

Constructing and organising crime in Europe



Petrus C. van Duyne
Alexey Serdyuk
Georgios A. Antonopoulos
Jackie H. Harvey
Klaus von Lampe (eds.)

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The Cross-Border Crime Colloquium is an annual event since 1999. It brings together experts on international organized (economic) crime to discuss the latest developments in empirical research, legislation and law enforcement, with a special geographical focus on Western, Central, and Eastern Europe.

The Colloquia aim at building bridges in three respects: between Eastern and Western Europe, between scholars and practitioners, and between old and young. The Cross-Border Crime Colloquium has previously been organized in:

2017 Bratislava, Slovak Republic	2007 Prague, Czech Republic
2016 Newcastle upon Tyne, UK	2006 Tallin, Estonia
2015 Prague, Czech Republic	2005 Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina
2014 Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina	2004 Berlin, Germany
2013 Cambridge, UK	2003 Ainring, Germany
2012 Manchester UK	2002 Ljubljana, Slovenia
2011 Tilburg, the Netherlands	2001 Bratislava, Slovakia
2009 Gent, Belgium	2000 Budapest, Hungary
2008 Belgrade, Serbia	1999 Prague, Czech Republic

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Participants at the Kharkiv Colloquium

Crime is not just a reality 'out there', but also the outcome of social constructions: crime is often 'in the eye of the beholder'. When society changes, that is the 'beholders', new developments can be seen as disturbances, which under the pressure of the concerned citizens, can be constructed as crimes. This criminalising construction can be observed concerning irregular migration: refugees, asylum seekers or just irregular migrant workers, seeking their luck in Europe. Regardless of their legal status they are looked upon as a (crime) threat and associated with human smuggling and exploitation of trafficked persons, whether or not in combination with organised crime.

A general driver to new crime constructions is the 'fear of ...', an uneasiness driving policy and law makers into the direction of new crime constructions or widening existing ones, such as money-laundering.

This is discussed in this volume of the 19th Cross-border Crime Colloquium, held in June 2018 in Kharkiv, consisting of peer-reviewed contributions from 25 expert authors and young and upcoming researchers. They cover many issues at the centre of criminological and criminal policy debates, such as corruption, the mafia, Chinese organised crime, irregular migration and arms trafficking, examples of cross-border crimes that concern us all in Europe and beyond.

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