UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH

ISEC Connecting experts International Society of Economic Criminology

Organized and Cross-Border Fraud

6th Winter Economic Crime Symposium 2025

Fraud is a massive regulatory challenge, largely because of fraudsters' continuous pursuit of a novel course of conduct. Facilitated by advances in communication technology and globalization of business, organized forms of fraud have rapidly increased in its volume, and in some States represents the most common crime type. While this increase is concerning, the international community has recognized the worrying scale of fraud and the need for joint efforts in preventing and combating fraud. A prime example are recent legislative activities by the United Nations and its new global programme to support States in tackling organized fraud by new global tools on its typology and on legislative and policy measures against it.

The 6th Winter Economic Crime Symposium brings together a diverse body of researchers, practitioners, students, and other community members to discuss organized and cross-border fraud. The Symposium is supported by the *Journal of Economic Criminology* and the International Society of Economic Criminology.

Join scholars, practitioners, and other experts for a discussion and reflection on the most important problems associated with economic crime.

- *Online event organized by the Center for Cybercrime and Economic Crime , for information contact the event scientific coordinator Dr Branislav Hock via branislav.hock@port.ac.uk*
- *The event is supported by the Journal of Economic Criminology*
- *See 1st Symposium 2020, 2nd Symposium 2021, 3rd Symposium,4th Symposium*

Thursday, 16th January 2025, 10am – 3pm GMT (online)

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Agenda

Thursday, 16th January 2025 – Online

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10.00-10.05 - **Welcome**

- Prof. Dr. Mark Button, University of Portsmouth
- Dr. Branislav Hock, University of Portsmouth

10.05-10.30 **Keynote speech**

Unmasking wolves in sheep's clothing: UNODC holistic approach for tackling organized fraud

Roxana-Andreea Mastor, *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*

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10.30-12.30 ***Exploring Methods of Cross-Border Fraud***

Chair, Professor Mark Button

Panellists

- Dr. Ivan Franceschini, University of Melbourne, Australia, *Southeast Asia's Online Scam Industry: A Labour Perspective*
- Dr. Suleman Lazarus, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK
- Dr. Abubakari Yushawu, University of Wroclaw, Poland

13.00-15.00 ***Fraud as Serious and Organized Crime - Policing Landscape***

Chair - Dr Branislav Hock

Panellists

- Dr Yuliya Zabyelina, University of Alabama, USA, *The Role of Document Fraud in Facilitating Organized Crime*
- Dr Michael Skidmore, The Police Foundation, UK
- Prof. Edward R. Kleemans, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands, *Criminal careers and crossing borders*

- Oleksiy Feshchenko, former advisor to the UNODC

Keynote Speaker

Roxana-Andreea Mastor, *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*

Since joining UNODC's Global Programme on Implementing the Organized Crime Convention in Vienna in 2021, Roxana has led several initiatives in the fight against organized crime. Roxana is currently a Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer and leads the project on preventing and combating organized fraud within the Global Programme, which aims to support States through the development of tools on the typology, legislative, policy, and institution building measures against organized fraud. Within the last year, UNODC published an Issue Paper on Organized Fraud, and is now developing a legislative guide on combating fraud.

Before focusing her work on preventing and combating fraud, Roxana played a key role in the development and dissemination of legislative guides on combating crimes that affect the environment, including waste trafficking, crimes in the fisheries sector, and trafficking in metals and minerals. Her expertise extends beyond organized crime, encompassing more than eight years in energy and climate change, where she served either as a legal advisor or as a programme and project manager for policy and infrastructure projects. Prior to joining UNODC, Roxana worked for three years with UNOPS in Palestine as an Energy Project Manager.

Speakers

Prof Dr Mark Button, *Co-Director Center for Cybercrime and Economic Crime, UoP*

Mark has written extensively on counter fraud, cyber-fraud and private policing issues, publishing many articles, chapters and completing ten books, including his two latest: Private Policing and Cyber Frauds, Scams and their Victims both published by Routledge. Some of the most significant research projects include a Home Office funded study on victims of computer misuse, leading the research on behalf of the National Fraud Authority and ACPO on fraud victims. Mark has also worked on the last four Government's Annual Cyber Security Breaches Survey.

