberg Foundation



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Introduction

This report celebrates the 20th anniversary of the Stockholm Prize in Criminology, established in 2005, and underlines the importance of criminological research in a democratic society.

It details the initiative taken by Professors Jerzy Sarnecki of Sweden and Lawrence W. Sherman of the US and UK to establish an internationally recognised prize – similar to a ‘Nobel Prize’ – in criminology.

It presents the internationally renowned laureates from around the world, along with their important research.

The report describes how the Swedish government and the Torsten Söderberg Foundation established the Stockholm Prize in Criminology Foundation in 2012, with the explicit aim of ensuring long-term funding for what has become the world’s largest, most recognised prize in criminological research. The purpose of the prize is to encourage excellence in criminological research or the application of research findings in crime prevention and promotion of human rights. Throughout the years, the prize has often been presented by H.M. The Queen at an award ceremony held at Stockholm City Hall.

As specified in the report, the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention organises a three-day Symposium in Criminology in conjunction with the award ceremony, usually attended by over 500 researchers from around the world. This important link to academia is manifested through a close collaboration with Stockholm University.

Criminological research encompasses a wide range of areas of public life and is essential for understanding the reasons crimes are committed and identifying measures to effectively prevent crime. In deference to victims of crime, criminological research is also necessary for identifying humane and appropriate sanctions to prevent recidivism. I would like to extend my special thanks to the two founders who, with great generosity and commitment, have recognised the importance of criminological research.

Anne Ramberg
Chair, Stockholm Prize in Criminology Foundation



The Stockholm Prize in Criminology

The Stockholm Prize in Criminology is an international prize awarded annually to one or more persons for outstanding achievement in criminological research or in the application of research findings for the prevention of crime and crime-related harm.



The Stockholm Prize in Criminology was established in 2005 to draw international attention to criminological research and its importance to crime prevention among policy makers and society at large. First awarded in 2006 and now the world's largest and most prestigious criminology prize, it has been referred to as 'the Nobel Prize of criminology'.

Since 2012, the prize has been awarded by the Stockholm Prize in Criminology Foundation, established by the Swedish government and the Torsten Söderberg Foundation. A prize amount of at least SEK 1 million is awarded.

An independent international jury selects its proposed laureate from a pool of nominees.

Over the years, the prize has promoted greater knowledge of the causes of crime at the individual and structural levels, a more effective and humane public policy regarding the treatment of criminals, increased awareness of alternative crime prevention measures within the justice system and civil society, practices to help victims of crime, and improved methods to reduce government abuse within the justice system on a global level.

Award ceremony at Stockholm City Hall

The prize is awarded during a formal ceremony at Stockholm City Hall, held in June in conjunction with the international *Stockholm Criminology Symposium*, a three-day event organised by the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention. The symposium brings together over 500 criminologists, other researchers, and practitioners from around the world, and focuses on topics within the prize winner's research area along with other current topics in criminology.

H.M. The Queen has on several occasions presented the award in the presence of the Minister of Justice, representatives from the City of Stockholm, the Foundation's board, researchers, donors, the international jury, and other guests. The award ceremony is followed by a banquet in the Golden Hall.

From idea to prestigious award

The prize was established in 2005 but began as an idea long before, and the process of bringing it to fruition involved a wide range of actors over several years.

The idea of establishing a major award in criminology was conceived during a meeting in Paris between two professors: Lawrence W. Sherman from the University of Pennsylvania and Jerzy Sarnecki from the Department of Criminology at Stockholm University. At the time, Sherman was chairman of the *Scientific Commission of International Society for Criminology* and Sarnecki was a Commission member. The idea of establishing a 'Nobel Prize' in criminology was discussed during a dinner following the Commission's meeting in Paris. Although it was initially thought to be unfeasible, contacts were made to attract the Swedish government's interest in establishing a distinguished criminology award and discussions were initiated with potential donors.

Foundation laid for the Stockholm Prize in Criminology

The idea eventually gained traction. Progress was made with the support of then Minister of Justice Thomas Bodström and State Secretary Dan Eliasson, and subsequently Minister of Justice Beatrice Ask and the Swedish government. With the kind assistance of Ambassador Krister Kumlin, Messrs Bodström and Eliasson opened the way for talks on possibilities for establishing the prize.

During spring 2004, some twenty international potential donors – primarily American, British, and Swedish – were invited to discussions with the Ministry of Justice. Some

'The time is right to establish a major international prize in criminology, based in Stockholm'

Professor Jerzy Sarnecki

accepted the invitation. The outline of the future award began to take shape. It was agreed that the award would be named *The Stockholm Prize in Criminology* and that the award ceremony would be held in June each year in Stockholm City Hall. The award prize was set at SEK 1 million. The decision was taken to endeavour to have the award presented by a member of the Swedish Royal Family. The idea of linking the award to a scientific symposium was raised.

The first prize awarded in 2006

The Stockholm Prize in Criminology was awarded for the first time in 2006. Five donors contributed to the award's inaugural year: *the Jerry Lee Center of Criminology, the Japanese Correctional Association, the Hitachi Mirai Foundation, the Torsten Söderberg Foundation, and the Ragnar Söderberg Foundation*. Jerry Lee, from the United States, undertook to contribute to funding the award for ten years through his organisation. The other donors determined to renew funding of the award on an annual basis. The donors' geographical distribution was important, and was strengthened by Jerry Lee's strong personal interest and his roots in America and Britain. The involvement of the two Söderberg Foundations, through Edvard Söderberg, ensured a Swedish base, and the two Japanese donors provided a connection beyond the European-American spheres.

An international jury was appointed, comprised of eleven distinguished criminologists from varying backgrounds and different countries. Professors Jerzy Sarnecki and Lawrence W. Sherman have served as co-chairs of the jury since its inception.

During the early years, the award was administered by the Ministry of Justice and the newly formed non-profit *Stockholm Prize in Criminology Association*, chaired by Supreme Administrative Court Justice Annika Brickman.



The Stockholm Prize in Criminology Foundation

Based on demonstration of the award's international viability, and in honour of med. Dr h.c. Edvard Söderberg, in 2012 the Torsten Söderberg Foundation ensured the future of the award by establishing an endowment for funding the Stockholm Prize in Criminology Foundation, together with the Swedish government.

Edvard Söderberg's personal commitment was a positive force in the establishment of the award, providing it with a definitive Swedish financial anchor. Mr Söderberg often spoke in favour of making a larger donation to make the prize permanent. He served as Vice-Chairman of the Torsten Söderberg Foundation and as joint Director of both Söderberg Foundations for many years.

The Torsten Söderberg Foundation initially decided to donate SEK 16 million, increasing its donation to SEK 20 million some years later. The Ragnar Söderberg Foundation also made a smaller donation.

Minister of Justice Beatrice Ask and State Secretary Magnus Graner took the lead in advocating for the government's partial funding of the award. On 19 December 2011, the Parliament approved the government's proposal to establish the new foundation and to provide a government grant of SEK 14 million.

The Stockholm Prize in Criminology Foundation was formally established at a ceremony held at the centre of Swedish government administration, the Rosenbad building, on 11 May 2012. In a joint declaration by Swedish government, represented by Minister of Justice Beatrice Ask, and the Torsten Söderberg Foundation, represented by Maria Söderberg, this ceremony recognised the final steps ensuring the future of the award.

Bo Svensson, former Justice and President of the Supreme Court of Sweden, was appointed Chairman of the Foundation's Board. The Board also included Maria Söderberg of the Torsten Söderberg Foundation; Erik Wennerström, Director General of the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention; Kåre Bremer, Vice-Chancellor of Stockholm University; and Ambassador Krister Kumlin (Vice-Chairman).

The Foundation's purpose

The purpose of the Stockholm Prize in Criminology Foundation is to promote scientific research in criminology that contributes to:

- Greater knowledge of individual and structural causes of crime
- A knowledge-based and humane structure for society's response to crime
- Building expertise in crime prevention strategies, within and outside the justice system
- Effective strategies for supporting and protecting victims of crime
- Effective measures to improve judicial security and combat the global problem of abuse of power and corruption that can occur in the justice system

The Foundation pursues these objectives by funding an annual international award in the field of criminology. The prize is awarded to one or more persons for outstanding achievement in criminological research or in the successful application of criminological research findings to combat crime and promote human rights.

The Foundation's Board of Directors

Based on the independent international jury's proposals, the Foundation's Board of Directors is responsible for deciding on award winners, prize amounts, and the time and place for announcing the year's laureate.

The Board is to be comprised of five members, two of whom are appointed by the Swedish government and one by the Torsten Söderberg Foundation. The other two Board members (one of whom serves as Board Chairman and one as Vice-Chairman) are appointed by the other Board members and are independent in relation to the founders. Board members are appointed for two-year terms, which can be extended. During spring 2025, the Foundation's Board of Directors was comprised of Attorney Anne Ramberg, Chair; Ambassador Lars Hjalmar Wide, Vice-Chair; Maria Söderberg, Chair of the Torsten Söderberg Foundation; Hans Adolfsson, Vice-Chancellor of Stockholm University; and Jonas Trolle, acting Director General of the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention. Previous Board Chairmen have been Bo Svensson and Sten Hecksher, former Justices of the Supreme Court of Sweden. Stockholm University is responsible for Board administration and co-ordinating the jury's work.

The Foundation's Board of Directors 2025

Anne Ramberg, Chair
Lars Hjalmar Wide, Vice-Chair
Maria Söderberg
Hans Adolfsson
Jonas Trolle

Founders of the Stockholm Prize in Criminology Foundation

The Foundation was established by the Swedish government and the Torsten Söderberg Foundation.

The Torsten Söderberg Foundation

The Torsten Söderberg Foundation, founded in 1960 by Torsten and Wanja Söderberg and their sons, is dedicated to promoting scientific research and educational programmes in the fields of economics, medicine, and jurisprudence. The Foundation also supports research institutions in other areas, including the humanities. Since the inception of the Stockholm Prize in Criminology, the Foundation has made annual contributions and subsequently ensured the award's longevity through its initiative and generous donation, which has enabled the continuation and development of the prize.

A donation of SEK 20 million to the Stockholm Prize in Criminology was made by the Torsten Söderberg Foundation in honour of med. Dr h.c. Edvard Söderberg, who took an early interest in the prize's creation and eventual permanence.

Donors during the prize's crucial first years

Several donors made generous donations during the prize's first years. Many of these donors are still very much involved with the prize and the symposium, albeit in different ways.

Jerry Lee Foundation/Jerry Lee Center of Criminology

The Jerry Lee Foundation was founded in 1966 in the United States. Its primary focus is on reducing crime and improving education through research on successful methods for achieving these objectives, and it has been a catalyst for evidence-based improvements in these areas. The Foundation is committed to solving social problems associated with poverty, particularly in American inner-city areas suffering from concentrated poverty. The Foundation's particular focus is on primary education and crime prevention, and its main strategy is to support research to identify what works, what doesn't work, and what might work.

Jerry Lee and his associated organisations were instrumental in the creation of the prize, providing early support by pledging annual contributions over a ten-year period. His personal interest in criminology has also given the prize a crucial foundation in the United States and Britain.

Torsten Söderberg Foundation

The Foundation, which was founded in 1960, promotes scientific research and educational programmes in the fields of economics, medicine, and jurisprudence. The Foundation also supports research institutions in other areas, including the humanities. Since the inception of the Stockholm Prize in Criminology, the Foundation has made significant annual contributions. Together with the Swedish government, the Foundation subsequently established and funded the Stockholm Prize in Criminology Foundation to ensure the prize's longevity.

Ragnar Söderberg Foundation

The Ragnar Söderberg Foundation was founded in 1960 to promote scientific research, education, and studies for the nation's benefit, with particular focus on economics, medicine, and jurisprudence. The Foundation made significant annual contributions to the prize amount during the prize's early years and made a smaller donation for the establishment of the Stockholm Prize in Criminology Foundation.

Hitachi Mirai Foundation (now Hitachi Foundation)

The Hitachi Mirai Foundation, founded in 1967, is based in Tokyo and part of the Hitachi Co Group. The Foundation is engaged in a wide range of activities, including the prevention of juvenile crime and delinquency, the improvement of correctional and rehabilitation services for prison inmates and school students with social problems, and the promotion of social understanding and collaboration on issues involving young people. The Foundation made several significant contributions during the prize's initial years.

Japanese Correctional Association

The Japanese Correctional Association is a member of the International Corrections and Prison Association (ICPA), which is focused on improving global understanding and professionalism in the industry. The organisation made several significant contributions to the prize during its initial years.



Jury and nominations

An independent international jury receives nominations and proposes a winner. The jury is comprised of internationally renowned researchers, including former laureates. Professors Jerzy Sarnecki and Lawrence W. Sherman have served as co-chairs of the jury since its inception.



Lawrence W. Sherman,
co-chair of the jury



Jerzy Sarnecki,
co-chair of the jury

The jury is comprised of eleven members from different countries, all of whom are researchers or specialised in the application of research findings. The jury makes an independent proposal for the prize winner, selected from a pool of candidates nominated in the prescribed manner. The jury, which works pro bono, meets annually in Stockholm the day prior to the Stockholm Criminology Symposium and decides on its proposal for next year's laureate. The jury also holds additional meetings in person or online as needed.

Selection process for the prize

The process for selecting the laureate begins with nominations submitted by criminological associations, research institutes, or individual researchers from around the world. During the meet-

ings, the jury's discussion is focused mainly on the people on this short list, although the jury may decide to include other nominees in its deliberations. Following its deliberations, the jury takes its decision by repeated ballot votes and then by acclamation. The nominee must be a living, natural person who is willing and able to be awarded the Stockholm Prize in Criminology in person at Stockholm City Hall and to give a lecture during the Stockholm Criminology Symposium. The Stockholm Prize in Criminology Foundation makes the final decision on the winner, the prize amount to be awarded, and the time and place for announcing the winner.

Jury members, 2025

The jury is comprised of professors and experts in the application of criminology to public policy:

Beatriz Abizanda (Uruguay)
Susanne Karstedt (Australia)
Candace Kruttschnitt (Canada)
Friedrich Lösel (Germany)
Tiyanjana Maluwa (South Africa)
Peter William Neyroud (Switzerland/Great Britain)
Emil W. Plywaczewski (Poland)
Jerzy Sarnecki (Sweden)
Lawrence W. Sherman (Great Britain/United States)
Hiroshi Tsutomi (Japan)
David Weisburd (United States/Israel)

Previous jury members

Lola Aniyar de Castro (Venezuela)
David Farrington (Great Britain)
Peter Nils Grabosky (Australia)
Katalin Gönczöl (Hungary)
Hans-Jürgen Kerner (Germany)
Britta Kyvsgaard (Denmark)
Letitzia Paoli (Belgium)
Terrie E. Moffitt (United States/Great Britain)
Daniel Ortega (Venezuela)
Joan Petersilia (United States)

The jury's work is administered by Stockholm University.



