

Thematic ISRD Panels [Eurocrim E-Conference 2021](#)

For this conference (September 8, 9, 10 2021), we have organized a series of panels that present a variety of methodological, theoretical as well as substantive insights drawn from the [International Self-Report Delinquency \(ISRD\) project](#), an international collaborative study collecting data on juvenile delinquency and victimization. Most of the papers focus on the third sweep (ISRD3), a standardized self-report survey conducted in school settings among students in grades 7, 8 and 9 (or equivalent grades for children in the age bracket 12- 16), randomly selected in two medium or large cities in 29 countries (n = 67,906). The fourth sweep (ISRD4) is currently underway, using the same protocol, but focusing on 13 to 17 year-olds, and adding an internet-based sample to the school-based sample. The panels illustrate the diversity of uses that may be made of this large international data set, and the papers contribute to the knowledge base on juvenile delinquency and victimization in a comparative context. In addition, there is a fourth panel which provides a forum for updates on the fourth sweep of the ISRD (ISRD4) project.

For more information, please contact Ineke Haen Marshall, chair of the ISRD project: [Ineke Haen Marshall](#)

ISRD panel 1: Insights from the International Self-Report Delinquency Study (ISRD) – Part 1

Presentation 1 School and home based responding in online youth crime survey: A natural experiment related to school lockdown in spring 2020

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Objective. The objective of this study is to examine if and how responding mode influences the results of school-based crime surveys. We compare at-school responding and remote school responding, drawing on a natural experiment created by the school lockdown in Finland during the Covid-19 pandemic. We focus on the effects of responding mode on (1) sample composition and (2) reported prevalence of offending. **Data and methods.** The Finnish government closed all schools in the spring of 2020 for a fixed period to prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus. This lockdown interrupted the national youth crime survey FSRD-2020, when at-school responding was shifted to distance classes. We compare the FSRD-2020 (N=5503) with the normal data collection sweep FSRD-2016 (N=5955) to examine lockdown effects. **Results.** Sample composition showed limited changes. The share of males and students with low maths grades decreased in remote schooling, while we detected no change in several other socio-economic aspects of sample composition. In contrast, we detected a reduction of reported offending during lockdown (remote school responding) in several offence types, net of observed compositional change. **Conclusions.** The findings suggest that at-school responding is good by securing socially inclusive samples, and by encouraging students to report more honestly. We also discuss tentative findings suggesting that data collection timing and duration can have relevant influence on predictors and outcomes commonly used in sensitive topics surveys.

Presentation 2: Does National Moral Context Make a Difference? A Comparative Test of Situational Action Theory

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Purpose: According to Situational Action Theory (SAT), differential levels of personal morality along with self-control determine the propensity to commit a crime. Criminal propensity further interacts with exposure to criminogenic settings to predict delinquency. This study examines whether SAT can explain variation in delinquent offending between countries grouped along shared moral values. **Methods:** Thirteen countries were categorized in terms of “contextual morality” according to results from the World Values Survey. Then, survey data from a cross-section of 12 to 16-year-old youths in the International Self-Report Delinquency Study (ISRD3) were employed to test hypotheses that SAT operates differently between countries in “low contextual morality” and “high contextual morality” clusters. **Results:** Multivariate analyses reveal that the most salient variable is exposure to criminogenic settings which was measured by peer influence. Furthermore, the exposure coefficient is significantly higher in the “high contextual morality” cluster, suggesting (consistent with theoretical predictions of SAT) that the frequency of committing a criminal act is activated when there is

inconsistency between personal morality and the broader moral context. **Conclusions:** SAT is a generalizable theory of offending, since criminal propensity, self-control and personal morality operate in both low and high contextual morality country clusters.

Presentation 3: The Overlap between Offending and Victimization: Results from the ISRD3 Survey

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- ISRD3 Research Network

Objective. Following the recent renewed interest in the overlap between offending and victimization, this study extends previous work in three ways. First, it expands the traditional focus on violence by including property crime and drug sales. Second, it not only models the overlap for cumulative measures of offending and victimization but also for specific types of crime. Third, it broadens the scope of previous studies by using a large multinational dataset. **Data/Methods.** We analyze survey responses from the ISRD3 study of 67,906 youths from 29 countries, measuring 13 types of offending and seven types of victimization. We estimate the prevalence of overlap for all types of offending and victimization and separately for robbery, assault and theft. We employ bivariate and multivariate analysis to test three commonly cited explanations of the overlap (routine activities, self-control, subcultural). **Results.** Preliminary analyses indicate that approximately 16% of the sample reported both offending and victimization and that specific rates of overlap for robbery, assault and theft were low. Bivariate and multivariate analyses find support for all three explanations, with subcultural variables emerging as the strongest predictors of the overlap. **Conclusions/Implications.** The findings add to our knowledge of the offending/victimization overlap; highlight the importance of exploring different measures of the overlap; and can inform the design of trauma-focused interventions with young people.

