



Conference Report

For the first time, the Anthropology of Security Network and the Anthropology of Crime and Criminalization Network joined forces and organized a joint conference. This was driven by the rationale that there is a great deal of overlap in the topics and research foci of the two networks, and the convenors deemed it fruitful to bring these foci into conversation.

A [website](#) was set up to inform participants about the program and registration.

The conference took place from 17 to 19 May at the University of Bologna, Italy, at the Department of History and Cultures.

The Conference

The conference was met with great interest. More than 70 speakers and participants came from a wide range of countries from Brazil to Georgia, and shared their research and analyses in the fields of security and crime. The topic attracted both early-career and experienced scholars willing to share their experiences in difficult terrain, and it drew a number of scholars from other disciplines such as criminology and political science, resulting in fruitful interdisciplinary synergies in our discussions.

The 11 panels covered a wide thematic and geographical area. Security and securitization, crime and criminalization, as well as policing and other adjacent themes were discussed in a historical dimension, beyond the human, in the post-colony, in terms of state and public responses and moral ambivalences (see the list of panels in the program).

The panels were complemented by a book presentation session comprising author presentations of three relevant books: Deniz Yonucu's monograph [Police, Provocation, Politics: Counterinsurgency in Istanbul](#); Clara Righoni's [Honour-Based Violence and Forced Marriages: Community and Restorative Practices in Europe](#); and [Mafia Raj: The rule of bosses in South Asia](#), co-authored by Lucia Michelutti, Ashraf Hoque, Nicolas Martin, David Picherit, Paul Rollier, Arild E. Ruud, and Clarinda Still.

Additionally, two laboratories were organized by the Anthropology of Security network. The "Methods Lab" was dedicated to the various challenges of ethnography in the field of security and crime, and was organized according to the World Café model. The Lab included exchanges on topics such as rapport, secrecy, power relations, experimentation, methods 'on the move', visual & sensorial methods, the body in fieldwork, decolonizing methods, and interdisciplinarity in the study of crime and security, etc.

The "Writing Lab" discussed ways of ethnographic writing about security and crime, with a particular focus on drawing as an ethnographic method. The participants discovered the advantages of drawing ethnography, became familiar with examples of such ethnographies, and carried out an applied exercise under the guidance of Dr Monika Weissensteiner,

exchanging impressions afterwards. Both labs were praised by participants for the space they created for dialogue, exchange, and experimentation.

The conference began and ended with keynotes given by renowned scholars of security and crime. The first keynote was given by Mark Maguire from Maynooth University (Ireland) (in collaboration with Setha Low), and was titled “Defund Security: Counter-terrorism and Security Capitalism”. The final keynote was given by Dennis Rodgers (The Graduate Institute, Geneva, Switzerland): “Delinquent ethnography? 25 years of gang research in Nicaragua and elsewhere”. Both keynotes were followed by Q&A sessions that were engaging and fruitful.

At the end of the conference, the last session was used to summarize the main themes and issues that emerged from the panels, laboratories, and keynotes, and to address questions.

As network convenors, we are very satisfied with this event and received positive feedback from several participants. The on-site organization by Davide Casciano (AnthroCrime) and his team of fourteen volunteers was excellent, the atmosphere during the conference was very constructive and provided a great space for researchers to share their work and network.

It is expected that as a result of the conference, several panels will pursue the work started in Bologna and publish special issues with articles based on the conference papers. There is currently a call for abstracts for a special issue in the journal *Errantes* of the University of Bologna on the topic of the criminalization of migration, which was opened to the conference participants.

Funding and Expenses

This conference and support to young scholars have been realized with the financial support of the European Association of Social Anthropologists, the University of Bologna, the Gerda Henkel Foundation, and the University of Klagenfurt. The logos were included in all printed material and their support was indicated on the homepage. EASA funding was used for travel costs and accommodation for precarious early-career scholars and for modically compensating the labour of the students who served as volunteers. Other funding was used for keynote speakers, catering, printed materials, badges, and book vouchers for the volunteers. The total amount of funding used for the conference was 10.873,34 EUR (out of the 11.000 pooled from different sources). EASA's contribution amounted to 3.000 EUR.

[Annexes](#)

Call for panels; call for papers; conference program; screenshot of the keynotes; poster; photographs.