The Stockholm Criminology Symposium

The Stockholm Criminology Symposium is an annual three-day forum arranged in conjunction with Stockholm Prize in Criminology. First held in 2006, it attracts around 500 participants from some 30 countries.

The symposium is organised by the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention, an agency of the Ministry of Justice.

The primary purpose of the symposium is to create an environment where international criminologists, policy makers, practitioners, and others involved with crime policy issues can learn about the latest developments in criminological research and related issues relevant to crime policy.

Lectures by the laureates are a central feature of the symposium. The programme otherwise includes over 60 parallel seminars with more than 200 speakers. The programme's main theme is always based on the prize winner's field of study. A complementary in-depth topic is also addressed, along with a broader topic covering a comprehensive range of contemporary criminology issues.



Golden Hall, Stockholm City Hall.

The Stockholm Prize in Criminology is awarded during a formal ceremony at Stockholm City Hall, held in June in conjunction with the Stockholm Criminology Symposium.

The prize ceremony



2006

Friedrich Lölzel and
John Braithwaite.



2007

Alfred Blumstein,
H.M. The Queen,
and Terrie E. Moffitt.



2008

Jonathan Shepherd,
Princess Christina,
and David Olds.



2009

John Hagan, Minister of
Justice Beatrice Ask and
Eugenio Raúl Zaffaroni.



2010

David L. Weisburd
and Minister of Justice
Beatrice Ask.



2011

Robert J. Sampson,
H.M. The Queen,
and John H. Laub.



2012

Jan van Dijk and
H.M. The Queen.



2013

Minister of Justice
Beatrice Ask and
David P. Farrington.



2014

Daniel S. Nagin, Minister of
Justice Beatrice Ask and
Joan Petersilia.



2015

Ronald V. Clarke, Minister
of Justice Morgan
Johansson, Patricia
Mayhew and Minister of
Home Affairs Anders
Ygeman.



2016

Minister of Justice Morgan
Johansson, Travis Warren
Hirschi, Cathy Spatz
Widom, Per-Olof Wikström
and Minister of Home
Affairs Anders Ygeman.



2017

Richard E. Tremblay and
H.M. The Queen.



2018

Herman Goldstein and
Minister of Justice Morgan
Johansson.



2019

Peter Reuter,
Maria Söderberg (Chair,
Torsten Söderberg Foun-
dation) and Ruth Dreifuss.



2020

H.M. The Queen
at a digital award
ceremony.



H.M. The Queen
at a digital award
ceremony.



2021 2022

Elijah Anderson (2021),
H.M. The Queen,
Francis T.Cullen (2022) and
Cheryl Lero Jonson
(received the prize on behalf
of Peggy C. Giordano 2022).

2023

H.M. The Queen and
Beatriz Magaloni.

2024

Tom R. Tyler,
H.M. The Queen,
and Gary LaFree.





Criminology is the study of actions that are punishable by law (i.e., crimes) and other behaviours that, although not punishable, violate societal norms and cause harm to individuals and society.

As in many sciences, criminology comprises theoretical, methodological, and empirical research. It also includes applied criminology, a field in which criminological knowledge can be translated into actions that impact individuals, groups, and society as a whole in various ways. It is therefore of utmost importance that criminology's values are based on principles of universal human rights.

Criminology is an interdisciplinary subject encompassing several disciplines such as political science, sociology, psychology, economics, law, medicine, and also architecture and urban planning. Although social sciences form the core of criminology, elements of scientific research are also required for understanding and preventing crime.

Criminology

The study of criminology encompasses four areas of research:

1

The social processes that lead to the punishment (criminalisation) of some acts and not others.

2

The extent, nature, spatial and temporal variation, and causes of crime on the societal, group, and individual level.

3

Society's responses to crime, including punishment, treatment, and prevention.

4

Research on victims of crime relating to the harm caused by crime on the individual and societal level, and measures aimed at alleviating this harm. The latter is a relatively new and rapidly developing area.

The four areas are not mutually exclusive, and scholars often work with issues involving more than one area. There is, for instance, a strong connection between society's responses to crime, protection for victims of crime, and criminalisation processes. Similarly, there is a strong connection between research on crime's extent, nature, and changes over time, and studies of the causes of crime, and criminalisation and decriminalisation.

All laureates are celebrated for their achievements based on the four above-referenced areas of research.

2006–2025

Information about the laureates, their research, and the jury's motivations describe the facts at the time the laureates were awarded the prize.

Laureates



Born 1951 in Australia. John Braithwaite was professor at the College of Law, Australian National University (Australia) at the time of the award.

2006 John Braithwaite

Society's responses to crime and support for victims of crime. The 2006 Prize for John Braithwaite recognised his empirical and theoretical studies of the social and psychological mechanisms that can provide redress for crime victims, while reintegrating offenders into mainstream society. His theory of 'reintegrative shaming' identified a process by which offenders can first experience a sense of shame for their crime, then show a willingness to repair the damage caused by the crime. The research he led demonstrated how the process made it possible for offenders to be reintegrated in law-abiding society.

From shame to reintegration into society

Braithwaite was recognised for his theories on 'reintegrative shaming' (shame as essential to reintegration) and 'responsive regulation' (an individualised response to crime that escalates as more crimes are committed). His research has had a major impact on both theory development and crime policy.

Theories' global impact

Braithwaite's theory has inspired a global social movement for restorative justice, in which all parties affected by a crime can work together to understand and repair its harmful consequences.

His contributions to criminology have also had a direct impact on the legal systems, on company law, and on international peace-making. Beyond his influence in academia, Braithwaite has played an important role in the practical implementation of public policy. Among other things, he has served on an Australian federal commission that regulates trade practices and has evaluated the implementation of nursing home regulations.

He has also developed strategies to improve mining industry safety, aimed at reducing harm done to society's most vulnerable citizens.

From retribution to dialogue

The theory of reintegrative shaming has been instrumental in bringing about a paradigm shift in legal policy, challenging a view of justice as a purely retributive principle and describing more inclusive democratic processes. Braithwaite's work has emphasised open, rational, inclusive conversation as the basis for case-by-case decisions about responses to crime.

Strengthening the position of victims of crime is one of the biggest changes inspired by his research. His programme has broken with a thousand-year tradition of centralised governmental power, where decisions about crime victims' needs were often made without their direct input. He has been instrumental in moving towards legal systems in which victims of crimes can actively participate and shape the outcomes of the legal process.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)



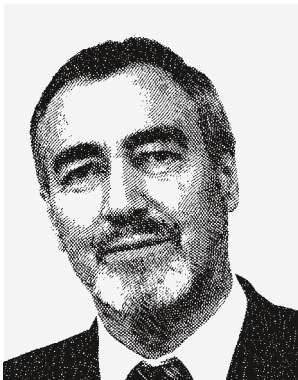
2006 John Braithwaite

**Showed that redress for victims and
reintegration for perpetrators can be
achieved both inside and outside
the traditional legal system.**



2006 Friedrich Lösel

Demonstrated that crime prevention is often possible, especially when prevention methods are carefully evaluated.



Born 1945 in Germany. Friedrich Lösel was Director of the Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge (United Kingdom) at the time of the award.

2006 Friedrich Lösel

Society's responses to crime through the effective treatment of offenders. Lösel was honoured for his systematic analyses of evaluations of treatment programmes for people who have committed various types of crime, and the effects of training prison staff on their treatment of prisoners. Lösel conducted extensive meta-analyses of treatment and rehabilitation programmes for offenders. His research has been instrumental in identifying the factors that make programmes successful.

Therapy that works

Friedrich Lösel was awarded the 2006 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for his work in evaluating measures that prevent individual recurrence of crime.

Lösel's extensive analyses of treatment and rehabilitation programmes for offenders have been instrumental in identifying the factors that make programmes successful.

Field experiments in a German prison and global systematic reviews

Lösel's early work includes a randomised field experiment in a German prison, where he demonstrated the effectiveness of a training programme for prison staff in treating prisoners with greater human dignity. His later work demonstrated the fallacy of the 'nothing works' view of rehabilitation programmes for convicted criminals. In a series of systematic analyses of hundreds of independent studies, he found clear evidence of the effectiveness of a range of rehabilitation programmes for various types of offenders, including sex offenders. The overall conclusion of his work is that recidivism can be reduced by providing rehabilitation programmes for convicted criminals, rather than merely imprisonment.

Lösel's systematic testing of a wide range of crime prevention strategies, included programmes for young children and their families and programmes for rehabilitating convicted criminals. His research has focused on the causes and treatment of juvenile crimes, football hooliganism, school bullying and adult sexual offences. As a pioneer in systematic reviews of all available evaluations of a given programme, he has shown that investing in children's skills training at an early age can prevent a large amount of crime, saving significant costs of incarcerating adults.

He has also shown that the effectiveness of a wide range of rehabilitative treatments for adult sex offenders in reducing recidivism, may depend on the degree of consistency in implementation.

New knowledge within criminology

By carefully testing key crime measures and theories, Lösel has helped to develop the concept of 'resilience': the protective factors that help prevent young people from becoming criminals despite being exposed to risk factors such as living in high-crime areas.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)



Born 1955 in Germany. Terrie E. Moffitt was professor at the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College, London (United Kingdom) and Duke University (USA) at the time of the award.

2007 Terrie E. Moffitt

Causes of crime. Moffitt was lauded for her discoveries of the broad range of social, psychological and biological factors that increase or decrease individual risk of crime and wellbeing over the life-course. She also demonstrated how these factors may combine to produce better or worse outcomes, such as varying genetic vulnerability that can shield many people from negative environmental influences during childhood without increased risk of exhibiting violent behaviour later in life.

Multidisciplinary research on human development and crime

Terrie E. Moffitt was awarded the 2007 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for her studies of the factors that increase the risks of people committing crime over the first four decades of life.

Research on crime patterns

Her research spans large groups of people studied intensively through birth, including twins in the UK and entire birth cohorts in a New Zealand city. Her discoveries include an early distinction between 'adolescence-limited' and 'life-course persistent' offenders and have inspired many other tests of this pattern, revealing important nuances and variability across societies and data samples. She was also among the first criminologists to examine risks of violence by individuals in intimate relationships and in relation to strangers.

Gene-environment interaction (GxE)

In 2002 Moffitt and her colleagues published papers in the journal *Science* on the interaction between maltreatment during childhood and a low-active variant of monoamine oxidase A (MAOA) gene. The study showed that people who lack this predisposition and a history of child abuse had significantly lower levels of violent behaviour in early adulthood compared with people who had both of these environmental and genetic risk factors for violence.

This finding stimulated a global discussion on the idea of criminal intent and accountability and raised profound questions on humane crime prevention strategies for maltreated children.

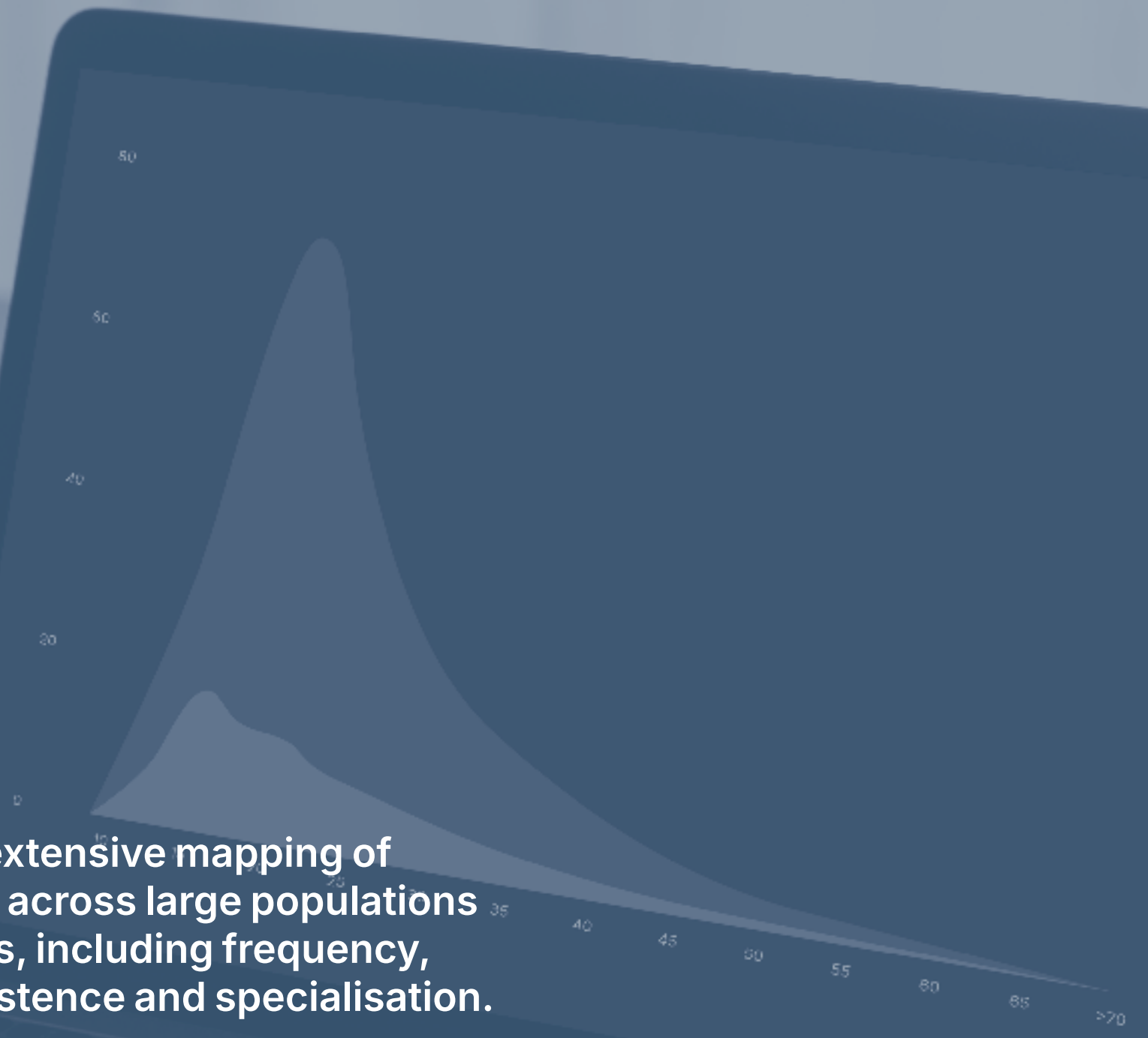
Moffitt has also conducted an important large-scale follow-up of twins in the United Kingdom to investigate biological, psychological, and social influences on their development.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)



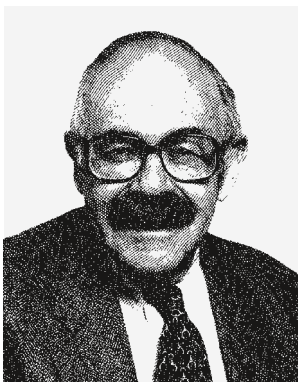
2007 Terrie E. Moffitt

**Showed how crime may be caused
by the interaction of genetic and
environmental factors.**



2007 Alfred Blumstein

Provided the first extensive mapping of offending patterns across large populations of known offenders, including frequency, seriousness, persistence and specialisation.



