

CRIMINOLOGIST CORNER(ED)

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

No. 43
Sept 2026

Dr Lorraine Barron - BSC Conference 2026 delegate spotlight

Lecturer In Criminal Law and Criminal Justice, University of Bangor



Where is home?

North Wales (Anglesey), but originally from Co. Waterford, in the Republic of Ireland.

How did you become a Criminologist?

My background is in criminal law, but my PhD was socio-legal, which got me thinking about the “why” as well as the “what.” The perfect job came up at Bangor for a Lecturer in Criminal Law and Criminal Justice, and it fit exactly where I’d landed. I love understanding the legal rules, but I’m just as interested in why people do what they do.

Who/what inspires you?

My parents. They raised seven children and sent every one of us to university on one modest income.

What is your greatest fear?

Not growing old.

What are you most passionate about?

Animal justice. I’m vegan and it’s a passion that runs through both my personal life and my research. Oh, and good coffee.

What advice would you give to your undergraduate self?

Believe in yourself, and don’t feel you have to pick a lane between law and criminology. I still suffer from imposter syndrome now and again, but it’s getting better, and bringing the two together has turned out to be the most rewarding part of the job.

Who would play you in the film of your life?

Phoebe Waller-Bridge.

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

Ulysses. It’s the only book I’ve started and never finished. I feel like I can’t be fully certified Irish until I do!

What criminological work are you involved in at the moment?

I’m currently working on a project looking at how people judge harm done to animals: whether that judgement changes depending on the species involved, whether people frame that harm as a justice issue, and how they reason about it morally. I’m surveying both the public and criminologists, to see how disciplinary thinking compares with public attitudes. I presented on the methods at the BSC 2026 in Nottingham, and I’m now moving into the disciplinary survey phase.

What do you hope to do next?

Completing the disciplinary and public survey and pulling both strands of the project together for an interdisciplinary

roundtable that I’m hoping to host at Bangor University next summer (funding pending!).

I’m looking for participants for the disciplinary survey, both academics and students, and for anyone interested in contributing to the roundtable next summer, so please get in touch if you’re interested at l.barron@bangor.ac.uk or you can complete the survey here.

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

Set up my own animal sanctuary, somewhere idyllic with plenty of acres.

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

Book: *Ulysses*. I’d finally have the time to finish it.

Album: *R.E.M., Automatic for the People*.

Luxury item: An espresso machine, with an unlimited supply of coffee beans.

Read more about Lorraine’s research here:

DR LORRAINE BARRON

Lecturer in Criminal Law and Criminal Justice

l.barron@bangor.ac.uk

ORCID

Qualifications

- PhD: The Management of Post-Release Sex Offenders in Ireland: Balancing the Ethics of Control and Risk with a Restorative Justice Response
University of Limerick, 2022
- Other (G/C/Ed/CP/EdA)
Coventry University, 2021
- BA LLB Law
University of Limerick, 2011
- BA: Languages and Cultural Studies
University of Limerick, 2009



BSC Green Criminology Research Network September 2026 Webinar

The September 2026 Green Criminology Research Network Webinar takes place on Wednesday 30th September 2026 at 1pm UK Time.

Speaker: Brandon Rochester, York St John University

Title: Neutralising Ecocide: Applying Corpus-Assisted Discourse Analysis to Corporate Neutralisation in Intensive Poultry Production

To join the webinar, sign up at the network’s Eventbrite page .

Appear in Criminologist Corner(ed)

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