

Exploring Links between Crime and Terrorism

*16-17 September, 2019
Department of Sociology, University of 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, for example, the United Nations Security Council 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? 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) 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.

Provisional Agenda

Monday, 16 September

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| 2pm | Registration |
| 2.30pm | Welcome
Professor Federico Varese, University of Oxford |
| 2.45pm | The Crime-Terror Nexus – Introduction and Overview
Professor Peter Neumann, King’s College London |

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 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**

7.30pm **Speakers' Dinner at Nuffield**
Misha Glenny, Author

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 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

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**