Born 1930 in the US. Alfred Blumstein was professor at Carnegie Mellon University (United States) at the time of the award.

2007 Alfred Blumstein

The nature of crime, causes of crime, society's responses to crime. Alfred Blumstein was lauded for his research on the long-term development of criminal behaviour, or 'criminal careers'. Among other things, he has demonstrated that longitudinal tracking of crime patterns in large populations of convicted offenders – in which data is collected from the same individuals over long periods of time – provides important insights into the causes of crime and how findings from this research can be used in crime policy.

Focus on criminal careers

Alfred Blumstein was awarded the 2007 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for his longitudinal studies of the various patterns of crimes reported over an offender's lifetime.

Blumstein has done groundbreaking research on the patterns of people's detected criminal behaviour. He has conducted longitudinal studies to discover the age at which sanctioned criminal actions begin, how long and frequently they continue, and how serious they become.

Analyses of crime patterns

Blumstein has pioneered concepts mathematics for comparing crime patterns among offenders identified by the legal system. His analyses of variations of criminal careers in the United States have had a global influence on legal policy and practices.

His research has been instrumental in the formulation of sentencing laws and law enforcement priorities worldwide, and to the rapidly increasing influence of basic research on criminal careers. He has also contributed to

the terminology used in describing the main features of criminal careers, such as his concept of 'lambda' as the underlying true frequency of criminal acts that can only be estimated based on such indirect measures as arrests by the police, convictions, or self-reported offences.

Greater understanding of criminal careers

As Chair of the US National Academy of Sciences Panel on Research on Criminal Careers reporting in 1986, Blumstein was the lead author and editor of a groundbreaking report on the state of knowledge about 'criminal careers'. The report emphasised the methodological uncertainty involved in predicting future criminal acts, as well as the ethical limitations of basing sentencing practices on past criminal records. In works co-authored with many of the most prominent contributors to our knowledge on criminal careers, he provided insightful and inspiring guidance for interpreting different patterns of criminal careers – with dramatic implications for public safety and crime prevention.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)



2008 David Olds

Showed that crime is prevented by providing support for mothers in needs, both before and immediately after the child's birth.



Born 1948 in the US. David Olds was professor at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center (United States) at the time of the award.

2008 David Olds

Society's responses to crime, particularly crime prevention.

Dr. Olds was honoured for developing and evaluating a post-natal treatment programme that prevented child maltreatment and its consequences, including crime later in life. The programme that prioritises families with young children at risk of inadequate parental care, has been rigorously evaluated and tested in different types of communities.

Early intervention prevents crime

David Olds was awarded the 2008 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for his research on the prevention of child abuse and ways in which early intervention can prevent future problems.

Unlike most experimental criminologists, he did more than evaluate a crime prevention policy developed by others. He designed his own model of helping parents. His design grew out of his immersion in the context of the problem to be solved: poor infant care by unprepared mothers. Working as a staff member in an US day care centre, he watched mothers interact with their infants and noted important needs for better guidance. Using conclusions derived from psychological research, he worked with paediatric nurses to develop a plan for repeated visits to mothers over the first two years of life. His clinical trial of this strategy,

comparing it to similar mothers who had not received the training, followed children well beyond the early years into teen years. His evidence led to many state and national governments adopting his program for newborn infants.

A program with multiple benefits

In early adulthood, the children that had participated in the programme showed lower delinquency, fewer cases of abuse and a better social adaptation in general. Many dimensions of their childhoods were compared between treatment and comparison cases. Taken together, the programme not only reduced harm, but paid for itself many times over. Independent analyses of Old's work estimate that his programme has saved seven times as much money in health and criminal justice costs as the initial cost of its delivery.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)



Born 1949 in the UK. Jonathan Shepherd was professor at the University of Cardiff School of Dentistry (United Kingdom) at the time of the award.

Broken glassware led to changes in legislation

Jonathan Shepherd was awarded the 2008 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for his research on pub violence that has had a major impact on policy decisions focused on crime prevention.

Shepherd's research has prompted the UK glass industry to switch its production to tempered glassware, resulting in a major decrease in facial and dental injuries among pub-goers. He has relentlessly applied this research evidence in many countries, promoting local partnerships to combat crime and disorder in the pub environments. His plans were incorporated in UK legislation that preceded a major

drop in violent crimes after the British government provided funding for a national strategy in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Developed a measure of violence

Shepherd also helped develop a national measure of violence by linking hospital data with police data on reported crimes and data from victim surveys.

His research further contributed to improving treatment for crime victims suffering post-traumatic stress caused by incidents of violence (the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004).

2008 Jonathan Shepherd

Prevention of injuries caused by crime in public places.

Shepherd was honoured for developing methods to prevent violence associated with alcohol consumption. His research showed, among other things, that drinking glasses used in pubs were often used as weapons. By experiments replacing standard glasses with those designed to shatter entirely, he showed that injuries to the face and teeth in pub fights could be reduced by 70 per cent. More broadly, he developed a framework for analysing public areas of nighttime gatherings, which could be used by police and others to prevent alcohol-related violence.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)

2008 Jonathan Shepherd

**Showed that even when violence
cannot be prevented its harmful
effects can be reduced.**



Born 1946 in the US. John Hagan was professor of Sociology at Northwestern University (United States) at the time of the award.

2009 John Hagan

The extent, nature, and causes of the crime of genocide, and research on its victims. Hagan received the prize for his research on human rights violations, genocide, and war crimes. His work includes studies on crimes committed during the civil wars in Darfur (Sudan), Iraq, and the Balkans. He has also conducted research on the relationship between crime and inequality in terms of ethnicity, class, and gender.

The true scale of genocide

John Hagan was awarded the 2009 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for his research on the causes and prevention of genocide.

Hagan's groundbreaking research on genocide against North African communities produced theories and models that clarify its causes and motivations. His field studies showed that the number of murders during the civil war in Darfur, Sudan, had been significantly underestimated by previous official data.

Four times more murder victims

Hagan's field work led to his development of theories of genocide and war crimes. His particular focus examines how government institutions, erosion of the law and the participation of professional groups enable mass violence. In his empirical work of violence in both Darfur (2005) and the Balkans (1991-99), he demonstrated the importance of using surveys of crime victims. Analysing data collected by the American Bar Foundation and the US

State Department, Hagan and his colleagues found between 200,000 and 400,000 murders in Darfur, more than four times the previous assessments. Hagan's team also found significant evidence of racist motives for the murders and rapes, but little evidence of any strategic response to the insurgency as claimed by the Sudanese authorities. These findings were widely publicised and helped change the public understanding and discussion of the tragedy in Darfur.

Patriarchal family structures in the global north

In his studies of juvenile delinquency, Hagan linked patriarchal family structures to gender differences in juvenile delinquency. By analysing how power relations within the family affect the degree of control over sons and daughters, he contributed to the understanding of how family structures and gender roles affect young people's propensity for criminal behaviour.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)



2009 John Hagan

**Showed that criminological
research can play a key role in
understanding genocide and
gendered crime patterns.**



2009 Eugenio Raúl Zaffaroni

Showed that the criminology of 'neutralisation techniques' is a key factor in constructing a social movement for genocide.





Born 1940 in Argentina. Eugenio Raúl Zaffaroni was member of the Supreme Court of Argentina and professor emeritus at the University of Buenos Aires (Argentina) at the time of the award.

2009 Eugenio Raúl Zaffaroni

Causes of the crime of genocide. Zaffaroni received the prize for his analysis of how leaders can use harm to victims as justification for extreme punishments, including genocide and other crimes against humanity. His work has focused on crimes committed by the Argentinean junta against its own people in the latter 20th Century, as well as on the Holocaust and slavery in prior centuries.

When the government is the perpetrator

Eugenio Raúl Zaffaroni was awarded the 2009 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for his research on the causes and prevention of genocide and the role played by governments in systematic violence against innocent scapegoats.

His groundbreaking theories and models clarify the causes and motives of genocide and provide warnings to other societies developing extreme politics. Zaffaroni's work demonstrated how criminological theories on juvenile delinquents can be applied to governments that commit crimes against their own people.

Analyses of genocide and violence

Zaffaroni laid the groundwork for defining genocide based on criminological theory. He demonstrated how, among other strategies of criminal states, the concept of 'neutralisation techniques' could be used for promoting genocide. Neutralisation techniques are understood in criminology to be psychological strategies used by criminal actors to justify or excuse criminal behaviour. These techniques were first observed during ethnographic research among juvenile delinquents in the US. By

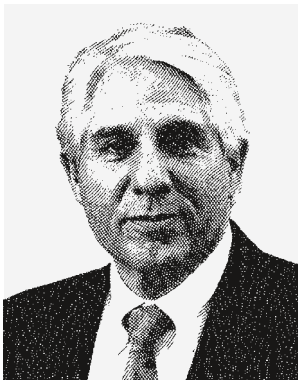
textual analyses of political messages in Argentina and elsewhere, Zaffaroni showed how well they fit the rhetorical patterns of governments that define certain populations as 'enemies' designated as morally justifiable targets for genocide or other violations of the rule of law.

Explanations of genocide

Zaffaroni's analysis of the root causes of genocide emphasised the importance of competition about scarce resources such as water and arable land. These findings were confirmed by later research in Africa and elsewhere. His critique of criminal law as an inadequate means of preventing genocide raised profound questions about the role of the international legal model in the aftermath of genocide.

Zaffaroni's research also points to the importance of preventive measures taken by new leadership immediately after a current conflict has ended. By rebuilding families and communities, new leadership can develop reconciliatory models to break the vicious cycle of blood feuds. Otherwise, as he showed, mutual revenge can continue for centuries.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)



Born 1954 in Israel. David L. Weisburd was professor at George Mason University (United States) and Hebrew University (Israel) at the time of the award.

2010 David L. Weisburd

Anti-crime measures in micro-places. Weisburd was lauded for his research that led to his subsequent 'law of crime concentration'. That research demonstrated the importance of prioritising crime prevention in a small fraction of all geographic micro-places in any community, since most locations usually have no serious crime at all.

Policing with precision

David L. Weisburd was awarded the 2010 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for his research on how policing can be made more effective by concentrating efforts in a small number of high-crime micro-places, such as a street segment from one corner to the next.

The jury recognized the most crucial breakthrough of Weisburd's research was his falsification of the 'spatial displacement' hypothesis: that increasing resources in high-crime places merely pushes crime to other locations. His finding of the effects of police operations on preventing crime *without* displacement has been instrumental in bridging the gap between criminology and practical policing. Weisburd is a leading figure among the growing number of criminologists who are demonstrating how the application of research findings can help reduce not only crime, but also unnecessary interference with the public's freedom from intensive policing where it is not needed.

Effective to deploy more police to 'hotspots' Weisburd's work builds on, and complements, prior research showing the effectiveness of adding police resources to high-crime 'hot spots'. These places show substantial reductions of high rates of robberies, purse

snatchings, street fights, or illegal drug trafficking, but without evidence of 'pushing crime around the corner'. With strategic insight, he designed systematic observations by trained observers to measure displacement during a massive reduction of observed drug-dealing and public prostitution encounters.

Crime reduction with no displacement Evidence from these tests conducted by Weisburd and his colleagues in Jersey City (New Jersey) and Seattle (Washington state) showed that criminal activity can be significantly reduced in places where policing is done, with no increase of crime in other areas. He also presented evidence that the introduction of a crime prevention strategy to a small, high-crime area often creates a spillover of benefits to neighbouring areas, reducing crime rather than increasing it around the targeted location.

These findings encourage police forces to increase their focus on patrolling a small percentage of any city, in small, high-crime areas. Based on this research and its replications, police have adopted this strategy from the US to Sweden to Latin America, Australia and beyond.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)



2010 David L. Weisburd

Showed that 'hotspot policing' of small crime-prone areas reduces crime in neighbouring areas, as well as the central areas.

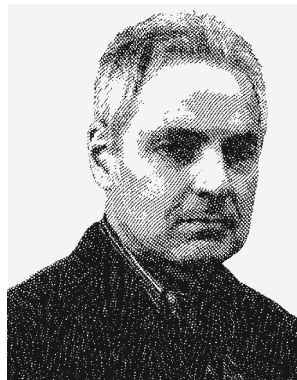


2011 John H. Laub

Showed that an individual's propensity to commit crime is influenced by key events – turning points – throughout the entire lifetime.



Born 1953 in the US. John H. Laub was professor at the University of Maryland (United States) and Director of the US National Institute of Justice (NIJ) at the time of the award.



Born 1956 in the US. Robert J. Sampson was professor in the Department of Sociology, Harvard University (United States) at the time of the award.

2011

John H. Laub

Robert J. Sampson

Causes of crime across the life course. Professors Laub and Sampson were lauded for their important contributions to life course criminology and the further development of the theory of social bonding. Their research shows how changes in criminal behaviour are influenced not only by the ageing process, but also by 'turning point' changes in social control (or their absence) over a person's lifetime.

Research on the importance of social control for the criminal career

The 2011 prize was awarded to American scholars John H. Laub and Robert J. Sampson for their research on why and how offenders stop committing crimes – or not. Their research shows that even serious criminals can leave their criminal careers for good in connection with good turning points of social control in their course of life.

At the time the prize was awarded, Laub and Sampson had carried out one of the world's longest cohort studies of criminals. The study involved 500 men born in the 1920s who had been sentenced to juvenile correctional facilities in Massachusetts in the late 1930s.

The study was originally initiated during the 1950s by Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck at Harvard Law School. Based on the study, the couple wrote several high-profile books on juvenile crime. The source material was eventually archived and stored in a basement at Harvard, where it remained until it was rediscovered by Laub in the mid-1980s.

Why offenders stop committing crimes

Laub and Sampson further researched the Glueck materials, searched additional archives, and carried out additional interviews

with the study participants, who were by then nearly 70 years old. Their research was a breakthrough in terms of understanding how and why offenders stop committing crimes following key events – or so-called 'turning points' in their lives.

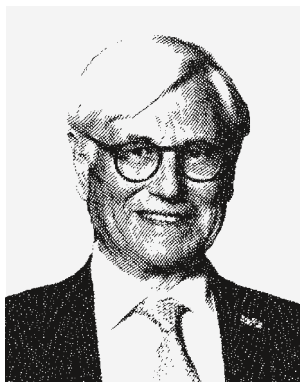
Key turning points in the subjects' lives that affected their criminality were increases in social control from their social networks via marriage, military service, employment, and other life events that strengthened their social bonds. These findings have had a major impact on the field of criminology on a global scale.

