Foundations in Criminology and Criminal Justice
Course organiser: Dr Caroline Lanskey

This paper provides an introduction to the field of criminology, its debates and challenges, its current research preoccupations and future directions. It aims to enable students to develop an informed and critical appreciation of theories of crime and responses to crime in local and international contexts and a broad understanding of the research issues in the study of crime and criminal justice.

The paper is divided into three parts:
Part I Criminological concepts and contexts
Part 2 Understanding criminal activity
Part 3 Criminal justice responses and consequences

The lectures will address these general topics with reference to specific case studies for example, gangs, drugs, terrorism, young people, women. The course is deliberately cross-cultural in focus, covering criminology in different international contexts. It will discuss key concepts, theories and debates, invite interpretation and critique of these concepts and use these reflective insights to solve problems (e.g. How do we reduce crime?) and innovate through thought experiments (e.g. What would a society without punishment look like?)

The lectures will be held on Mondays from 10-12 in the Michaelmas and Lent terms. There is one revision lecture also in the Easter term. Lectures are central to this paper and students are strongly advised to attend/watch all of them. The two-hour block will enable discussion of illustrative case studies.

Supervisions: The paper requires 6 substantive supervisions: three in the Michaelmas term and three in the Lent term. Four of the supervisions are essay-based. In the other two supervisions students may be asked to contribute in different ways e.g. present on a topic, discuss a case study or provide a book or film review. The reading list (see separate document) and the supervision questions below provide guidance for students and supervisors. Students are not expected to cover all topics but to make a balanced selection in consultation with their supervisors. A revision supervision will take place in the first two weeks of the Easter term.

Term and Week		Title	Key Objectives and Questions

PART I
Criminological Concepts and Contexts
The first part of the course considers definitional and operational issues. What is criminology? How do we generate criminological knowledge? How do we define offenders and victims? What are the consequences of our definitions?

Term and Week		Title	Key Objectives and Questions
M1 9.10.23 *Caroline Lanskey*	1	What is criminology?	This first lecture provides an introduction to the field of criminology, its disciplinary characteristics, its subject interests and reach. It considers political, social and academic dynamics orienting the field and its current preoccupations. It considers debates on 'public criminology' and asks 'who and what is criminology for'? Supervision questions: *What is the role and value of criminology in society?* OR *Intuitive, 'instinctive', common-sense views about crime and criminals are still more persuasive to many – including many in positions of power and authority – than are the results of carefully executed empirical research' (Garland, 2002: 23). How can criminological research increase its authoritative voice in society? (Tripos,2021)*
M1 9.10.23 *Caroline Lanskey*	2	How is criminological knowledge generated?	This lecture considers the methods of criminological research. It describes different research approaches and the assumptions that underpin them. It discusses the challenges of conducting criminological research, the range of data sources (including research-generated, 'official', community/local, campaign/lobby groups) from which criminologists can collect data and their relative strengths and limitations. It considers broader debates on objectivity and subjectivity, particularity and universality including discussions on decolonialising criminology. Supervision questions: *How has writing from the Global South contributed to the study of criminology? (Tripos,2020)* OR *Do we need new approaches to criminological research in order to fully understand patterns of crime and criminal justice in the 21st century? (Tripos, 2022)*
M2 16.10.23	3	What is crime?	The following four lectures discuss key concepts in the study of criminology. The first asks: what is meant by 'crime'? It considers the strengths and limitations of different definitions from legal terms to wider

Maria Ttofi			conceptualisations of social harm. It addresses debates on crime as a social construct and the 'reality' of crime. It considers change and variability in definitions across countries. Key questions: Which activities are defined as criminal and why? How do definitions change over time? Who and what is criminalised as a consequence? The discussions will consider changing legal responses to homosexuality, and the creation of 'new crimes' such as 'hate crimes' and 'crimmigration'. Supervision questions: *'Crime does not exist. Only acts exist, acts are often given different meanings within various social frameworks.' (Nils Christie). Do you agree?* OR *'Relying on a strict legal definition of crime for criminological study is insufficient'. Critically discuss. (Tripos, 2022)*
M2 16.10.23 Maria Ttofi	4	Borders of Criminology	This lecture extends the discussion in the previous one to consider criminology or criminologies 'at the edge'. It considers the development of 'green criminologies' and arguments to move beyond the concept of crime to a broader conceptualisation of social and environmental harm. What are the advantages and disadvantages of moving beyond 'crime' as an orienting definition? Supervision question: *Should the main topic of criminological enquiry be 'social harms' rather than 'crime'?*
M3 23.10.23 Maria Ttofi	5	Who are 'offenders'?	Lectures 5 and 6 consider definitions of offenders and victims. The first asks 'who is defined as an offender? The individual law breaker? The group? The organisation? The state? It considers the ways in which people who break the law have been portrayed over time: the 'outlaw'; the dangerous or risky 'other' and debates on the age at which young people are considered to be responsible for criminal activities. Supervision question: *To what extent does the definition of 'offender' reflect societal attitudes?*
M3 23.10.23 Maria Ttofi	6	Who are 'victims'?	We consider the ways in which victims have been defined, including different typologies, the concept of 'victim worthiness' and the frequent overlap between being a victim and being an offender. It considers research on victims of 'hidden or invisible' crimes, such as of corporate crime, crimes of the state and victims who are 'hidden' or invisible' themselves such as families bereaved through murder and prisoners' families. Supervision question:

			Critically examine the contribution of Christie's concept of the 'ideal' victim to criminological understanding.

Part 2

Understanding criminal activity

The following ten lectures focus on research which aims to identify why people break the law. We will discuss theories of crime in relation to four orienting analytical constructs: society, power, the person and temporality with consideration too of the contexts in which theories developed.

M4

30.10.23

Caroline Lanskey | 7 | Crime and Society I | The first four lectures discuss theories of crime which focus on social influences. In the first lecture we cover macro-theories of society, specifically, theorists' application of Durkheim's concept of Anomie in the development of Strain theories and their extension into subcultural theories.

Supervision question:
To what extent is the concept of "strain" helpful for explaining why people commit crime? (Tripos, 2021) |
| M4

30.10.23

Caroline Lanskey | 8 | Crime and Society II | In the second lecture we cover theories of crime which take micro-society as the orienting concept ie the interaction between the person and others: theories of social learning and of social control. In both these lectures we draw on research on gang formation to understand and critique the theories.

Supervision questions:
To what extent is criminal behaviour learned?
OR
How convincing is social control theory as an explanation of crime? |
| M5
6.11.23

Caroline Lanskey | 9 | Crime and Society III | Lectures 9 and 10 consider the role of social power and conflict as the core explanatory factor in offending. The first discusses and critiques Marxist theories of crime as a consequence of oppression by the State and the dominant majority. It also discusses Defiance Theory.

Supervision questions:
To what extent is crime a class issue?
OR
Are unfair sanctions likely to increase offending? |
| M5
6.11.23

Caroline | 10 | Crime and Society IV | The second lecture considers theories which see crime as a consequence of processes of 'othering', 'of labelling and stigmatisation. With reference to feminist research and critical race theorising of hate crimes, it also discusses the extent to which power differentials between majority and minority ethnic populations and between men and women are relevant to our understanding of the causes of crime. |

Lanskey			Supervision questions: *What are the strengths and weaknesses of labelling theory in the study of crime?* Or *To what extent is crime explained by conflicts of power?*
M6 13.11.23 *Kyle Treiber?*	11	Crime and the Person I	The following lectures consider theories of crime which centre on the person – looking first at those which focus on personal agency and reasoning: theories of rational choice, moral reasoning, and routine activity. Supervision question: *Crime is anything but a rational choice. Do you agree*? (Tripos, 2023)
M6 13.11.23 *Kyle Treiber?*	12	Crime and the Person II	The second lecture considers theories which foreground personal characteristics or conditions in the explanation of crime. It discusses the work of the positivist school in criminology , bioosocial theories of crime and the intersection between crime and mental illness. Supervision questions: *Critically assess the contribution of psychological theories to the study of crime.* OR *How does an understanding of mental illness help us to understand criminal behaviour?*
M7 20.11.23 *Ali Wigzell*	13	Crime and the Person III	The next two lectures draw on theories which identify the relevance of a temporal understanding of criminal behaviour. The first lecture considers developmental theories and life course criminology. Supervision questions: *What are the strengths and limitations of a life course perspective on criminal behaviour? (Tripos, 2023)* OR *We need to understand an individual's childhood experiences in order to be able to explain why they commit crime. Discuss. (Tripos, 2022)*
M7 20.11.23 *Ali Wigzell*	14	Crime and the Person IV	The second lecture considers trajectories of offending. It discusses theories of desistance from crime. Supervision questions: *Why do people stop committing crime?* OR *'Desistance processes differ for different groups'. Discuss.*