Presentation 4: The Impact of Survey Data Quality on Criminological Research Findings: Results of the ISRD3 Study

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Objectives. Assessment of the impact of survey data quality on estimates of victimization and offending rates, measures of scale reliability, and results of regression analyses to test theoretical models of offending behavior. **Data and methods.** Data are based on surveys of the ISRD3-study conducted in schools of 7th to 9th grade students 29 countries (n = 67,906). The analyses compare findings of original data and cleaned data with inconsistent and extremely implausible answers set to missing, respondents with suspicious answer patterns of matrix questions such as zig-zag-pattern and straight-lining eliminated, and estimate the impact of data quality measures. **Results.** The results will show the impact of survey data quality as dependent on the willingness and ability of respondents to understand and answer questionnaire items in ways intended by the authors of the survey. **Conclusions.** The findings will discuss how far it is necessary to invest considerable effort in specific data cleaning procedures of survey data in order to obtain valid and generalizable results.

ISRD Panel 2: Insights from the International Self-Report Delinquency study (ISRD) – Part 2

Presentation 1: First results from the 4th sweep of the International Self-Report Survey in Switzerland

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In this panel session we present first, preliminary results from the ISRD4 conducted in Switzerland. This school survey consists of a national sample of more than 4000 juveniles from compulsory schools (ISCED2; 14-15 year olds) and a sample of 16-17 year old juveniles from post-compulsory schools (ISCED3, transitional, vocational, gymnasium) from two large Swiss cities. We show the extent and selected correlates of juvenile delinquency and we assess its development since the last sweep. Furthermore, key results regarding cybermobbing, political extremist attitudes and gangs are presented as well.

Presentation 2: Explaining Delinquency of Turkish Adolescents: A Partial Test of Situational Action Theory

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This paper presents a partial test of Wikström's Situational Action Theory (SAT) (Wikström, 2006) in explaining adolescents' delinquency in a Turkish sample. More specifically, drawing on data from a sample of 2,336 young adolescents in Istanbul, collected as part of the third round of the International Self-Report Delinquency Study (ISRD-3), this study examines the extent to which Turkish adolescents' delinquent behaviour depends on (1) their morality (measured as a composite measure of moral rules and emotions), self-control and their interaction, and (2) their propensity towards crime (measured as a composite measure of morality and ability to exercise self-control), exposure to criminogenic settings (measured as a composite measure of peer delinquency and time spent in unstructured and unsupervised activities) and their interaction. Results of the analyses provide partial support for the generalizability of the theory. Limitations as well as implications for future research are discussed.

Presentation 3: An Overview of Juvenile Delinquency Research in Slovenia

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- Gorazd Meško, University of Maribor, Slovenia, gorazd.mesko@um.si

The purpose of this paper is to present an overview of studies and articles by researchers and experts in the field of juvenile delinquency from the independence of Slovenia in 1991 to the present day. We will begin with the main findings of Slovenian research that studied juvenile delinquency from various perspectives, focusing especially on the impact of risk factors on juvenile delinquency. Furthermore, the analysis of the available police reports and statistical data on juvenile delinquency in Slovenia, observation of crime patterns, examination of a trend in offending, and whether the prevalence of delinquency is increasing will be presented. In the conclusion, we will discuss the previous ISRD study research, policy and practice implications as well as possible future research in the field of juvenile delinquency and victimization in the country.

ISRD Panel 3: Insights from the International Self-Report Delinquency study (ISRD) – Part 3

Presentation 1: Are Situational Action Theory's (SAT) assumptions on the conditions for self-control unfalsifiable? Testing SAT with ISRD data

- Ilka Kammigan, Helmut Schmidt University Hamburg Helmut , ilka.kammigan@hsu-hh.de

Situational Action Theory (SAT) assumes that self-control only becomes relevant for the reduction of crime under certain conditions. This can be tested by modeling interactions between the conditions and self-control. However, there appears to be some disagreement on the direction of these interactions. If opposing directions can be predicted, this raises the question whether the theory's assumptions on the conditions for self-control may be unfalsifiable. After addressing potential sources of this threat to SAT's falsifiability, some solutions to overcome these problems will be suggested. Taking up on these suggestions, SAT's assumptions will be empirically tested with cross-national data from the ISRD study.