In a major line of mid-range research on community social control, Sampson went on to develop cross-community comparisons of crime in Chicago. Using surveys and systematic observations of street behaviour, Sampson and his Chicago colleagues translated concepts of individual social control into the community level capacity to create and maintain 'collective efficacy' against crime and disorder.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)

2011 Robert J. Sampson

Showed that both individual social control and the 'collective efficacy' of local communities may substantially reduce crime.



Born 1947 in the Netherlands. Jan van Dijk was professor at the International Victimology Institute, Tilburg University (Netherlands) at the time of the award.

Global focus on crime victims' perspective

Jan van Dijk was awarded the 2012 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for his groundbreaking work in developing the International Crime Victims Survey (ICVS).

Van Dijk has been a leader in victimology: the study of the victims of crimes, their vulnerability to crime and experiences of society's support. He has been working since 1989 with the ICVS, which is designed to provide an alternative to official crime statistics. The ICVS has shed light on crimes that do not come to police attention and enables an international comparison of exposure to crime and perceptions of the legal system in different countries.


Unique comparison between countries

The ICVS gathered data from a total of approximately 350,000 people in some 80 countries, including data from 33 major cities. Data was collected from the general public and may therefore have been somewhat free of influence by the political or ideological agendas of their governments. The survey is widely considered to have produced the most reliable evidence to date that many kinds of crime have been falling in Europe, the United States, Canada, and other Western countries since the early 1990s.

2012 Jan van Dijk

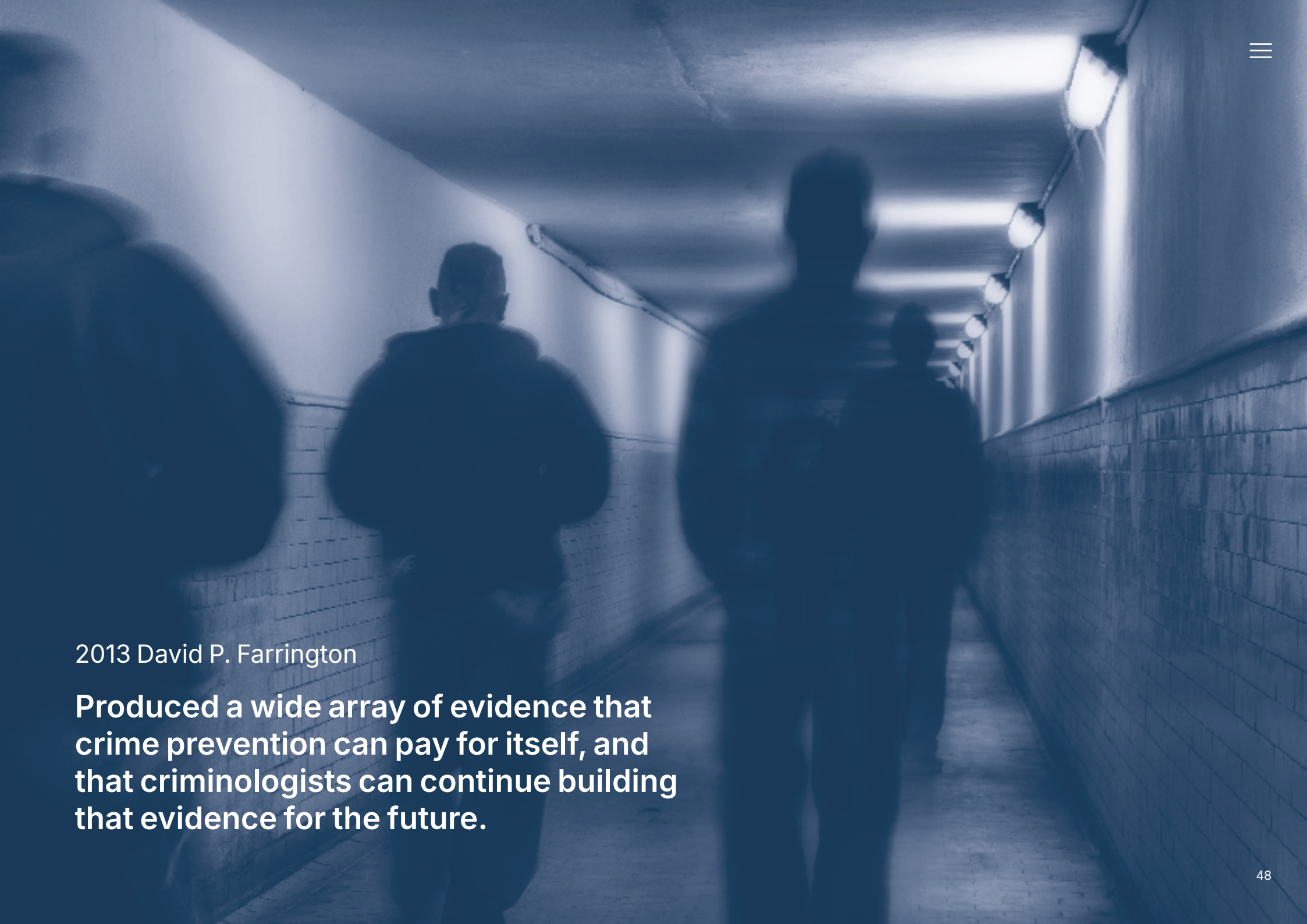
The extent, nature, and cross-national variation in crime based on research on victimisation rates. Professor Van Dijk was lauded for his sustained work with the International Crime Victims Survey (ICVS), a key source of knowledge about crime. By using public surveys rather than official statistics, the ICVS can more reliably compare the extent, nature, and structure of crime across the 80 participating countries.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)



2012 Jan van Dijk

**Showed that crime victims
need to be heard – in statistics
as well as policy.**



2013 David P. Farrington

Produced a wide array of evidence that crime prevention can pay for itself, and that criminologists can continue building that evidence for the future.



Born 1944 in the UK. David P. Farrington was professor at the Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge (United Kingdom) at the time of the award.

2013 David P. Farrington

Crime patterns, its causes, and measures against crime. Farrington was lauded by the jury for his six decades of research, conducted with hundreds of collaborators from around the world. His work began with the 411 London males enrolled at early adolescence in the Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development, leading to massively important insights about different patterns of offending and desistance. He went on to the development and testing of many theories on the causes of crime and the effects of anti-crime measures.

Crime prevention starts in childhood

David P. Farrington was awarded the 2013 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for his research on how crime develops over time and how early intervention can reduce the risk of future criminal behaviour – both for people and places.

He influenced policy makers around the world by uniquely combining his own research findings with other research, supporting many major policy conclusions.

Early intervention with at-risk young people pays off handsomely

Farrington has focused his crime prevention policy recommendations on four key findings: 1) risk and protective factors for future criminality appear very early in life; 2) high-risk children can be helped basically from birth; 3) many programmes for children under ten are highly effective; 4) investment in early intervention programmes to prevent crime saves a tremendous amount of taxpayer money.

To reach these conclusions, Farrington conducted systematic reviews of research on English risk and protective factors indicating the likelihood of children becoming adult criminals. He has created a list of effective policy options to save money related to future crime through early crime prevention efforts. In his role as the founding chair of the International Campbell Crime and Justice Group, he launched an ongoing process of recruiting

and reviewing criminologists world-wide to ensure high quality reviews of the effects of specific policies. The high readership and citation count of the Campbell reviews, now published in its own journal, provide strong evidence of the institution Farrington built with the next generations of criminologists. He set an example of breadth in his own reviews with colleagues of the effects on crime of such public prevention measures as intensified street lighting and monitoring by CCTV cameras. He also promoted research on the costs of crime, so that crime prevention effects could be presented by a common currency of cost reduction resulting from crime prevention alternatives.

Unique combination of research

Farrington is rarely recognized as an experimental criminologist, even though he helped to create the field with his 1983 systematic review of randomised controlled field trials. That review led to major investments in experiments for policing, prisons, probation, courts, and public place prevention – as well as the founding of the *Journal of Experimental Criminology*. Farrington uniquely combined his own original research with reviews of other research to influence governments around the world to use evidence-based crime prevention measures. He has also been influential in supporting the funding of evidence-based governmental programmes.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)



Born 1948 in the US. Daniel S. Nagin was professor at Carnegie Mellon University (United States) at the time of the award.

2014 Daniel S. Nagin

Society's responses to crime through punishment.

Nagin was lauded for his methodologically advanced studies on the deterrent effects of punishment. His findings show that deterrent effects of capital punishment are difficult to demonstrate, and that the deterrent effects of other sanctions are limited. According to Nagin's research findings, life sentences without possibility of parole do not have better preventive effects than fixed-term sentences. He also showed that high rates of prosecution per crime show greater preventive effects than do increasing the length of prison sentences.

Research on the deterrent effects of punishment

Daniel S. Nagin was awarded the 2014 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for his research on how the likelihood of discovery and punishment affects crime, and for his contributions to a more evidence-based use of prisons.

Daniel S. Nagin and his colleagues have studied the deterrent effect of criminal sanctions in a wide range of settings and institutions. In 2012, the U.S. National Research Council's Committee on Deterrence and the Death Penalty, which Nagin chaired, published a report concluding that the existing research on the deterrent effect of capital punishment was incomplete and inconclusive. That report, in turn, has been cited in some debates leading to abolition of the death penalty in US states.

Nagin has also conducted research on the use of statistical methods to analyse different trajectories of crime in longitudinal data, identifying changes in the seriousness or persistence of criminal behaviour over the life course.

Why reduce the prison population?

A key conclusion from Nagin's research is that society is better able to prevent crime by increasing the risk of detection – in other words, by increasing the likelihood that an offender will be caught for each offence committed – rather than by focusing on making (rarer) punishments harsher. Severity does not seem to compensate for certainty.

He has, for example, presented strong empirical evidence that investment in well-functioning policing has a significantly greater impact on crime levels than increasing the prison population.

His findings on the effects of imprisonment helped to contribute to a reduction in the number of people incarcerated in the United States for the first time in forty years.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)



2014 Daniel S. Nagin

Showed that increasing risks of arrest
is more effective at preventing crime
than lengthening prison sentences.



2014 Joan Petersilia

**Showed that post-release rehabilitation
can work, but only with enough support.**



Born 1951 in the US. Joan Petersilia was professor at Stanford University (United States) at the time of the award.

2014 Joan Petersilia

Society's responses to crime through imprisonment and measures taken after release from prison. Petersilia was lauded for her research on re-entry of prison inmates into the community, and serious crime recidivism resulting in returns to prison. Her research has shown, among other things, that the post-release situation for ex-prisoners has an impact on the risk of recidivism and requires much more investment to prevent re-incarceration. She also made significant contributions to prison reforms in California, resulting in a reduction in the state's prison population.

Fighting crime through reintegration

Joan Petersilia was awarded the 2014 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for her research on how prison sentences and probation can be designed to reduce the risk of recidivism and promote effective reintegration into society.

Her work has been instrumental in transforming the utilisation of prisons and probation services based on evidence of what works – and what doesn't.

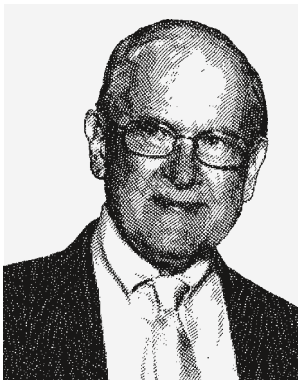
Petersilia's research on repeat offenders contributed to the expansion of efforts in the United States, and particularly California, to support ex-convicts during the high-risk period directly following their release from prison – when they may have nowhere to live and no job to work.

Galvanised American penal reform

At the time of the award, Petersilia had spent over 30 years studying the effectiveness of probation, parole, prison and other penal authorities in the United States. Her research shed light on issues including the devastating consequences – for offenders, families, and communities – of the massive increase in the American prison population during those decades.

Petersilia played a key role in influencing sentencing and prison reforms in California, where she worked as an 'embedded criminologist' and with other states. Her work helped to unify the policy analysis of prison sentences, probation, recidivism, and resentencing. Based on this analysis, she proposed evidence-based alternatives to the current sentencing system.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)



Born 1941 in the UK. Ronald V. Clarke was professor at the School of Criminal Justice, Rutgers University (United States) at the time of the award.



Born 1945 in the UK. Patricia Mayhew was criminology consultant in the United Kingdom at the time of the award.

2015

Ronald V. Clarke Patricia Mayhew

Preventing crime in situations. Clarke and Mayhew were lauded for their research on how the 'opportunity structure' of places and social networks affects an individual's behaviour. Their theory of situational crime prevention used locks, access control and vigilance. Yet the most impressive demonstration of the theory examined the relationship between the lethality of household gas usage and suicide rates in England and Wales. Their research led to decades of innovations in the design of crime prevention measures, largely following their clear theoretical framework.



2015 Ronald V. Clarke

**Showed that unexpected changes in society
can provide new criminological insights.**



2015 Patricia Mayhew

Showed that focused modification of opportunities to commit crimes can reduce the rates of crime per capita.

Crime as opportunity

British criminologists Ronald V. Clarke and Patricia Mayhew were awarded the 2015 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for reshaping the idea of 'opportunity' into a more neutral position.

In their concept, the idea of opportunity denotes something that is possible to do. By describing ways in which opportunities to commit crime without capture are distributed in time, place and social networks their work influenced ideas of how to block those opportunities. Better locks on bicycles, for example, could block the opportunity to steal them easily, which could in turn reduce bicycle theft. They have been instrumental in reshaping crime prevention strategies on a global scale to focus on factors that characterise situations where crimes are often committed.

Clarke and Mayhew have shown that crime prevention measures can often be quite simple, and yet highly effective. People commit or refrain from committing crime based on more than social and psychological factors; the physical design of the environment is another contributing factor. The character of buildings and the street environment, or the accessibility of valuable objects, can influence the likelihood of a crime being committed.

**Prime example:
Less lethal oven gas reduced suicides**

Between 1963 and 1975, there was an unexpected decline in the number of suicides in

England and Wales. Clarke and Mayhew then reviewed the evidence to look for any change in the opportunity structure to prevent suicide. In 1988 they published a report showing that the decline was clearly due, at least in part, to a reduction of lethality in the chemical composition of household gas. It simply became more difficult to commit suicide by just turning on the gas and lying down – then waking up alive with a headache. They concluded that the practical feasibility of carrying out a particular act has a major impact on whether or not the act will be committed – and at what rate of occurrence.

Strategies for the entire world

Clarke and Mayhew's work has been instrumental in reshaping crime prevention strategies worldwide. Rather than focusing on the social and psychological factors that motivate offenders to commit crimes, they showed that in some cases it can be more effective to block the opportunities for carrying out what they are motivated to do. This could apply to a change in the characteristics of any of the situations where crimes are repeatedly committed.

Their work has made major contributions to the rapid development and application of 'situational crime prevention' in both the public and private sectors. In many parts of the world, not least in Sweden, this has led to significant reductions in the number of burglaries, auto thefts, and robberies.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)



2016 Travis Warren Hirschi

Showed that strong social ties reduce the risk of young people committing crime.