M8 27.11.23 Kyle Treiber	15	Integrated Theories	Having reviewed the multiple theoretical perspectives on why people commit (and stop) crime we consider theories which integrate social and personal factors. We consider arguments for and against the idea of integration and two integrative theories. Supervision questions: *'No single theory can fully capture the complexity of crime causation.' Discuss. (Tripos, 2020)* OR *What evidence is there to support the claim that theories of crime lack a sufficiently intersectional perspective? (Tripos, 2022)*
M8 27.11.23 Caroline Lanskey	16	Why do people commit crime? Discussion	The final lecture in this series takes the form of a discussion. What are the most convincing theories of the causes of crime? What do we still need to understand about how and why people break the law? It will draw on recent research and data on crime, including data on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, to explore these theoretical ideas. Supervision question: *Which criminal theory or theories do you find most convincing and why? (Tripos, 2023)*
Part 3 Criminal Justice Responses and Consequences The third part of the paper considers societies' responses to those who break the law. It looks first at key influences on the shape and direction of criminal justice systems and second at different justice responses to crime and their impact.			
L1 22.01.24 Caroline Lanskey	17	Penal Policy Making – Societal Drivers	This first lecture considers drivers for criminal justice policies at global and national levels. It discusses writings on late modern societies, neoliberalism, post-colonialism, globalisation, law and religion and political transition. Drawing on comparative analyses of justice systems it asks how do macro theories of society help us to understand the workings and practices of criminal justice systems today? Supervision questions: *How does a study of the history and culture of a society enhance our understanding of its criminal justice system? (Tripos,2020)* OR *Criminal justice systems are shaped by the history, culture and politics of the societies in which they are located. Discuss with reference to a criminal justice system of your choice (Tripos, 2022)*
L1 22.01.24	18	Criminal Justice State and	This lecture provides an overview of different criminal justice systems. It considers variations and similarities in approach drawing on cases studies of including post-colonial justice and indigenous justice.

		Community systems	
Arushi Garg			Supervision question: *Compare and assess two different approaches to criminal justice.*
L2 29.01.24 Caroline Lanskey	19	Public opinion and penal policy	This lecture considers the relationship between the public and penal policy. It explores definitions of public opinion and conceptualisations of the fear of crime. It covers concepts such as populist punitivism and the role that the public plays in directing the action of criminal justice processes in England and Wales with reference to notable campaigns to raise the profile of the victim. Supervision question: *What is the role of public opinion in criminal justice policy-making?*
L2 29.01.24 Caroline Lanskey	20	Media and penal policy	This lecture asks: how are criminals and offenders represented in the media? What are the effects of media reporting of crime on criminal justice policies? Building on discussions in the previous lecture, it considers the use of social media by the public in the reporting and representations of crime. Supervision question: *Critically examine the role of the media in criminal justice policy making (Tripos, 2021).*
L3 5.02.24 Caroline Lanskey	21	Politics, penal power and legitimacy	This lecture discusses the role of politics in the governance of crime focussing on the theme of social control. It reviews theorisations of penal power as a means to contain and discipline groups threatening the disruption of the social order using case studies of mass incarceration in the US and Chinese criminal justice responses to the riots of Hong Kong. It introduces the concept of 'legitimacy' of penal power and its link to social order. Supervision questions: *What roles do politics and economics play in the development of criminal justice policy? Discuss with reference to a criminal justice system of your choice.(Tripos, 2023)* OR *What is the relevance of the concept of 'legitimacy' for the deployment of criminal justice power?*
L3 5.02.24 *Sophie Ellis*	22	Risk prediction and algorithmic justice	This lecture considers the growing use of technology in criminal justice: the use of 'big data' and machine the management of risk and prediction of offending. Building on earlier discussions of the risk society, it presents Feeley and Simon's theorisation of 'the new penology', risk assessments and recent developments in the use of 'big data' for criminal justice purposes, so-called algorithmic justice. Supervision questions:

			Critically assess the use of 'big data' in the administration of criminal justice. *OR* *The idea of risk has become indispensable for understanding criminal justice policy. Discuss with reference to a criminal justice system of your choice (Tripos, 2023).*
L4 12.02.24 Caroline Lanskey	23	Marketization and Economics	This lecture discusses the influence of market-oriented ideologies on criminal justice. Using the UK as a case study, it examines the influence of managerialism and the private sector on prison and probation services. Supervision question: *We have seen an increasing marketisation of criminal justice services in many societies. Why? What have been the consequences? (Tripos, 2021).*
L4 12.02.24 Caroline Lanskey	24	Surveillance	The following five lectures consider different ways in which governmental power is deployed to prevent and address offending. The first considers the activities of surveillance and supervision. It discusses the role of censorship, situational crime prevention and surveillance of people in prison and the community including the development of electronic monitoring and facial recognition technology. Supervision question: *What explains the growth of criminal justice policy interest in monitoring and surveillance? What have been the consequences?*
L5 19.02.24 Caroline Lanskey	25	Punishment in theory	The first part of this lecture asks what social functions does punishment serve? It provides an overview of key sociological theories of punishment and their explanatory concepts of social solidarity (Durkheim), bureaucratic governance (Weber), political economy and class control (Marx), technology of power (Foucault) culture (Garland). The second part asks: how do societies justify the use of punishment? It provides an overview of justifications in terms of the prevention of future crime (deterrence, reform, incapacitation) and as a response to crimes already committed (censure and retribution) . Supervision questions: *Why do societies punish those who break their laws?* *OR* *When do societies decide not to punish? Why? What are the consequences?*

L5 19.02.24 Caroline Lanskey	26	Punishment in practice	The second lecture considers punishment in practice. It considers physical and psychological forms and experiences of punishment. Supervision questions: *How can we best understand the social drivers for different forms of punishment?* OR *How can we best explain transformations in punishment practices over time? (Tripos, 2021).*
L6 26.02.24 Loraine Gelsthorpe	27	Intervention and Programmes	This lecture considers the function of interventionism in responses to offending. It considers intervention as prevention and as a form of rehabilitation. It traces criminological debates on the effectiveness of interventions from 'nothing works to 'what works' for different groups of for people who have offended e.g. women, young people, people with addictions and mental health issues. Supervision questions: *'It is surely better to intervene early in criminal careers rather than to wait until numerous people have been victimized.' Do you agree? (Tripos, 2020)* OR *Critically assess the contribution of rehabilitative interventions for people who have broken the law. (Tripos,2023)*
L6 26.02.24 *Loraine Gelsthorpe*	28	Restoration and Resettlement	This lecture looks at how society reconciles with people who have broken the law. It looks at processes of restorative justice and the concept re-integrative shaming. It examines criminal justice policies related to the resettlement of people leaving custody and challenges to this process. Supervision questions: *The removal of 'shame' and 'stigma' are central to resettlement. Discuss.* OR *'Offender re-integration' is more of an aspiration rather than a reality of criminal justice practice. Discuss.*
L7 4.03.24 Caroline Lanskey	29	Terrorism	The next two lectures draw together some of the themes covered earlier in the paper by looking at two current and global issues in crime: terrorism and drugs. The first asks: what are the causes of terrorism? How do societies respond? What are the consequences of globalisation for terrorist activities? Supervision question: *Drawing on your understanding of theories of crime, critically assess policy approaches to addressing terrorism.*

L7 4.03.24 *Hannah Marshall*	30	The drugs trade	The second lecture considers drugs and crime. It looks at the international trade in drugs; variations in drug laws and their consequences for drug users. It looks at policies aimed to address offending related to drug addiction. Supervision questions: *Discuss the impact of globalisation on criminal justice policy and practice (Tripos, 2023)* OR *What contributions do international perspectives make to the study of crime and criminal justice? (Tripos, 2022)*
L8 11.03.24 *Hannah Marshall*	31	Criminal Justice and Social Justice	This lecture discusses (un)fairness and (in)equality in criminal justice. It looks at discrimination and disadvantage in criminal justice processes by considering the experiences of women, ethnic minorities, the mentally ill. It asks what should justice look like for these groups? Supervision questions: *'Criminal justice systems frequently compound the vulnerabilities of the already vulnerable'. Do you agree with this claim? Support your answer with reference to criminological theory and research. (Tripos, 2021).* OR *'Criminal justice organisations fail to consider sufficiently the impact of criminal justice policies and procedures on minority groups'. What evidence is there to support this claim? (Tripos, 2022)*
L8 11.03.24 *Caroline Lanskey*	32	'More research is needed'	This final discussion seminar asks what are the pressing issues in criminal justice today? What are the gaps in our understanding of crime and crime control? What is seen and not seen by the constructs that criminologists and criminal justice agents employ? What are the key problems facing criminal justice practices? What are the resolutions? What should be on future criminological research agenda? It considers these questions in relation to recent justice developments in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic and more generally.
E1 29.4.24	33	Revision lecture	Review of key themes and exam preparation.