

CRIMINOLOGIST CORNER(ED)

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

Number 42

June 2026

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Where is home?

That's always a loaded question! I live in East Staffordshire, not far from Burton with my family, so I guess there? Although I always have a desire to stay longer when visiting friends and family in Somerset where I grew up.

How did you become a Criminologist?

More by luck than judgement! I went to do History and Law at Keele University for my undergraduate degree and promptly decided that law was too 'black and white' for my liking because I wanted to know more about the people behind the law and so switched to criminology. After study, I went to work in homeless advice and support for a West Midlands local authority and didn't feel like I was doing much to affect change, and so came back to the academy.

Who/what inspires you?

My capoeira mestre (Master); he's a Brazilian who struggled at school but has become a world renowned expert in the game and is constantly invited to teach and play at events all around the world. He has incredible levels of patience even when we struggle to do something very basic fifteen times on the bounce!

What advice would you give to your undergraduate self?

The usual cliché of read more, sooner is probably fair. Beyond that, say yes when opportunities present themselves.

What is your greatest fear?

Probably something untoward happening to my kids (soppy I know) as much as they wind me up constantly!

What are you most passionate about?

My family are the obvious one – two small kids always keep me busy and remind me of life outside of work. Over and above that, I really enjoying playing capoeira. It's completely different to anything else I've ever done in my life, and is so culturally rich and diverse that there's always something new coming your way.

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

Cilka's story by Heather Morris the author of *Tattooist of Auschwitz*.

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

Tough call. I had applied (unsuccessfully) to GCHQ and the prison service prior to heading down the doctoral research path, so had either of those applications been successful I suspect I would have ended up doing something I couldn't talk much about! Failing that, a friend and I always had a backup plan of running a pub.

You are part of the BSC Conference team at NTU, what will be your involvement in the conference?

I'm leading the conference organization alongside Dr Irene Zempi and our head of department, Clare Williams, so there's a lot already going on. We're currently piecing together the programme and theming the panels, organizing rooms and coordinating the wider planning teams. During the conference? I imagine I'll probably be feeling a little bit frazzled doing a lot of background support, directing colleagues and addressing queries. Oh, and delivering a couple of papers too with colleagues at NTU.

What can we expect at the Conference?

Lots of great papers from a fantastic range of colleagues by the looks of it. We've had over 450 submissions across the PGR and main conference from friends and peers all around the world which is fantastic! We're working on social events each evening (over and above the conference dinner) so that everyone can have a good time alongside the main conference. Everyone has really focused on the key themes of the conference and we hope to see some really inspiring discussions and conversations, as well as opportunities for catching up with friends too. We're particularly grateful so many people have signed up given both the range of high quality, high level conferences that people have the opportunities to attend, and the challenging financial landscape that higher education faces right now.

What do you hope to do next/after the conference?

Enjoy the summer! I've got a couple of trips planned to Brazil and Greece with family and friends so I'm looking forward to them, and then, funding applications permitting, some exciting new research opportunities to bring online from September so that will be my focus from then.

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

Criminological book – Jock Young's *Exclusive Society*

Album – *One By One* by the Foo Fighters

Luxury Item – Possibly a bit mundane, but a hammock! It beats sleeping on the floor every time!

Read more about Ian's work here:



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BSC 2026 Conference

NTU are thrilled to be hosting the British Society of Criminology Conference 2026 between 7 and 10 July 2026. The theme for this year's conference is 'Building Resilience and Hope into Criminology and Criminal Justice'.

Visit the conference website; the conference programme is available here.

next month...

BSC conference delegate showcase