Born 1935 in the US. Travis Warren Hirschi was professor emeritus in Sociology at the University of Arizona (United States) at the time of the award.

2016 Travis Warren Hirschi

Causes of crime. Hirschi was lauded for his contribution to the development of criminological theory. His control theory of individual links to family and community clarifies the reasons people do *not* commit crimes. Hirschi's self-reported crime surveys of young people in California showed that people refrain from committing crimes if they have strong ties. These include not just family, but also attachment to, commitment to, involvement in, and belief in established society.

Why people do not commit crime

Travis Warren Hirschi was awarded the 2016 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for his outstanding research on how relationships with parents and peers influence young people's obedience to the law.

The result of Hirschi's work is widely considered to be the most influential criminological theory of modern times, and has stimulated more research than any other in the field.

His *Social Bonding Theory* is a control theory on the reasons people do not break the law.

Influential criminological theory

Hirschi's first study began in 1965 with the collection of data on 4,077 adolescents in Richmond, California, to test and develop his theory of crime. Hirschi does not ask why people break the law, but rather why people don't. His evidence shows that young people refrain from committing crimes when they have a strong connection to established society, while parents also play a key role.

The ties that bind a person to society can be divided into four types. The first tie is described as attachment to conventional persons such as parents and peers. The second tie is commitment to conventional social order, e.g., investments in education, work, and honest living. The third tie is involvement in conventional activities, e.g., school, work, and club activities. The fourth, finally, is belief in the legitimacy of the prevailing social order (positive attitudes towards laws, law enforcement, etc. and negative attitudes towards crime and abuse).

Importance of strong parental attachment

In his studies of self-reported and recorded crime and attitudes among young people, Hirschi showed that the degree of attachment to parents did not prevent crime per se, but it did mould a commitment to, involvement in, and belief in conventional values. Even with unconventional parents, Hirschi found that a strong attachment to one or both parents appeared to prevent criminal behaviour and increase respect for the police.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)



Born 1945 in the US. Cathy Spatz Widom was professor in Psychology at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York (United States) at the time of the award.

2016 Cathy Spatz Widom

Causes of crime and victimisation. Widom was lauded for her research on the impact of early childhood abuse on later development. Based on the unique empirical database of abused children she created, she was able to show that children subjected to abuse – such as violence (including sexual violence) and parental neglect – had a significantly greater risk of developing a wide variety of psychological, social, and even health problems later in life. These problems also included criminal behaviour, particularly violent crime among boys.

Nuanced view of violence and parenting

Cathy Spatz Widom was awarded the 2016 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for her outstanding research on how childhood to victimisation increases the risk of future criminality – but also for showing that violence does not necessarily beget violence.

Widom's research found that children abused at a young age had an increased risk as adults of engaging in violent behaviour and in other crime activities. Yet most abuse victims did not go on to commit violent crime. She demonstrated that it is far from true that violence always begets violence, but it is a risk factor nonetheless.

Parenting matters

Her work supports Hirschi's theory that even bad parenting can have good elements, and that even criminal parents can often form a strong bond with their children and teach them right from wrong.

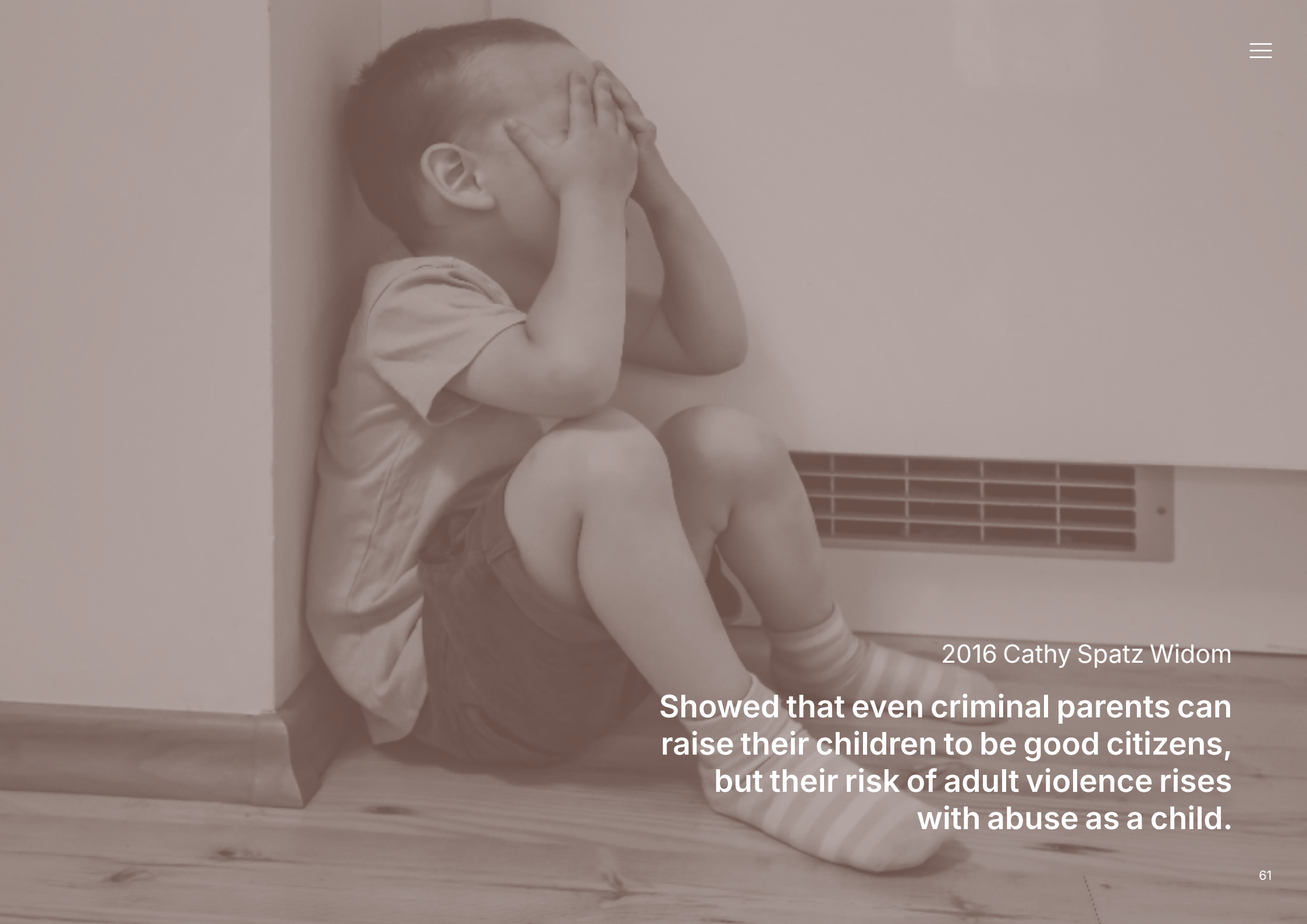
While Hirschi showed what parents can do right, Widom – a pioneer in systematic criminological research on parenting – showed what parents can do wrong.

Childhood leaves traces

Between 1967 and 1971, Widom studied 908 children in a midwestern American city who had been abused and/or severely neglected by their parents or relatives before the age of 11. She then compared these children with a control group of 667 children who had not been abused or neglected.

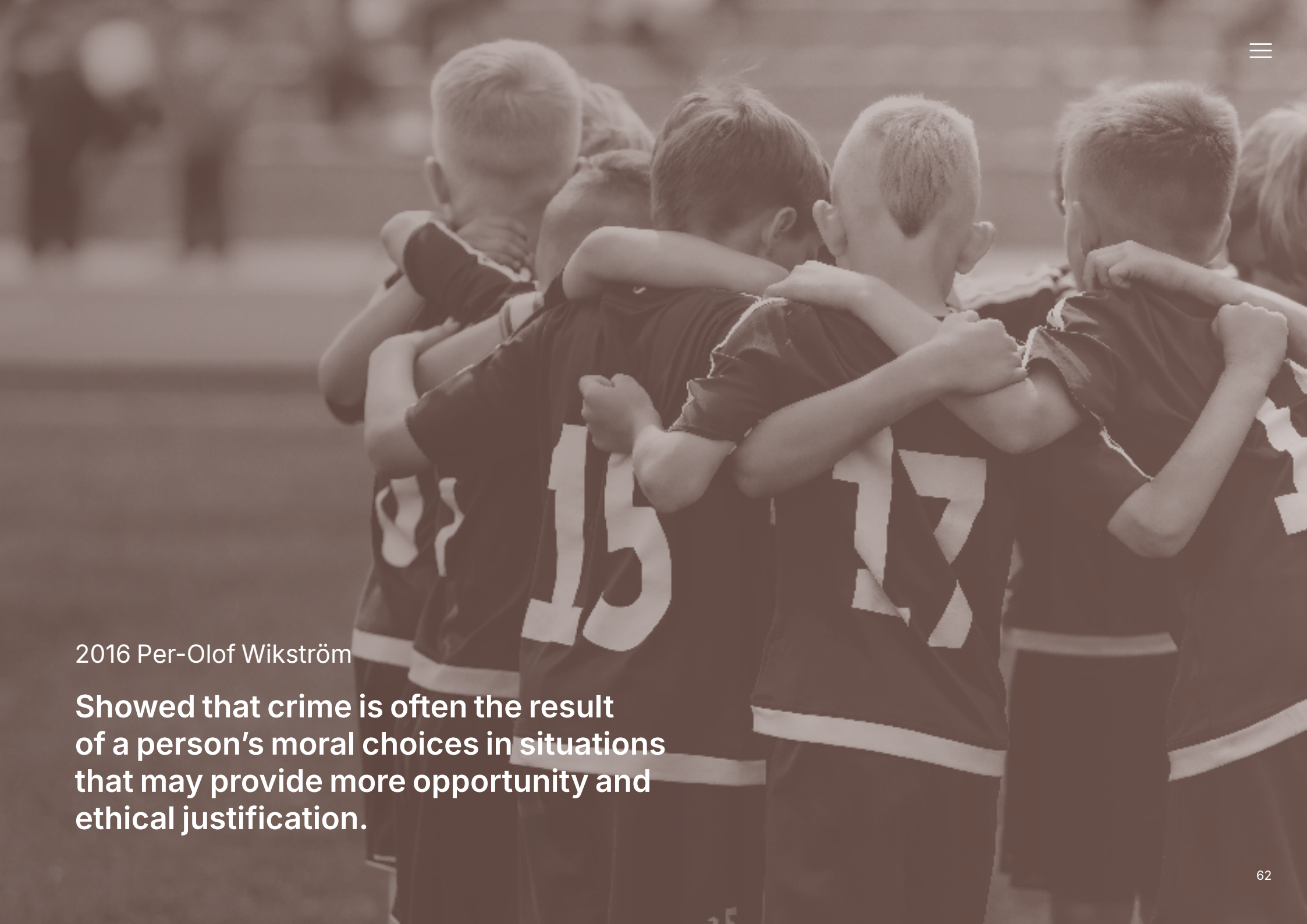
Over a two-decade follow-up, she found that children abused at a young age had an increased risk of engaging in violence and criminality in adulthood, but that most, even those in the most vulnerable group, did not do so as often as anticipated.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)



2016 Cathy Spatz Widom

Showed that even criminal parents can raise their children to be good citizens, but their risk of adult violence rises with abuse as a child.



2016 Per-Olof Wikström

Showed that crime is often the result of a person's moral choices in situations that may provide more opportunity and ethical justification.



Born 1955 in Sweden. Per-Olof Wikström was professor in Criminology at the University of Cambridge (United Kingdom) at the time of the award.

Role of parenting in crime prevention

Per-Olof Wikström was awarded the Stockholm Prize in Criminology 2016 for his research about how social environments and peer relationships affect young people's criminality.

Wikström's research has provided major insights into the role parents play in preventing juvenile crime. His *Situational Action Theory*, based on an extensive decade-long study of over 700 families, refines and supports the conclusions previously drawn by Hirschi and Widom.

Extensive research on children

Research conducted by Wikström, the first Swedish criminologist to be awarded the Stockholm Prize in Criminology, provides the most detailed evidence of the dynamic process children use in their relationships with parents, other relatives, and peers.

During a ten-year study of 716 families in the ethnically mixed city of Peterborough, England,

Wikström developed his theory by engaging with the data. In his study he measured young people's daily behaviour – where they were, with whom, and in what criminogenic or morally dangerous environments. This allowed Wikström to test predictions about crime in new ways. His data included exposure to morally dangerous situations, such as young people's moral convictions and propensity to commit crime.

Moral choice

Wikström's theory is an integrative criminological theory that explains why people commit crime by combining the morality of the individual with the situation that the individual is in. Crime is thus the result of a moral choice in a specific situation, rather than just a consequence of social structures or personality traits. With this as a starting point, different prevention strategies are being developed.

2016 Per-Olof Wikström

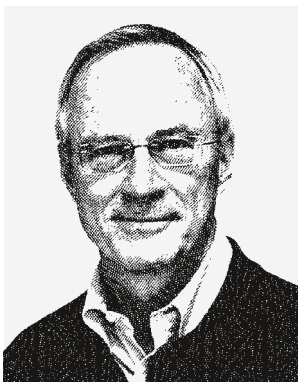
Causes of crime. Wikström was lauded for his contributions to criminology with the refinement of methods for longitudinal criminological research and the development of criminological theory. In his *Situational Action Theory*, he provides substantial evidences that crime is the result of an interaction between the individual's personal characteristics and environmental factors.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)



2017 Richard E. Tremblay

Showed that children's aggressive behaviour can be prevented through early intervention.



Born 1944 in Canada. Richard E. Tremblay was professor emeritus at the University of Montreal (Canada) at the time of the award.

2017 Richard E. Tremblay

Causes of crime on the individual level and crime prevention. Tremblay was awarded for his research on the interaction between biological and social causes of violent behaviour. His rigorous research showed that violent behaviour culminates in early childhood. His research shows that successful preventive measures against violence need to begin in early life, even in utero with mothers using harmful substances.

Early prevention that works

Richard E. Tremblay was awarded the 2017 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for his research on the relationship between biological and social factors in the development of aggressive and criminal behaviour, with particular focus on early intervention and the importance of parenting.

Tremblay combined research with rigorous testing of methods that can reduce violence and other criminal behaviour. His studies began in the 1980s in Montreal. At the time of the award, he was also working in Paris and Dublin, where his research included prenatal crime prevention with a focus on at-risk mothers. Tremblay's research offers major potential for specific, detailed recommendations on intervention programmes for parents and children to prevent violence and other crime.

Children most often violent at age three

The peak age for violent behaviour is not 18 years, but three years – according to Tremblay's systematic observations. This pattern has major implications for violence prevention. In his research, Tremblay has highlighted how both genetic and epigenetic factors interact with the environment to influence the development of aggressive and antisocial behaviour.

