

CRIMINOLOGIST CORNER(ED)

The BSC's monthly interview with the great, the good and the...hoping for greatness

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Where is home?

I am originally from Tamil Nadu, India. My definition of home is where my family is. Currently, my family and I live in Stoke-on-Trent, so for now, Stoke-on-Trent is home.

Why Criminology?

Growing up, I wanted to become a software engineer. I worked towards that goal, earned a bachelor's degree in Computer Applications, and was selected through campus placement to work for a multinational corporation called Infosys. However, for various reasons, I left my job and took a break to rethink my career. During this period, I decided to become a police officer. That's when I first learned about criminology and chose to pursue a master's degree in the subject. During my studies, I met a senior police officer who advised and encouraged me to pursue a research career rather than a career in policing, which led me to where I am today.

Who/what inspires you?

Many people have inspired me throughout my life and academic career.

My parents have always been my biggest inspiration, both in my childhood and now. I am also fortunate to have a strong, supportive, and encouraging life partner who continues to inspire me.

Academically, Mr Alexander Mohan (IPS), retired Inspector-General of Police, Tamil Nadu, was the first person who motivated me to pursue

a research career. He has been a great inspiration. Additionally, Mr Ruwan Uduwera-Perera, a former police officer and Director of the PIEL Centre at the University of East London, and Prof. George Richards from Pennsylvania Western University, USA, have played important roles in my academic journey. I met them in India, sought their career advice, and have been fortunate to have them as mentors.

After moving to the UK, I had the opportunity to work with Prof. James Treadwell and Prof. Nigel South. They have been incredibly supportive and have motivated me in many ways.

As a qualitative researcher, I have listened to the stories of many victims and offenders. These narratives are always fascinating, and working closely with people through research continues to inspire me.

What advice would you give to your undergraduate self?

1. Don't be afraid to seek help and ask for support. 2. It's okay to start late—everyone has their own pace and timeline.

What is the best job you have ever done?

Before moving to the UK, I worked as a Crime Analyst, where I worked in a team along with police officers, social workers, psychologists, urban planners, lawyers, and other professionals to analyse and prevent crime. It was a fascinating role that gave me the opportunity to learn from a diverse range of experts and perspectives that I had never considered before.

What are you most passionate about?

Currently, I am passionate about critical criminology, particularly the social harm approach, which was introduced to me by Prof. James Treadwell. I am eager to explore this area further and look forward

to publishing a few papers. Additionally, I am passionate about advancing criminology in India. Along with a few colleagues, I am working to build stronger connections between criminology in India and global criminology. Our goal is to explore new opportunities and bring Indian criminological perspectives to the global stage, particularly from a Global South perspective.

Which book that you haven't read do you most want to read?

Emotional Intelligence by Daniel Goleman. I have been planning to read it since last year, and I hope to start soon.

What would you have done if you hadn't become a criminologist?

I had many dreams growing up, apart from becoming a criminologist. If I hadn't met Alexander Mohan (retired Inspector-General of Police, Tamil Nadu), I would have tried to become a police officer. If that didn't work out, I probably would have returned to the software field or pursued a government job, which is a common career path in India when other options don't work out.

What criminological work are you involved in at the moment?

I recently passed my PhD viva with minor corrections, and I am currently working on the corrections. My PhD research is titled: A Qualitative Examination of Policing Undocumented Migration in the West Midlands Region: Understanding the Experiences of Undocumented Migrants and Law Enforcement Agencies. Alongside this, I am working on a paper from my thesis to publish.

Additionally, I am working with some of my colleagues from India to organise the second edition of

the **International Conference on Global Criminology and Victimology**, hosted by the Assam Royal Global University in collaboration with the BSC Critical Criminology Network and the World Society of Victimology. It will be held from 7th to 9th August 2025.

What do you hope to do next?

I am currently searching for a postdoctoral or research position in the UK. I have applied for a few positions and am looking forward to receiving a positive response soon. I hope to secure a research position and continue my academic journey.

And finally, please share one criminological book, one album, and one luxury item you would take to your desert island...

Criminological book: Either *Revitalizing Criminological Theory: Towards a New Ultra-Realism* by Steve Hall and Simon Winlow or *Harmful Societies: Understanding Social Harm* by Simon Pemberton. Both books have recently inspired me to view society from a different perspective.

Album: A collection of Tamil songs by Deva, known for his energetic and enthusiastic music.

Luxury item: My laptop with an internet connection. (Ed. Nice try - Denied!)

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next month...

Laura Sibret & Joanna Ashcroft - University of Portsmouth