Presentation 2: Integration of migrants from Muslim countries in Europe from a Procedural Justice perspective

- Diego Farren, University of Hamburg, diego.farren@uni-hamburg.de

This paper is about comparing natives and different migrant groups in terms of trust in the police, legitimacy and intention to disobey, using the ISRD3 dataset. It is argued that these differences can be interpreted as measures of the closeness between social groups in a given society. The results show that migrants from Muslim Majority Countries (MMC) tend to trust and legitimate the police in the host country less and, as a result, to report lower levels of normative compliance. But, on the other side, they report higher levels of habitual compliance than natives. Measures of structural conditions (i.e. deprivation and disorganization) and of closeness to the host country (i.e. attachment to school and collective efficacy in neighbourhood) mediate these differences but do not eliminate them. These results are interpreted as showing that migrants from MMC weight the value of authority stronger than natives do but, at the same time, their worse evaluation of the police derives in cases that report lower disposition to comply. Explanations for the differences in opinion about the police are suggested in terms of cultural distance and integration quality with suggestions for both natives and migrants.

Presentation 3: The Role of Family Structure and Feeling of Shame in Perpetration of Violent Offences by Juveniles. Results from the Third International Self-Report Delinquency Study (ISRD-3) in Switzerland and India.

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This paper provides the first results of the Third International Self-Report Delinquency Study in India in comparison with Swiss findings. The purpose of this analysis is to (1) compare the prevalence of selected family and shame variables, and violent offences, and (2) find whether the associations between dependent and independent variables are similarly strong in Switzerland and India. The independent selected are “family structure (full family/one-parent/other situation)” and “feeling shame while committing assault and parents finding about it”. The findings show that Indian juveniles reported significantly less violent offences (robbery and/or assault) than their Swiss peers. They also have a significantly higher prevalence of feeling of no shame if caught assaulting than juveniles in Switzerland. The association of juveniles with weaker feeling of shame when caught assaulting are more likely to commit a violent offence, is stronger in Switzerland than in India. With respect to independent variable of “family structure”, it was found that juveniles from “other situation” families, relates stronger to violent offences in India than in Switzerland.

Presentation 4: Survey Mode Effects in the ISRD3 Study

- Dirk Enzmann, University of Hamburg, dirk.enzmann@uni-hamburg.de

Results of an experimental study on the effects of survey mode (paper & pencil vs. online questionnaire) in the German part of the International Self-Report Delinquency Study (ISRD-3) of grade 7 to grade 9 students (age 12-16 years) are presented. School classes were randomly assigned to a paper & pencil version of the questionnaire (n = 1,645) or to an online version (n = 1,312). The non-response rate on the level of the school was higher for the online version, probably because of logistic problems anticipated by the school administrators or teachers. Overall, victimization rates (prevalence and frequency) were significantly higher in the online version as compared to the paper & pencil version. Similarly, incidence based reporting rates were higher, although not significantly, whereas offending rates did not differ systematically. Most noteworthy were differences in item non-response (missing values) concerning the prevalence of last year victimization and last year offending: The number of missing values was substantially larger in the paper & pencil version. Effects of the survey mode could also be observed for the reliability (MacDonald's omega / Cronbach's alpha) of the self-control scale. Implications for studies using different survey modes are discussed.

ISRD Panel 4: International Self-Report Delinquency Study (ISRD4): Update and Reflections

ISRD Steering committee:

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- Janne Kivivuori, University of Helsinki, janne.kivivuori@helsinki.fi

This is an informational meeting organized by the Steering Committee of the International Self-Report Delinquency Study (ISRD). ISRD4 is the fourth sweep of a large international collaborative survey study of 13-17-year-olds, focusing on online and offline victimization and offending. The ISRD4 study tests several criminological theories and collects data in over 40 countries across the globe. Everybody interested is welcome. The panel will present the opportunity for those unfamiliar with the ISRD project to familiarize themselves with the project and explore joining the ISRD international research team. In addition, this panel also provides the opportunity for participants in the fourth sweep of the International Self-Report Delinquency Study (ISRD4) to discuss methodological and practical issues encountered during the fieldwork, as well as plans for data analysis. Fieldwork takes place in 2021-2022.