

CRIMINOLOGIST CORNER(ED)

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

No. 36

Nov 2025

Dr Sian Lewis - 2025 BSC Criminology Book Award winner

Lecturer in Criminology, University of Plymouth



Where is home?

North Yorkshire born and bred, now the beautiful Southwest.

How did you become a Criminologist?

A combination of my MSc in Gender, Sexuality and Society and personal experiences of being sexually harassed on transport. I wanted to make sense of what happened to me, and then opportunity to undertake a funded PhD about sexual violence on trains came up and I leapt at the chance!

Who/what inspires you?

My Mum and sister. They're the best human beings.

What advice would you give to your undergraduate self?

Work hard, show up and trust the process. Get stuck into the things you're passionate about. Also, dump your boyfriend.

What is your greatest fear?

Being consumed by existential dread and living in a permanent state of despair.

What are you most passionate about?

I feel strongly about the need for policy, practice and interventions to be informed by in-depth, qualitative research. Research that allows space for messy narratives, emotion and complexity. I feel particularly passionate about this in relation to women and girls' experiences of unwanted sexual attention and assault- if we want to tackle it effectively, we need these lived experiences at the core of everything we do.

Also, books books books. Cat and dogs. Getting in the sea. My friends being awesome.

Who would play you in the film of your life?

Florence Pugh (in my dreams) and Sarah Lancashire.

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

Oh, so many. *The Overstory* by Richard Powers has been on my list for a long time and I'm reading it now. It's epic so far. I try (and often fail) to read a 'classic' every year, so I optimistically bought *War and Peace* in January, but as of yet it remains unread...

What criminological work are you involved in at the moment?

My work on sexual violence on public transport is ongoing- there's still so much work to be done here, particularly looking at rural transport networks, train staff experiences, and bystander interventions.

I'm also engaging with stakeholders such as the British Transport Police, transport bodies and MPs advocating for the importance of qualitative research in the area.

I'm also working with criminology colleagues at Plymouth to explore the benefits and harms of dark tourism in the South-West.

Oh, and I'm really enjoying working on creating a framework for sensory criminology and gender-based violence with the lovely Prof Amanda Holt. We've published an article and chapter on the topic and have a bigger project coming up...watch this space!

What do you hope to do next?

Read *War and Peace*. Work on setting up a Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Girls on transport.

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

Co-host of Only Connect

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

Criminological book – Slightly outside of criminology, but probably *Simians, Cyborgs and Women: A Reinvention of Nature* by Donna Haraway

Album – *Bat out of Hell* by Meatloaf (value for money and a song for every mood)

Luxury Item – My feral dog

**BSC Northern
Ireland Region
event**

10 December 2025

The BSC Northern Ireland Regional group, In conjunction with the Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice is delighted that Dr Susan Batchelor (University of Glasgow) will be presenting her research on 'Repeat Violence Across the Life-Course: A qualitative typology' at Queen's University Belfast. This presentation introduces a novel typology of repeat victimisation, developed through analysis of 95 qualitative interviews conducted in Scotland.

The event will be held on Wednesday 10 December 2025 at 12.30pm in the School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work, 6 College Park, Belfast in Room 0G.007.

All are welcome to attend but please register your attendance here.

Find out more about Sian's work here:



Academic profile
Dr Sian Lewis
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next issue...

Prof Frances Heidensohn - Visiting Professor, LSE