He emphasises in particular that environmental influences, such as adverse conditions during pregnancy and toddlerhood, can lead to epigenetic changes that affect gene expression and thus individual behaviour. This means that young person's propensity for violence *can be changed*, rather than accepted as inevitable.

Tremblay's many important studies include a study in Montreal showing that children who suffered trauma at birth and who attended preschool were more prone to violence than children who suffered similar trauma but did not attend preschool. The study thus indicates that preschool may sometimes be inappropriate for vulnerable children.

Research that has influenced other areas

Tremblay's team has published in a wide range of fields in journals of paediatrics, psychiatry, psychology, neuroscience, genetics, epigenetics, economics, sociology, statistics, education, hypertension, endocrinology, public health, and criminology. His interdisciplinary approach is a model for younger scholars wishing to develop and test more effective programmes. Tremblay's record is evidence that such practical programmes do not require the abandonment of basic science.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)



Born 1931 in the US. Herman Goldstein was professor emeritus at the University of Wisconsin Law School (United States) at the time of the award.

2018 Herman Goldstein

Society's responses to crime. Professor Goldstein was lauded for his pioneering work in developing more effective policing. His 1979 concept of problem-oriented policing 'POP' is based on police not only reacting to crime but also looking for the causes of recurrent patterns of crime so that similar incidents can be prevented in future. Today, problem-oriented policing is used by police forces throughout the world.

Research that transformed policing

Herman Goldstein was awarded the 2018 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for his research on how police work can be made more effective by applying a problem-solving approach, and for his lifelong work in illuminating the role, powers, and responsibilities of the police in a democratic legal system.

Goldstein is the world's most influential scholar in the field of modern police strategy. Due to his research on, and analysis of POP, police today are focused more on achieving concrete results and less on traditional routine tasks. Goldstein's starting premise was that policing was not sufficiently focused on achieving specific objectives associated with specific patterns of problems, being diverted by one case at a time.

Identifying crime patterns

His research findings, first published in 1979, resulted in the development of new policing strategies focused on identifying patterns of criminal activity. That enables the police to work more on aggregate problems rather than managing each incident as an isolated case.

Goldstein's work has also had a major impact on police research, as it encourages collaboration between police and researchers in evaluating the impact of policing.

Goldstein was also awarded the prize for a lifetime of outstanding work on broader issues regarding the role of the police in society – e.g., police powers, social responsibility, police corruption, and the role of police in the legal system.

Preventing gang violence

Some of the most relevant strategies in the problem-oriented approach deal with chronic, serious violence. In the late 1990s, for example, the Boston Police and Harvard researchers applied a POP strategy to reduce gang violence. The tactic involved persuading violent offenders to accept the community's help in refraining from violence. If they refused this offer, they could expect negative consequences (including swift arrests). This strategy resulted in a dramatic drop in Boston's juvenile murder rate.

This approach has since been successfully applied in many areas with high levels of gang violence, in the United States and around the world, for example in Sweden. Now known as 'focused deterrence', this method has also been applied with great success to problems such as domestic violence and in particularly crime-ridden areas.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)

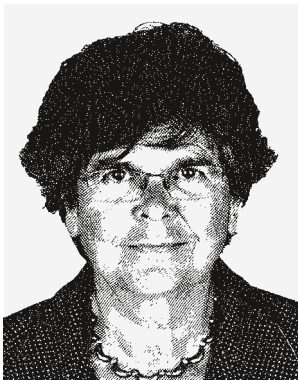


POLICE

POLICE

2018 Herman Goldstein

**Showed that effective policing
prioritises patterns of repeat incidents
over one-case-at-a-time.**



Born 1940 in Switzerland. Ruth Dreifuss was Chair of the Global Commission on Drug Policy at the time of the award and former President of the Swiss Confederation.

Political courage transformed drug policy

Ruth Dreifuss was awarded the 2019 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for her pioneering work that significantly improved the treatment of drug addiction.

Legally prescribed heroin

As Switzerland's Minister of Home Affairs (1993–2022) and President of the Swiss Confederation (1999), Dreifuss was the main political advocate of state-assisted drug use. She initiated legislative changes that enabled a unique experiment to test a new treatment for heroin addicts. In these experiments, people who had failed with methadone treatment were offered 'Heroin-Assisted Therapy' (HAT).

This involved allowing them to inject legally prescribed heroin in medically supervised facilities. The question was whether this method could be made safe, and how it would affect addicts' behaviour. It turned out that the HAT trials significantly reduced criminality among addicts and improved their health.

As a result of these trials and legislative work inspired by Dreifuss, HAT treatment became routinely available in Switzerland.

Dreifuss's political courage laid the groundwork for further experiments in Germany, the Netherlands, Great Britain, and Canada – all of which produced results similar to those in Switzerland.

2019 Ruth Dreifuss

Society's responses to crime. Dreifuss was lauded as a highly placed elected leader, for implementing drug policy reforms based on criminological research. She was instrumental in reforming Switzerland's drug policy by introducing harm reduction initiatives (e.g., controlled access to heroin for addicts). These initiatives reduced both death and crime rates. Her work has influenced global drug policy and demonstrated successful alternatives to repressive measures, policies that are now being adopted in the UK and parts of the US.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)



Born 1944 in Australia. Peter Reuter was professor in the School of Public Affairs at the University of Maryland in College Park (United States) at the time of the award.

2019 Peter Reuter

Society's responses to crime, particularly concerning the use of illicit drugs. Peter Reuter was honoured for his outstanding research on drug markets and public policies. His work has provided profound insights into how different drug policies affect criminality and public health. Reuter's particular focus is on analysing the effects of various strategies to control and regulate drug markets, which has promoted more evidence-based, humane drug policies globally.

Research on the effects of drug enforcement

Peter Reuter was awarded the 2019 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for his pioneering work in drug policy research that has significantly improved the treatment of drug addiction.

Reuter gained international attention with his explication and defence of Switzerland's new drug policy experiments, initiated by Ruth Dreifuss.

Transforming drug policy

After spending decades studying the relationship between drug policy and crime, Reuter's reviews of evidence produced the same insights and conclusions as the Swiss field studies. By studying how the criminalisation of drug use and its enforcement impacts criminality and health, Reuter identified methods that can be more effective – without drug legalisation. His studies on the impact of drug prices and availability showed that many of the benefits of prohibiting drug use can be achieved with less intrusive measures. The

sole use of punitive measures to address the drug problem can increase crime without reducing drug consumption.

By expounding on these new treatment methods, including the Swiss model, Reuters's research has resulted in changes in drug policy in Brazil, Peru, Malaysia, New Zealand, Switzerland, Great Britain, Vietnam, Uruguay, the United States, and elsewhere.

Ineffective drug policy

Reuter's research has clearly demonstrated the considerable limitations of many current anti-drug approaches. As early as 1998, for example, he showed why even massively increased police efforts to combat cocaine smuggling from Latin America would only marginally affect the cocaine problem in the United States. Reuter also considered that the spraying of drug crops in Latin America did not produce the intended effects.

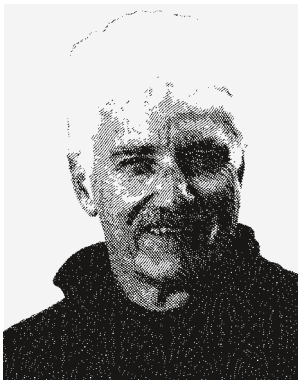
His research has been highly important to the reallocation of resources to combat drugs.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)



2019 Peter Reuter

**Showed that evidence-based
drug policy can make a big
difference with small changes.**



Born 1946 in the US. Philip J. Cook was professor emeritus of Economics and Public Policy at Duke University (United States) at the time of the award.

2020 Philip J. Cook

Society's responses to crime, particularly tracking the harm caused by the American gun supply. Cook was lauded for his extensive research on gun violence and its effects on American society. His work has provided profound insights into the impact of gun laws on crime and public health and the economic consequences of gun violence. Cook has focused on analysing the impact of various strategies to control and regulate firearm markets, demonstrating ways in which national gun control can reduce gun-related crime and injuries caused by firearms.

Gun control that saves lives

Philip J. Cook was awarded the 2020 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for his research evidence on the impact of gun violence on society, and the effectiveness of many possible gun laws.

Cook was recognised for his pioneering research on how gun control affects crime, public health and economics. He has shown that regulation of the firearms markets can reduce gun-related crime and its damage.

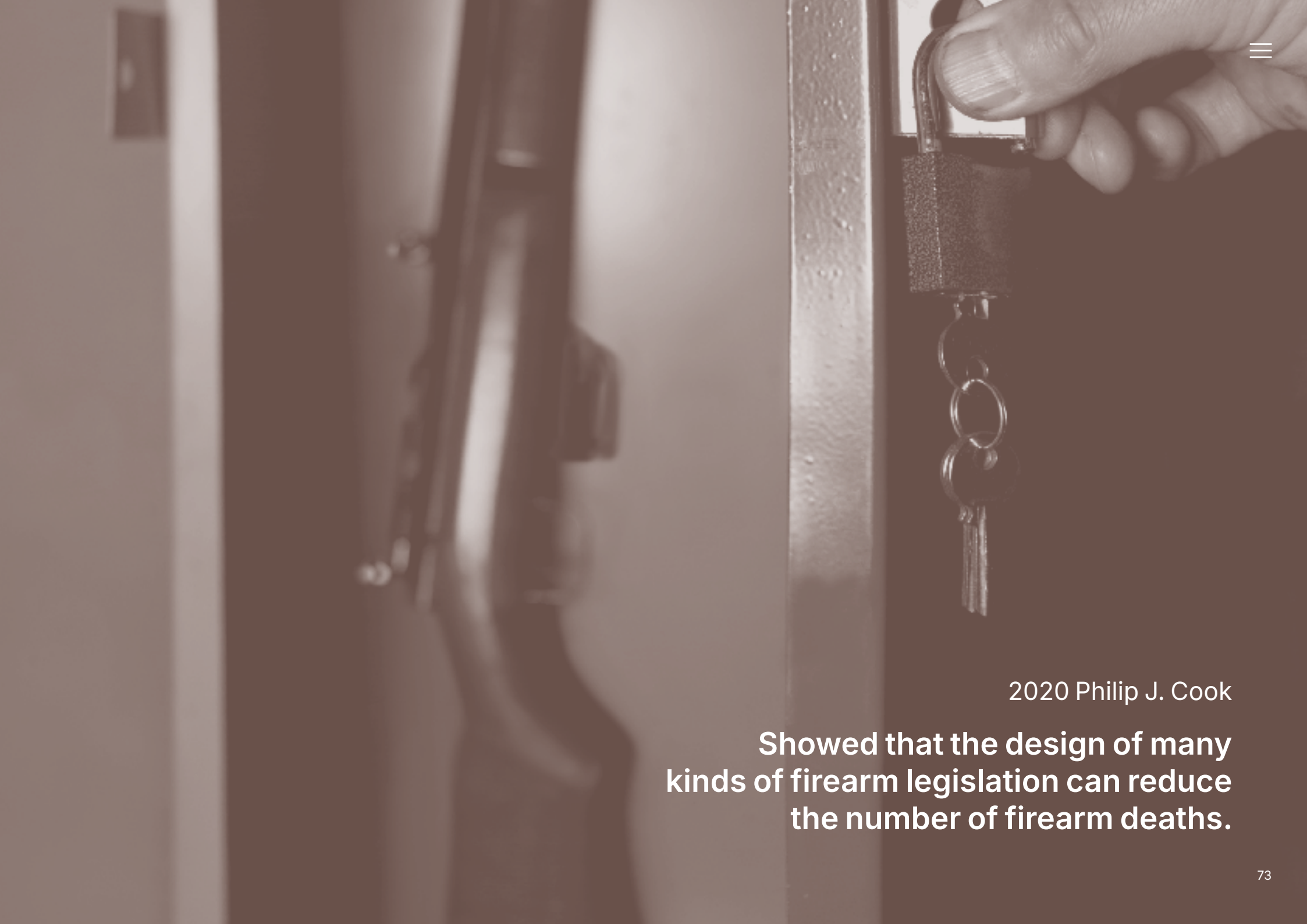
Contribution to research as an economist
As an economist, he has been instrumental in the development and application of the scientific field of criminology. He has developed important methods for demonstrating and understanding the critical role of firearm availability on death rates. He has also disproved the assertion that firearm availability has no impact on injury rates, decisively demonstrating the falsity of this claim in repeated analyses

and natural experiments within and across states.

Cook's work has been of crucial importance to an entire generation of scholars. He has also provided policy makers with detailed data for taking more effective action to reduce the massive US suffering caused by firearms.

More firearms mean more deadly violence
In the 1970s, Cook started studying differences in firearm availability across American states. He was able to show that the number of gun-related suicides was strongly correlated with firearm availability in each state. He was then able to create a model for predicting the number of firearm-related deaths in relation to the number of firearms in a given location. His model was also able to show the risk of being shot dead during a robbery in a specific state. Today, many researchers use this model to study a range of phenomena, including the risk of deadly shootings by the police.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)



2020 Philip J. Cook

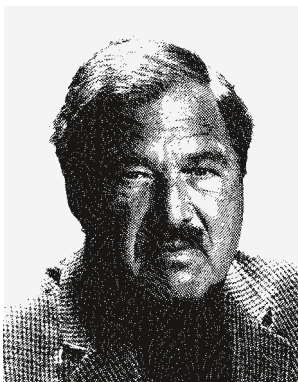
Showed that the design of many kinds of firearm legislation can reduce the number of firearm deaths.



2020 Franklin E. Zimring

Showed that murder rates depend more on the availability of firearms than on general violent crime trends.





Born 1942 in the US. Franklin E. Zimring was professor at the University of California, Berkeley (United States) at the time of the award.

2020 Franklin E. Zimring

The extent, nature, variation, and causes of crime, and society’s responses to crime, especially in relation to lethal violence involving the use of firearms. Zimring was lauded for his studies on violence, which include the relationship between access to guns and deadly violence. His research has falsified many myths, starting with the claim that guns are no more lethal than knives. He has also studied factors behind the dramatic decline in homicides and other serious crimes in the United States and other countries since the 1990s, stressing the significance of social and economic factors. He strongly opposes capital punishment, based on his research on its effects observed after abolition in multiple US states.

More guns mean more deaths

Franklin E. Zimring was awarded the 2020 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for his research on the effects of gun violence and the role of the regulatory legal system in preventing crime.

His work has provided profound insights into how different gun laws yield different rates of weapons crimes. More generally, he has repeatedly showed how legal policy decisions can be shaped by evidence rather than assumptions. He has demonstrated how legal strategies can reduce injuries caused by firearms, without compromising the rule of law.