Oleksiy Feshchenko*, former advisor to the UNODC*

Dr. Ivan Franceschini*, Lecturer in Chinese Studies, University of Melbourne*

Ivan Franceschini is a Lecturer in Chinese Studies at the Asia Institute, University of Melbourne. He is the co-author with Ling Li and Mark Bo of Scam: Inside Southeast Asia's Cybercrime Compounds, forthcoming with Verso in July 2025. His previous books include Global China as

Method (Cambridge University Press, 2022), Proletarian China (Verso, 2022), Xinjiang Year Zero (ANU Press, 2022), and Afterlives of Chinese Communism (ANU Press and Verso, 2019). He co-directed the documentaries Dreamwork China (2011) and Boramey: Ghosts in the Factory (2021). He is a founder and editor in chief of the Made in China Journal, The People's Map of Global China, and Global China Pulse.

***Dr Branislav Hock**, Associate Professor in Economic Crime and Compliance, UoP*

Branislav is a passionate interdisciplinary researcher who thrives in both an academic environment and practice contributing to the knowledge that exists in the area of economic crime and compliance. With a rapidly developing international reputation for excellence in policy-oriented research, Dr Hock has played advisory roles both nationally (Home Office, Synectic Solutions, Crowe) and internationally (EU Commission, European Court of Auditors, OECD, United Nations). Branislav has established an annual Winter Economic Crime Symposium and is the Co-Editor in Chief of the Journal of Economic Criminology.

Prof. Dr. Edward R. Kleemans, *Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

Prof. Edward R. Kleemans is Full Professor at the Department of Criminology, Faculty of Law, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands (Serious and Organized Crime and Criminal Justice). His research focuses on organized crime, including cybercrime, drug trafficking, human smuggling, human trafficking, fraud and money laundering, social organization, embeddedness, and the interaction between offenders and the criminal justice system (including policing issues). From 1996 to 2013 he coordinated the Dutch Organized Crime Monitor (OCM), a systematic, continuing research program of WODC, Erasmus University Rotterdam and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam into the nature of organized crime in the Netherlands, based upon intensive analysis of large-scale police investigations. The Dutch Organized Crime Monitor is considered a landmark study in the field of serious and organized crime.

***Dr. Suleman Lazarus**, London School of Economics and Political Science*

Suleman Lazarus, PhD, is a Visiting Fellow at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). He is an Associate Editor for the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) journal "Digital Threats: Research and Practice." Dr Lazarus's research includes romance fraud, cryptocurrency, business email compromise, cybercrime academies, and cybercriminal networks, focusing on the relationship between cybercriminals, victims, and society. He created the "Tripartite Cybercrime Framework", categorising cybercrimes into socioeconomic, psychosocial, and geopolitical motivational groups. He has published numerous scholarly studies in academic journals such as Telematics and Informatics, Deviant Behavior, Cyberpsychology, Behavior and Social Networking, and Current Issues in Criminal Justice.

Dr Michael Skidmore, The Police Foundation, UK

Dr. Abubakari Yushawu, *University of Wroclaw*

Dr. Abubakari Yushawu is a digital sociologist specialising in cybercrime, with a PhD from the University of Wroclaw, Poland. His research focuses on the sociocultural and regional framing, offending and victimisation of cybercrime, particularly in West Africa. he has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals on topics such as online romance fraud and economic cybercrimes. Yushawu has held visiting scholar positions at KU Leuven in Belgium and Macquarie University in Australia, and his work bridges the fields of criminology, cybercrime, and sociology. He is also currently a fellow at the African Centre for Cyberlaw and Cybercrime Prevention (ACCP) and works closely with International Institute of Police and Justice Sciences in India (IIPJSS). He has presented at numerous international conferences. His current research interest evolves around the role of artificial intelligence in shaping cybercrime offending and victimisation, comparing dynamics between Africa and Western countries.

