CRIMINOLOGIST CORNER(ED)

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

No. 35
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Prof Eugene McLaughlin - 2025 Outstanding Achievement Award recipient

Professor of Criminology, City of St George's, University of London

Where is home?

North London for the past 30 years but originally Derry.

How did you become a Criminologist?

By accident. As an undergrad studying the sociology of crime and deviance in Manchester I discovered Marxist criminology, and in particular the Birmingham School's *Resistance Through Rituals and Policing the Crisis*. This eventually led to postgraduate studies at Cambridge and Sheffield and my first lectureship in Hong Kong. Since I come from Northern Ireland, it was maybe inevitable that my initial research interest would be police accountability.

Who/what inspires you?

Tireless criminal justice campaigners and investigative journalists who never give up.

What advice would you give to your undergraduate self?

Take a year out, travel and live in West Berlin.

What is your greatest fear?

Politically, the shift to a post-truth world that benefits the powerful.

What are you most passionate about?

Work-wise, whatever I am researching. Otherwise, music. I have also developed a greater appreciation of what is involved in cultivating productive fruit trees.

Who would play you in the film of your life?

It would be a dull film! There are very few Northern Irish actors so it might have to be James Nesbitt!

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

The 'to read/re-read' list is long and now there are also numerous podcasts to think about. I do have to read Hannah Arendt's *On Lying and Politics*.

What criminological work are you involved in at the moment?

Concluding projects with colleagues: completing the latest episode of the *21st Century Cults* podcast; assessing the mass closure of magistrates' court buildings; and examining the so-called 'Houses of Horror' phenomenon, focusing on 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester.

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

At one stage I nearly became a local government research officer and at another stage I considered re-training as a lawyer. Fortunately, criminology flourished as a discipline and I didn't have to.

What do you hope to do next?

Return to researching the post-war history of 'Trial by Media' as a counter to orthodox criminal justice histories.

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

Criminological book – Stan Cohen's *States of Denial*

Album – Iggy Pop's *Lust for Life*

Luxury Item – a pair of good waterproof shoes and a heavy duty billhook.

Find out more about Eugene's work here:

Read Eugene's 2025 BSC Outstanding Achievement Award press release here:

PROFESSOR EUGENE MCLAUGHLIN – BRITISH SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2

The British Society of Criminology is proud to announce that it is awarding its Outstanding A
McLaughlin, Professor of Criminology at City St George's, University of London, for his pione
of academic criminology in the UK in tandem with his commitment to nurturing three gener

Professor McLaughlin is best known for his work on the mediatisation of crime and criminal j
current research explores: institutional scandals, trial by media and contemporary cults. He h
numerous books, articles and chapters and influential textbooks, including: The SAGE Dictior
edited with John Muncie; Understanding Deviance (7th Edition, 2016), co-authored with Davi
Perspectives (3rd Edition, 2013) co-edited with John Muncie; and The SAGE Handbook of Cr
Tim Newburn.

Professor McLaughlin's academic career includes positions at the University of Hong Kong, the Open University, and the Un
visiting positions at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York, the University of North Carolina,Chapel Hill and the He
Professor McLaughlin was co-editor of Theoretical Criminology and Critical Social Policy and has served on the editorial boa
Media, Crime and Culture, the Journal of Criminology, the Howard Journal of Criminal Justice and Criminal Justice Matters.

The Outstanding Achievement Award is decided following nominations from the British Society of Criminology membership
Dr Gemma Birkett, said: "Eugene has made a seismic contribution to British criminology on a number of different fronts. H
landmark theoretical, conceptual and empirical insights, while he has been central to the development of British criminolog
other popular writings. Achieving all of this in his own unstintingly modest way, Eugene has always made time to encourag
their own ideas. The number of nominees, and the various ways that Eugene is connected with them – supervisor, mentor,
generosity. He is everything one could ask for in a scholar, colleague and friend".

President of the BSC Professor Pamela Davies said: "This is such an immensely well-deserved accolade for a stalwart, huge

The British Society of Criminology's Outstanding Achievement Award was marked by an event during the Society's annual c
University of Portsmouth in July 2025.

BSC Green Criminology Network Conference

28 October 2025

The BSC Green Criminology Research Network is holding a one day in-person event on environmental harm and victimisation on Tuesday 28th October. This event allows for discussion on contemporary issues in environmental harm and victimisation and to consider further opportunities for developing the network's work in this area. Speakers include:

Prof Stacy Banwell, University of Greenwich

Life on Earth is in crisis: An intersectional analysis of the relationship between anthropogenic climate change and atrocity crimes.

Dr Emiline Smith, University of Glasgow

Exploiting the Blue: Conceptualising Harms Against Ocean Ecosystems

Christina Warner, Barrister

Ruby's Law, Protecting Pets in Family Law.

Find out more here.

Appear in Criminologist Corner(ed)

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

next issue...

Dr Sian Lewis - BSC 2025 Criminology Book Award winner