Contributes to research as a jurist

As a jurist, he has been instrumental in the development and application of the scientific field of criminology. Through comparative and empirical research, he has demonstrated how gun violence in the United States differs from other countries and has challenged the notion that stricter punishment leads automatically to less crime. Zimring has decisively shown that the structure and function of the legal system has a significant impact on criminality. His work has been of crucial importance to an

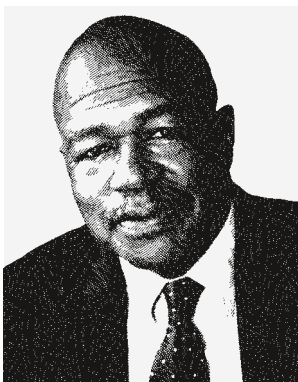
entire generation of scholars and has provided policy makers with causal inference from large data sets.

Weapon determines the lethality of violence

In the mid-1960s, Zimring and his colleagues demonstrated that violence with different types of weapons resulted in varying fatality numbers per attack. He developed methods for classifying different types of assaults. His research showed that, for identical types of assault (e.g., robbery), the extent of victim injuries (including risk of victim death) varied widely depending on whether the attack was committed with a knife, rifle, pistol, or shotgun.

His further research also showed that homicide statistics in a given community had more to do with the availability of firearms than with crime volumes in general. In his book *Crime is Not the Problem* he showed that, although England has a higher violent crime rate than the United States, the number of deaths from violent attacks is much higher in the United States than in England due to the significantly higher number of privately owned firearms in the USA.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)



Born 1943 in the US. Elijah Anderson was professor of Sociology at Yale University (United States) at the time of the award.

2021 Elijah Anderson

The extent, nature, variation, and causes of crime through an understanding of the code of the street. Anderson was recognised for his deeply ethnographic studies of violence and social interactions in highly segregated American urban neighbourhoods. His research has deepened our understanding of how social norms and interactions among young people in economically disadvantaged areas can lead to violence.

Understanding the social roots of violence

Elijah Anderson was awarded the 2021 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for his many years of observations in Chicago and Philadelphia of the mechanisms behind violence in socially and economically segregated areas. His research has yielded rich description of how quickly 'playful' language can escalate to a shooting or stabbing. His thick description can help everyone from police to judges and prison staff on how social interactions among young people can instantly lead to violence.

Anderson's research focuses on some of the most pressing issues of our time: ethnicity, class, and conditions for individuals in urban environments.

Violence in segregated areas

Anderson has found that the pursuit of an ethical, respectable life among economically and socially disadvantaged minorities is difficult yet often achieved.

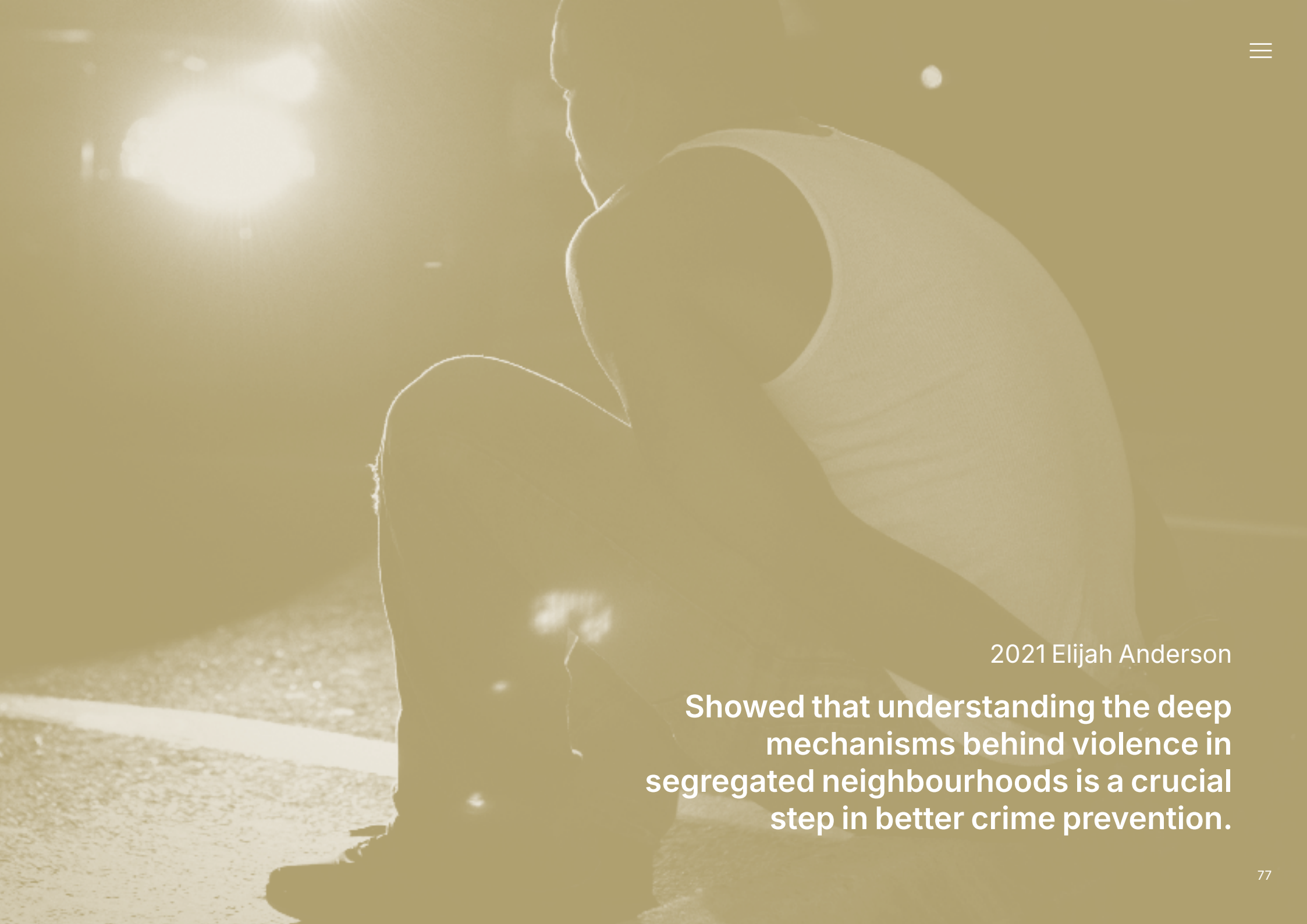
His years of observing daytime and evening interactions followed by long writeups back at his desk has led to more light on the social structures that influence crime and violence in urban environments.

His research helps us understand how violence occurs in segregated urban environments where, due to prejudice and blocked opportunities, status and honour can become more important than one's own life and the lives of others. Without these insights, it is difficult to formulate adequate measures to combat gang violence – in American as well as Swedish cities.

Social relationships in the ghetto

Anderson's first book, *A Place on the Corner*, is a study of the social relationships of young Black men in an inner-city Chicago ghetto. His second book, *Streetwise* is about ethnic and class relationships in a gentrified neighbourhood in Philadelphia. His third book, *Code of the Streets*, examines the nature of inner-city violence. A subsequent book, *The Cosmopolitan Canopy*, is a study of public space, detailing how different kinds of people meet in urban environments and either get along or don't. Such public spaces are now observable also in places other than the United States, not least in Sweden.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)



2021 Elijah Anderson

Showed that understanding the deep mechanisms behind violence in segregated neighbourhoods is a crucial step in better crime prevention.



2022 Peggy C. Giordano

**Showed that close relationships
can provide a path into – or out of
– criminal behaviour.**



Born 1943 in the US. Peggy C. Giordano was professor emeritus of Sociology at Bowling Green State University (United States) at the time of the award.

2022 Peggy C. Giordano

Causes of crime and society's responses to crime, including rehabilitation of offenders. Peggy C. Giordano was lauded for her research on juvenile delinquency and rehabilitation. Her work has deepened our understanding of how social relationships and individual factors affect young offenders' criminal behaviour and their chances of reintegration into society. Giordano has focused on the importance of family, friends, and romantic relationships, all of which can both promote criminality and facilitate the process of leaving behind a life of crime. The process of leaving the criminal lifestyle is detailed in her theory of cognitive transformation.

Life journeys out of criminality

Peggy C. Giordano was awarded the 2022 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for her research on how social relationships affect criminal behaviour and possibilities for change.

Giordano has conducted extensive criminological research on the causes of crime and society's ability to prevent recidivism. Her research has, in particular, improved our understanding of how close relationships and rehabilitation efforts can help offenders leave a life of crime, highlighting the importance of such interventions in breaking off criminal careers already at an early stage.

Importance of rehabilitation efforts

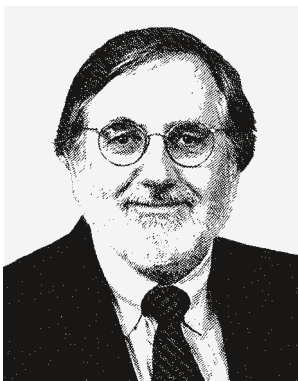
Giordano has studied the circumstances under which a person stops engaging in criminal

behaviour. She found, among other things, that 'cognitive transformation' – i.e., a profound change to one's views of self and one's external environment – is a prerequisite for successful rehabilitation. The treatment of criminally active people therefore needs to strive to bring about such a transformation.

Broad-based research

Throughout her long research career, Giordano has used mixed quantitative and qualitative methodologies to study the life courses of a large group of serious criminals and has studied the processes that lead to their eventual desistance from crime. At a time of increasing calls for tougher criminal sentencing, Giordano's research shows the importance of not losing focus on the rehabilitative role of criminal sanctions.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)



Born 1951 in the US. Francis T. Cullen was professor emeritus at the University of Cincinnati's School of Criminal Justice (United States) at the time of the award.

2022 Francis T. Cullen

Society's responses to crime through rehabilitation, with strong evidence of what works. Cullen was lauded for his research on the rehabilitation of criminals. His work has shown that well-designed, evidence-based rehabilitation programmes, such as cognitive behavioural therapy, can reduce recidivism and be more effective than punishment. He demonstrates that functioning relationships with family, friends, and the community are crucial to helping offenders leave a life of crime. He has also contributed to the development of several criminal theories on the causes of crime.

Rehabilitation as a tool against recidivism

Francis T. Cullen was awarded the 2022 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for his research on the prevention of recidivism with evidence-based rehabilitation programmes.

Through his extensive research, Cullen has expanded our understanding of what reduces recidivism. He has shown how evidence-based rehabilitation programmes can play a crucial role in helping people move away from crime. Cullen has also been a strong advocate for basing crime prevention on scientific knowledge and effective treatment – not solely on punishment.

Rehabilitation can break the criminal cycle
Cullen's research showed that while incarceration alone does not reduce the risk of recidivism, the right kind of treatment and rehabilitation programmes during and after prison terms can be highly effective in preventing a reversion to criminal activity upon release. Cullen's research in this area was particularly important during the 'nothing works' era, when researchers and politicians were convinced that recidivism could not be prevented. He is associated with 'the return of rehabilitation'. Through the rigorous analyses of research, Cullen and other scholars showed that there are indeed ways to prevent recidivism, both in prisons and post-release. He has also highlighted the importance of criminal policy not only being effective, but also ethically defensible and socially sustainable.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)



2022 Francis T. Cullen

**Showed that evidence-based
treatment intervention in prison,
rather than incarceration per se,
prevents repeat offending.**



Born 1968 in Mexico. Beatriz Magaloni was professor at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University (United States) at the time of the award.

2023 Beatriz Magaloni

Society's responses to crime by making the police in Mexico and Brazil less violent, as well as addressing the causes of violent crime. Magaloni was honoured for her research that clarifies how police organisations can be influenced by populist demands for harsh police methods, which often lead to rule of law violations and an increase in violence in the community. Her studies, mainly in Mexico and Brazil, have shown that police militarisation and the use of torture do nothing to improve public safety, but they certainly undermine human rights. She has also shown that legislative reform in Mexico reduced the use of torture in police interrogations and improved transparency in the legal system.

Police violence can be reduced in Latin America

Beatriz Magaloni was awarded the 2023 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for her research on police violence and how it can be reduced.

Through her research, Magaloni has identified concrete measures to address lawlessness and violence, whether committed by criminal gangs or state authorities. She has shown how violence, poverty and social vulnerability are mutually reinforcing. Her evidence shows that society's struggle with these issues can both exacerbate and reduce the violence, depending on how the methods to do so are designed and deployed.

Shedding light on complex police operations

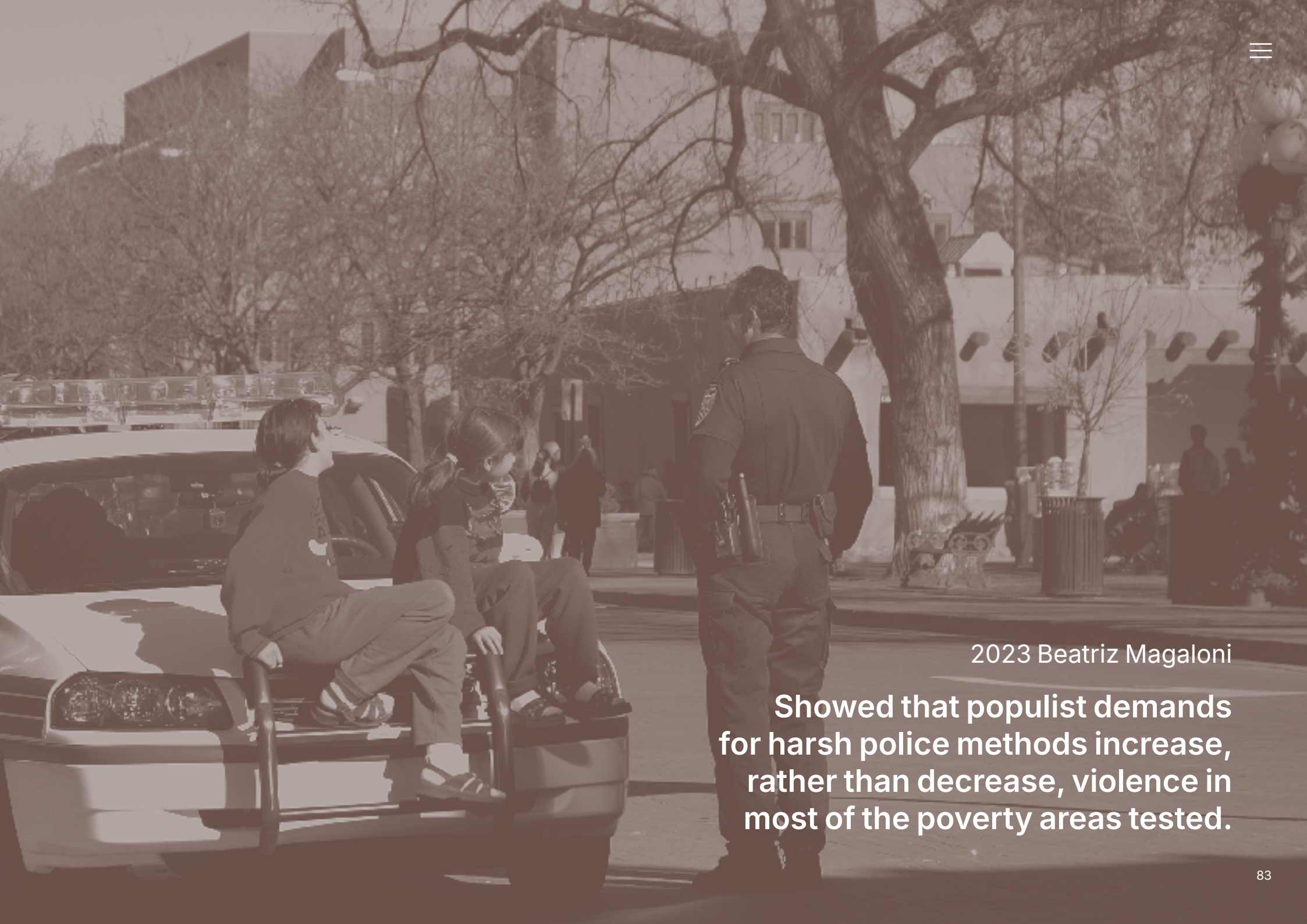
Magaloni has shown that police organisations are vulnerable to populist demands for harsh police methods that violate the rule of law. In the long run, she suggests, such policies will increase violence in society. Her extensive research in Mexico and Brazil shows that public support for police militarisation can threaten human rights without increasing public safety. Magaloni's work clearly demonstrates the complexity of policing and specifies the many dangers of applying simple solutions to complex problems.