Dr Yuliya Zabyelina*, Associate Professor, University of Alabama*

Dr. Zabyelina's research covers various forms of transnational organized crime and corruption and the existing domestic, regional and global mechanisms for their prevention and control. Her scholarship is interdisciplinary and draws from the theoretical foundations and methodologies of international law, criminology, and sociology. Before moving to the United States, Dr. Zabyelina held a postdoctoral position at the University of Edinburgh School of Law and lectured at Masaryk University in the Czech Republic. She has also worked as a consultant for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), International Criminal Court (ICC), and has taught at George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies and the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA). In April 2021, she started her two-year tenure as Chair of the International Section of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS IS). She has also been serving as the ACJS Alternate Representative to the United Nations since 2019.

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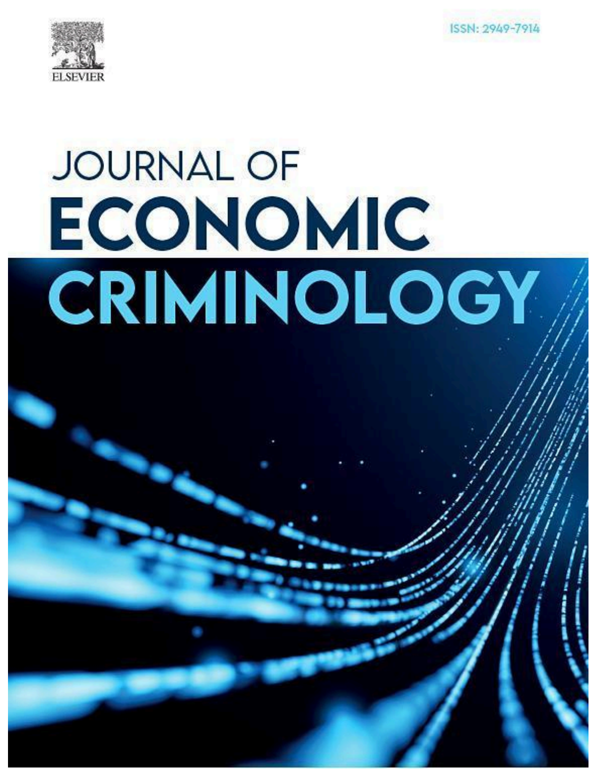
Journal of Economic Criminology

Journal of Economic Criminology aims to be the premier outlet for peer-reviewed theoretical and empirical work on economic criminology. This interdisciplinary journal welcomes manuscript submissions on a broad array of topics, including various types of economic crime, explanations of offending and victimisation, crime prevention, public and private policing, compliance, legal systems, justice, among others. It encourages submissions that push theoretical boundaries for issues salient to economic criminologists and welcomes rigorous quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods empirical research. The journal aims to be geographically diverse in terms of the backgrounds of researchers and the subject matter of the research.

Journal of Economic Criminology welcomes submissions which consider the following topics:

- Fraud, Corruption, Bribery, Money Laundering, Global Sanctions and Terrorism Financing
- Intellectual Property Crimes, Price-Fixing and Cartels
- Preventing economic crime and corporate compliance
- Corporate Economic Crime
- Illicit Financial Flow
- Financial Intelligence and Related Investigations
- Economic Crime Measurement
- Sanctions against economic crime criminals
- Victims of economic crime



The journal is open access, and the APC fee is currently waived for submissions.

International Society of Economic Criminology

The International Society of Economic Criminology (ISEC) was established with a clear mission: to lead the fight against economic crime through sharing the latest knowledge and research. The founding members recognized a critical gap—no existing organisation effectively united scholars from different academic disciplines and working professionals, dedicated to combating the growing threat of economic crime. With economic crime on the rise globally, ISEC is uniquely positioned to foster world-class research, networking opportunities and provide its members with exclusive access to vital knowledge through publications, events, and a comprehensive online repository. Read more on the reasons for creating ISEC.

MSc Economic Crime

There has never been a greater need for economic crime experts – and our MSc Economic Crime degree course offers you the chance to join the growing ranks of expertise within both the private and public sectors.

By enrolling on this course, you will not only research the nature and extent of economic crimes but examine a variety of strategies used in the fight against them.

You will also be given the opportunity to study range of core and optional subjects:

- Economic Crime
- Money Laundering
- Countering Corruption and Fraud Examination

You can enrol to study either full or part-time, on campus, or via our distance learning programme.

We also offer unique short course - Certificate in Intellectual Property Crime and Illicit Trade

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