

# CRIMINOLOGIST CORNER(ED)

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

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## Dr Bhanu Prakash Nunna - BSC International Ambassador for India

Director, Centre for Victimological Research and Victim Assistance, RV University, India



### Where is home?

Home is Kavali, a coastal town in Nellore District, India. It's a place of close-knit community and quiet resilience that shaped my early values. While I have spent many years studying and working in cities like Bangalore, Delhi, and Pune, Kavali still keeps me grounded and reminds me of where my journey began.

### How did you become a Criminologist?

I began my academic journey as a psychologist, deeply interested in understanding human behaviour and trauma. This curiosity led me to explore how systems respond to harm, which eventually brought me to criminology and victimology. My doctoral research in victimology and the research projects that I am currently engaged in allowed me to bring together psychology, justice, and advocacy, focusing on trauma-informed, victim-centred approaches within justice processes.

### Who/what inspires you?

Survivors inspire me most. These are the people who, despite systemic barriers, continue to rebuild their lives and advocate for justice. I am also motivated by scholars and practitioners who ensure that research connects meaningfully to practice, bridging theory with interventions that transform lives.

### What are you most passionate about?

I am passionate about humanising justice systems by embedding trauma-informed practices and placing victims at the centre. For me, the real test of the criminal justice system is not how well we punish our offenders but how well we treat our victims. Justice must go beyond punishment; it should foster healing, restoration, and dignity.

### Who would play you in the film of your life?

I think it would be Dev Patel, for the authenticity, vulnerability, and depth he brings to his roles. These are the qualities that I also value in my professional and personal life.

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

*The Next Shift: The Fall of Industry and the Rise of Health Care in Rust Belt America* by Gabriel Winant. Its exploration of structural transitions, social harm, and health resonates with my interest in systemic victimisation and precarity.

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

I would have been a chef. Cooking, to me, is about care and healing, creating spaces where people feel nurtured and valued. In many ways, this resonates with my work in criminology and victimology, where the goal is to restore dignity and offer comfort in the aftermath of harm. Both journeys, whether in the kitchen or in justice work, are about connection, restoration, and bringing people together.

### What criminological work are you involved in at the moment?

Currently, I am engaged in research on integrated victim support services in India, developing trauma-informed justice frameworks, and addressing technology-facilitated sexual violence among youth. I am also actively mentoring emerging scholars in criminology and victimology, helping to nurture a new generation of socially rooted researchers.

### What do you hope to do next?

As the International Ambassador for the British Society of Criminology, I aim to foster cross-border collaborations that integrate Global South perspectives more prominently into criminological discussions. At the same time, through my role as Managing Director of the ThinkJustice Foundation, I want to build sustainable initiatives in India that advance trauma-informed justice and integrated victim support services. Looking ahead, my focus is on creating a hub that connects research, practice, and advocacy, linking global networks with local realities to rethink justice in ways that prioritise dignity, healing, and inclusion.

### Finally, please share the one book, one album and one luxury item you would take to your desert island.....

**Book:** *Rural Victims of Crime: Representations, Realities and Responses* edited by Rachel Hale and Alistair Harkness, for its critical insights into often-overlooked experiences of victimisation outside urban contexts.

**Album:** *Geethanjali* by Ilayaraja, the greatest Indian musician of all time in Indian Cinema, for its timeless and soulful music.

**Luxury item:** A solar-powered Kindle filled with books, so I can keep reading and reflecting in solitude.

Find out more here:



**BSC South West  
Region - Justice  
beyond Criminal  
Justice  
29 October 2025**

Hosted by the University of Bath and the BSC SW Region, this one-day symposium brings together academics from across the social sciences to explore the justice processes that sit outside of the formal criminal justice system, used in response to serious harm and injury.

Find out more here.

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**IF YOU** would like to be the next face of 'Criminologist Corner(ed)' please get in touch. Email: [steven.rawlings@britsoccrim.org](mailto:steven.rawlings@britsoccrim.org)

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