



UNIVERSITY OF  
OXFORD

DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIOLOGY

– EXLEGI –

THE EXTRA-LEGAL GOVERNANCE INSTITUTE



## Exploring Links between Crime and Terrorism

**September 16-17, 2019**  
**Department of Sociology, Oxford**

In recent years, the so-called “crime-terror nexus” –the idea that there are links, similarities and overlaps between criminal groups and politically motivated non-state actors – has become a frequent topic of discussion. In July 2019, the United Nations Security Council even passed a resolution, calling on member states to “strengthen a global response to linkages between international terrorism and organised crime” (UNSCR 2482/19).

Yet, as an analytical concept, the “crime-terror nexus” remains vague. There are few rigorous empirical studies of crime-terror links, nor has the concept as such been critically explored. What does the “crime-terror nexus” mean, and how – and for what purposes – has it been used? What similarities, if any, are there between crime and ideologically motivated violence? Are there instances of collaboration between criminal and terrorist groups, and what has motivated them? What are obstacles to collaboration? Are there “hybrid” groups? To what extent do processes or initiation (recruitment), membership, and leaving into criminal and terrorist groups resemble each other? What are the differences? Most importantly, is the crime-terror nexus a valid concept, and – if so – what kind of research agenda can be pursued?

This conference, jointly hosted by Oxford University’s Extra Legal Governance Institute (ExLegi), Department of Sociology, and King’s College London’s International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation (ICSR), brings together two of the world’s leading research centres on crime and politically motivated violence. Its purpose is to have a critical engagement between scholars working on crime and terrorism respectively, trying to understand links and overlaps, but also differences and contradictions. The aim is to make sense of the “crime-terror nexus”, and understand what – if any – opportunities there are to turn this concept into a constructive agenda of research.

### Agenda

#### Monday, 16 September

- 2.00pm **Registration**  
Department of Sociology, 42 Park End Street (entrance via Tidmarsh Lane), OX1 1JD
- 2.30pm **Welcome**  
Professor Federico Varese, Department of Sociology, University of Oxford
- 2.45pm **The Crime-Terror Nexus – Introduction and Overview**  
Professor Peter Neumann, War Studies Department, International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation (ICSR), King’s College London



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3.15pm      **Governance**  
Professor Federico Varese, University of Oxford  
Max Gallien, London School of Economics  
Zora Hauser, University of Oxford  
Dr Shiraz Maher, King's College London

4.30pm      Coffee/Tea Break

4.45pm      **Overlaps, Collaboration and Hybrid Actors**  
Professor Michael Levi, Cardiff University  
Dr Annette Idler, University of Oxford (via Skype)  
Professor Anja Shortland, King's College London  
Lord John Alderdice, University of Oxford

6pm          **Conference adjourned**

## **Tuesday, 17 September**

9.30am      **Keynote Speech**  
Professor Benjamin Lessing, University of Chicago

10.30am     **Ideology**  
Dr Alexander Meleagrou-Hitchens, King's College London  
Professor Mark Galeotti, University College London  
Professor Peter Neumann, King's College London

11.45am     Coffee/Tea Break

12.00pm     **Recruitment and "Radicalisation"**  
Rajan Basra, King's College London  
Dr Heather Hamill, University of Oxford  
Dr Ismail Olawale, King's College London  
Nathaniel Rosenblatt, University of Oxford (via Skype)

1.15pm      Lunch Break

2pm          **Gender**  
Charlie Winter, King's College London  
Dr Ombretta Ingrassi, University of Milan  
Dr Elisabeth Kendall, University of Oxford

3pm          **Conclusions and Next Steps**  
Professor Federico Varese, University of Oxford

3.20 pm      **Conference Adjourned**