Surveyed police work in the favelas

Trained as a lawyer in Mexico and a political scientist in the United States, Magaloni has initiated criminological research into police behaviour in Latin American countries. In her studies of policing methods in Rio de Janeiro's favelas, she analysed what occurred in some 100 gang-controlled favelas when the military police who had been operating there were replaced: by other, non-military police officers who were meant to stay in the community and build relationships. The military police, wearing protective equipment and toting machine guns, had literally invaded areas, killed many people, and then left.

Magaloni's research showed that replacing the Brazilian military police with police who would be staying in the community and building relationships was effective in around 60 per cent of the favelas. Lethal police violence decreased an average of 45 per cent. Crime also decreased and trust in the police increased.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)



2023 Beatriz Magaloni

Showed that populist demands for harsh police methods increase, rather than decrease, violence in most of the poverty areas tested.



Born 1951 in the US. Gary LaFree was professor at the University of Maryland (United States) at the time of the award.

2024 Gary LaFree

The extent, nature, variation, and causes of crime at macrolevel and society’s responses to crime. Gary LaFree was lauded for his research on the relationship between the legitimacy of legal institutions and crime rates in society. His work has deepened our understanding of how trust in legal institutions affects crime and social order. LaFree has focused on how a lack of legitimacy can lead to an increase in crime, and how stronger institutions can help reduce crime. LaFree is also a leading scholar in terrorism research.

Trust as a force in crime prevention

Gary LaFree was awarded the 2024 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for his research on trust in government and the role of legal institutions in crime prevention.

The concept that rulers must have the consent of those they govern, if a democratic society is to function, is an old one. But the science of how political decision makers can win, or lose, the will of the public to comply with laws and regulations is relatively new. This science is strongly linked to modern criminological research, in terms of both theory development and empirical studies.

The role of police in a democratic society

This area is highly relevant in Sweden and internationally, particularly as regards society’s responses to crime and other disturbances to social order, and even more so in terms of the role of the police in a democratic society. LaFree’s research indicates that police application of principles that treat people correctly, respectfully, and without prejudice – even those who break the law – can reduce the propensity for crime on the individual and societal level.

Trust in the police is important

LaFree’s research has shown that the increase in violence in America during much of the 20th century was related to rapid social, economic, and political changes. These changes drastically reduced public trust in central social institutions, not least the police. The changes were noticeable primarily in socially and economically disadvantaged areas with large minority populations. When violence in America declined in the 20th century, according to LaFree, it came as a response to national and local reforms designed to address racial discrimination and injustice, and to efforts focused on improving education and employment opportunities for the most vulnerable groups. This improved and stabilised the population’s trust in the legality of social institutions. The development of the terrorist problem is also linked to the way different groups of the population perceive the legitimacy of established society.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)

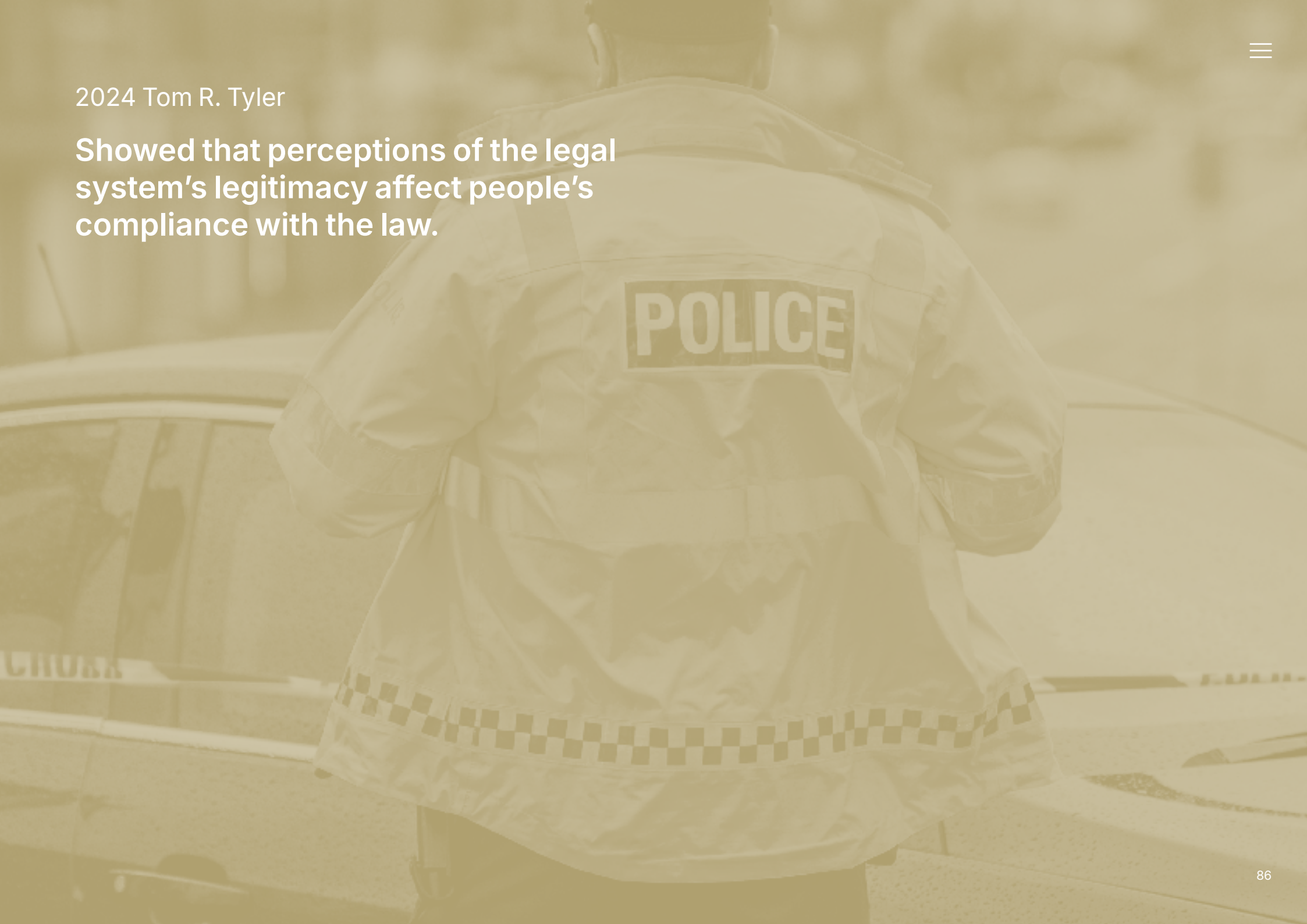
2024 Gary LaFree

Showed that people who feel the government treats them fairly and respectfully are less likely to commit acts of terrorism and other crimes.



2024 Tom R. Tyler

Showed that perceptions of the legal system's legitimacy affect people's compliance with the law.





Born 1950 in the US. Tom R. Tyler was professor at Yale University (United States) at the time of the award.

2024 Tom R. Tyler

Society's responses to crime through procedural justice.
Tom R. Tyler was recognised for his research on the legitimacy of legal institutions and procedural justice. 'Procedural justice' refers to official decisions that are taken with transparency, impartiality, and respect for the individual. His work has shown that people have greater trust in public authorities and are more willing to comply with laws when they perceive that they are treated fairly and respectfully by legal institutions. Tyler's particular focus has been on how police interactions with the public influence perceptions of justice and legitimacy.

Legitimacy as a force in crime prevention

Tom R. Tyler was awarded the 2024 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for his research on the legitimacy of legal institutions and how perceptions of justice influence people's willingness to comply with the law.

Tyler has through his research, including randomised field experiments, greatly expanded our knowledge of the relationship between people's propensity to break the law and their experience of the legitimacy of the social bodies, not least the legitimacy of the judiciary.

Research on justice

Tyler's research explores the fundamental questions about why individuals obey or disobey the law and how legal compliance can be increased.

He is the author or primary author of several books, including *Why People Cooperate* (2011), *Legitimacy and Criminal Justice* (2007), *Why People Obey the Law* (2006), *Trust in the Law* (2002) and *Cooperation in Groups* (2000).

Social institution legitimacy is important

In his research, Tyler has focused on the nature of interactions between individuals and social institutions, particularly the police. His theory challenged the primacy of deterrence by threats of punishment, offering an alternative based on legitimacy.

Based on extensive surveys in cities including Chicago and New York, he developed a model for procedural justice, which is based on the following four pillars: 1) Voice – that the individual has the opportunity to be heard and present their point of view, 2) Neutrality – that decisions are based on objective and consistent principles, 3) Respect – that the individual is treated with dignity and courtesy, and 4) Trustworthiness – that decision-makers show that they care about the well-being of the individual.

His research has had a major impact on modern police practices, in which the relationship between citizens and the police is viewed as central to maintaining law and order in a democratic society.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)



Born 1952 in the UK, Frances Crook was an Honorary Visiting Fellow at the University of Leicester (United Kingdom) at the time of the award.

2025 Frances Crook

Society's responses to crime through the use of harsh punishments. Frances Crook was recognised as a practitioner applying criminology in her work on criminal justice reforms in the United Kingdom. As Chief Executive of the Howard League for Penal Reform, she made outstanding use of criminological research to reduce disproportionate sentences and promote more humane and effective sentencing methods. Her efforts have resulted in significant changes in the United Kingdom's legal system, including a major reduction in the imprisonment of children and young offenders and improving conditions for all prisoners.

From imprisonment to rehabilitation

Frances Crook was awarded the 2025 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for her work in reducing the extent of disproportionate sentences and promoting rehabilitation in the United Kingdom's legal system.

Through the practical application of criminological research, Crook has demonstrated how policy reforms can reduce the imprisonment of young people and create fairer, more humane sentencing systems.

Focus on rehabilitation

As head of the world's oldest criminal justice reform organisation, Crook has successfully lowered the incidence of cruel and disproportionate punishment in the United Kingdom. Her work, which is focused on both policy and individuals, has among other things reduced youth imprisonment in favour of rehabilitation.

Reduced imprisonment of children

Crook led the United Kingdom's Howard League for Penal Reform for 35 years (1986–2021). Based in part on Crook's work, the number of minors housed in prison declined 85 per cent, from 3,500 to 500, over that period. She also analysed police arrest data for children and juveniles, working systematically to reduce this number. The annual number of arrests of children over that time period dropped 80 per cent.

Crook criticised the privatisation of prisons and stressed the importance of treating prisoners with dignity and respect. She argued that prison sentences often reinforce social and economic inequalities and advocated a smaller, more ethical and compassionate prison system.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)



2025 Frances Crook

Showed that UK society can succeed, with relentless campaigning, in reducing the detention and imprisonment of children.



2025 Bryan Stevenson

Used criminology to show that there is no benefit to a state killing its citizens – even those who have themselves killed other citizens.



Born 1959 in the US. Bryan Stevenson was professor at New York University Law School (United States) at the time of the award.

2025 Bryan Stevenson

Society's responses to crime through cruel and unusual punishments. Bryan Stevenson was lauded by the jury for his work in reducing the use of cruel and unusual punishment in the United States. As founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), he has applied findings from criminological research to successfully advocate for the banning of executions and life sentences for young offenders.

From lynchings and mass incarceration

Bryan Stevenson was awarded the 2025 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for his work in opposing the use of death and life sentences without the possibility of parole, and defending the fundamental rights of young offenders and marginalised groups in the American legal system.

Stevenson has been outstanding in demonstrating the contribution of criminology to benefit humankind through his work in policy advocacy and concrete support to individuals.

Practical use of research findings

Through the application of the results of criminological research in his professional role, Stevenson has succeeded in reducing the incidence of cruel punishment. His work, which is focused on both policy decisions and individual cases, has been successful in banning the USA's life sentences without the possibility of parole for young offenders. As the founder of the only source of legal aid for death row inmates in Alabama, Stevenson's advocacy has prevented many executions of adults and life sentences for juveniles.

Representing petitioners before the US Supreme Court, he has also succeeded in banning executions for young offenders.

As founder of the *Equal Justice Initiative*, an American legal aid organisation, he has led it since 1989 in saving 130 death row inmates from execution. In his most notable case (mentioned above), representing a convicted murderer who was 14 years old when the crime was committed, Stevenson persuaded the US Supreme Court to rule that life imprisonment without parole for juvenile crimes was a violation of the Constitution.

The history of slavery is repeated

Stevenson has also taken the initiative to create the *National Memorial for Peace and Justice* in Montgomery, honouring the names of over 4,000 African Americans lynched in twelve Southern states between 1877 and 1950. He believes that the history of slavery and lynchings have affected the subsequent high rates of the death penalty in U.S. South, where the punishment has often been applied to minorities disproportionately. *The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration*, also shows how the lynchings of black people, which increased in the post-reconstruction period after the American Civil War, is related to today's high rates of detention and executions of black people in the United States.

[Read more about the laureates \(external link\)](#)

An unusual success story with a focus on research

The Stockholm Prize in Criminology is, in many respects, an unusual success story. Over the years, it has gained the reputation of being the premier international prize in its field. It is rare for the Swedish government to contribute to the establishment of foundations. The fact that the government, together with the Torsten Söderberg Foundation, decided to form the Stockholm Prize in Criminology Foundation is evidence not only of the importance of criminological science to crime prevention, but also of the excellence of the first laureates and their research.

Along with the Foundation's formation, the major international *Stockholm Criminology Symposium*, organised by the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention, was initiated in conjunction with the award ceremony. The laureates' research, the presentations and discussions during the symposium, and Stockholm's hospitality as a conference capital have been instrumental in promoting Stockholm as a central forum for international criminological research, application, and collaboration.

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