CRIMINOLOGIST CORNER(ED)

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

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Prof Michelle Butler - BSC Conference 2027 organiser

Professor, School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work, Queen's University Belfast & chair BSC Northern Ireland Region



Where is home?

Belfast is my home. I have lived in Belfast since 2009 but I am originally from County Wexford in the Republic of Ireland.

How did you become a Criminologist?

When I was a teenager, I used to read a lot of true crime stories. My interest in becoming a criminologist arose from reading those books and trying to understand why people commit crime.

Who/what inspires you?

I am inspired by the resiliency of people and people who are willing to help and support others.

What is your greatest fear?

My greatest fear is drowning. I can swim but I am not a good swimmer and I cannot swim for long distances.

What are you most passionate about?

I am most passionate about trying to help others, whether that is through how my research can be used to inform policy and practice and/or how I can help support my students and colleagues to achieve their goals and ambitions.

What advice would you give to your undergraduate self?

If I could go back in time to give advice to my undergraduate self, I would say 'Enjoy life, embrace all opportunities and worry less. It is all going to work out okay in the end'.

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

I haven't yet had a chance to read Ben Crewe's recently published book entitled '*Deep Confinement: Everyday Imprisonment and Extremity in the Close Supervision Centres*' so I really hope to read this soon.

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

I would have been a psychologist, accountant or mathematician.

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

While I will be involved in lots of different aspects of the conference, I will primarily be responsible for managing the conference's finances. My involvement in this role is probably unsurprisingly given my answer to the previous question!

What can we expect at the Conference?

You can expect to hear about the fascinating research that is happening within criminology, to meet new, friendly colleagues and to enjoy yourself. It will be 30 years since the conference was last held in Belfast, so we hope to reflect on how things have changed (or may not have changed) during this time and why. Belfast is also a great place to visit. The city is well known internationally for its shipbuilding, the Titanic, its sociopolitical history and for being a place where visitors can enjoy themselves.

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

Honestly, I hope to have a nice, relaxing holiday after the conference.

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

Book: Jock Young*: The Exclusive Society.*

Album: Nirvana*: Nevermind.*

Luxury item: Chocolate

Read more about Michelle's research here:



British Society of Criminology Conference 2027

Belfast - July 2027

British Society of Criminology Conference 2027 - Belfast

Tuesday 20th - Friday 23th July, 2027.

Queen's University Belfast & Ulster University, Belfast.

Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University are delighted to jointly host the 2027 British Society of Criminology Conference, 30 years since the conference was last hosted in Belfast.

Find out more here: bscbelfast2027.co.uk



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Natasha Chubbock - Nottinham Trent University