

CRIMINOLOGIST CORNER(ED)

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

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Dr Carly Lightowers

Reader in Criminology at the University of Liverpool



Where is home?

I live in North Wales with my husband and daughter.

How did you become a Criminologist?

Growing up, I was always socially curious, reflecting on gendered and socioeconomic inequalities - particularly how they shaped youth culture, leisure, and nightlife. My interest in cultural differences in drinking behavior deepened after moving from Germany to the UK, where I began a Criminology degree at Lancaster University.

After graduating, I worked in research roles within local government and later as a university research assistant. I returned to academia for a Master's and PhD at the University of Manchester. During my PhD, I completed an internship at the Home Office, gaining insight into how crime prevention and justice policies are implemented.

Upon completing my PhD, I began my academic career and now hold the position of Reader in Criminology at the University of Liverpool.

Who/What inspires you?

I'm inspired by the process of translating academic research into

policy and practice. My motivation has always been to generate insights that drive social change and reduce inequality and injustice. This commitment is reflected in my applied research and in previous voluntary roles as an IMB member and magistrate.

I also draw daily inspiration from a close circle of strong female friends - exceptional leaders and remarkable people - who keep me grounded and motivated.

Who would play you in the film of your life?

Maybe, Emily Blunt. (Although she will likely have better offers!)

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

I have a growing pile of books on my bedside table. Next on my list is Jeanine Cummins' *The Crooked Branch*. At the moment, I'm enjoying Bella Mackie's *How to Kill Your Family*, which has me in stitches!

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

When I was young, I aspired to be either a Marine Biologist or Geographer, so maybe one of those.

What criminological work are you involved in at the moment?

I recently completed an ADRUK fellowship, where I conducted quantitative analysis of criminal justice data to assess the effectiveness of alcohol-related sentence requirements. Currently, I'm working on a British Academy

Mid Career Fellowship project that uses qualitative court observations to explore how alcohol intoxication influences sentencing decisions in criminal cases.

What do you hope to do next?

I'm currently working on a book under contract that will explore insights into alcohol, crime, and justice. It aims to bring together research and practice in this area - so stay tuned for its release.

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

Criminological book – Laub and Sampson (2009). *Shared Beginnings, Divergent Lives*.

Album – Any by Of Monsters and Men.

Luxury Item – Aromatherapy Associates bath oil / champagne!

Read more about Carly's work here:



BSC Historical Criminology Network Speakers' Series 2026 February Seminars

A multidisciplinary seminar series covering a range of contemporary ideas, allowing attendees to meet specialists virtually, taking the opportunity to interrogate the extent to which history intersects with the contemporary. Our aim is to provide a platform to support rich discussion, with the chance to locate contemporary conversations within wider historical criminological interests, in academia and beyond.

REGISTER HERE.

4 February 2026 - 'Historical criminology and collective memory: New directions'. Dr. Daniel Gyollai

18 February 2026 - 'No Pain nor Punishment Can Shake Him: Blackness, Climate, and Criminality in A Treatise on Tropical Diseases by Benjamin Moseley'. Dr. Dannelle Gutarra Cordero.

Appear in Criminologist Corner(ed)

DO YOU enjoy being scrutinised by strangers? Are there pressing issues you would like to shout about? Or do you just have a new book or article you would like to plug? If so then please get in touch and you could be the next face of 'Criminologist Corner(ed)'. Email steven.rawlings@britsoccrim.org

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Dr Adrian Grounds - University of Cambridge