




NORDIC RESEARCH COUNCIL  
FOR CRIMINOLOGY

# ANNUAL REPORT

2025



Nordic Research Council for Criminology  
Ríkislögreglustjóri  
Rauðarástígur 25  
105 Reykjavík  
Iceland

Layout: Katrine Antonsen and Elisabeth Neuhaus  
Content: Erna María Dungal and Rannveig Þórisdóttir

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# Chair's introduction

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## Chair's Introduction

At the beginning of 2025, the Secretariat of the Nordic Criminal Justice Council moved from Norway to Iceland, following the long-standing tradition of relocating the council every three years to a new member country. Shortly after, the council held its annual board meeting in Iceland, where priorities were set for the year ahead and research grants were allocated.

Three new research projects received funding in 2025, each addressing pressing and underexplored questions in policing and social risk. Carolina Mellgren was supported to examine the use of police security zones, areas where stop-and-search powers are expanded, and their effects on crime, community trust, and police legitimacy. Ilona Nissinen was granted to study the risks faced by children of incarcerated parents, drawing on comprehensive Finnish population data to better understand how parental imprisonment shapes criminal behaviour and victimisation. Tobias Kammersgaard was supported to investigate how drug policing operates in practice, exploring how officers balance enforcement with harm reduction across different policing contexts. Together, these projects aim to generate evidence that can directly guide policy and improve justice outcomes across the Nordic region.



in May, the council hosted its 63rd research seminar in Denmark, under the theme 25 years since the millennium — new challenges for crime control and prevention. Leading scholars gathered to reflect on how crime and crime control have evolved over the past quarter century. Discussions spanned the societal impact of terrorism, the changing landscape of corporate crime, insights into organised crime drawn from encrypted communications, and lessons from a decade of research into online drug markets. A unifying thread ran through all of these contributions: the importance of grounding criminal justice policy in empirical evidence rather than intuition. It is a message this council has long championed, and one that remains as urgent as ever.

In November, the council organised a PhD seminar in Finland, underscoring its commitment to the next generation of Nordic researchers. By creating space for early-career scholars to build networks, receive rigorous feedback, and engage with the wider research community, the council invests in the long-term quality of criminal justice knowledge across the region. Supporting those who will shape the field in the decades ahead is not a peripheral activity — it is central to the council's mission.

Looking back, 2025 has been an eventful and rewarding year. It has been a privilege to lead the council and to play a part in advancing Nordic cooperation on criminal justice research. As digital transformation, evolving crime patterns, and changing societal expectations continue to challenge our systems, the need for shared, evidence-based responses has never been greater. We look forward to meeting those challenges together in the years ahead.

*Rannveig Þórisdóttir*

Rannveig Þórisdóttir  
Chair 2025–2027



# Organisation

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# Mission

The Nordic Research Council for Criminology (NSfK) operates in accordance with the statutes established by its founding members — the Nordic Ministries of Justice.

The Council's mandate is to promote and strengthen criminological research within the Nordic countries and to provide expert advice to the Nordic governments on matters concerning criminology, crime prevention, and criminal policy.

NSfK's activities are financed by the Nordic Ministries of Justice. The Council comprises 15 members — three from each Nordic country — appointed by their respective national Ministries of Justice.

Each year, the Council allocates research grants and contributes to the planning and implementation of the organisation's various activities. In addition, Council members may establish working groups and organise contact seminars to further Nordic cooperation in the field of criminology.

The Chairmanship of the Council rotates every three years among the Nordic countries. The day-to-day administration is carried out by a secretariat located in the country of the current Chair.

For the period 2025–2027, the secretariat is hosted by the Commissioner of the Icelandic Police. The Chair of the Council is Rannveig Þórisdóttir (IS), and the executive secretariat is Erna María Dungal.

# Members of the Council 2025

## ICELAND



Rannveig Þórisdóttir  
The Commissioner of the  
Icelandic Police (Chair)



Friðrik Árni Friðriksson Hirst  
University of Iceland



Hanna Rún Sværisdóttir  
Ministry of Justice

## FINLAND



Helena Huhta  
University of Turku



Leena Mäkipää  
Ministry of Justice



Mikko Aaltonen  
University of Eastern Finland

## DENMARK



Annette Olesen  
Aalborg University



Linda Kjær Minke  
The University of Southern  
Denmark



Maria Libak Pedersen  
Ministry of Justice

## NORWAY



Arnt Even Hustad  
Ministry of Justice and  
Public Security



Jørn Jacobsen  
University of Bergen



May-Len Skilbrei  
Ministry of Justice and  
Public Security

## SWEDEN



Tove Pettersson  
Stockholm university



Anna-Karin Ivert  
Malmö University



Erik Grevholm  
The Swedish National  
Council for Crime  
Prevention

## SECRETARIAT



Erna María Dungal

# New council member 2025



Annette Olesen  
Aalborg University

Annette Olesen is a criminologist and scholar within the sociology of law whose research focuses on prison life, rehabilitation, and reentry after incarceration. Her work examines the barriers faced by former prisoners, including informal or hidden forms of punishment and the financial burdens of legal costs and indebtedness.

She also studies access to justice, with particular attention to the role of voluntary sector and legal aid organizations in supporting vulnerable groups.

.In addition to her research, she teaches widely on topics such as prison and desistance research, crime prevention and rehabilitation, sentencing, legal consciousness, and the social impact of punishment.



Jørn Jacobsen  
University of Bergen

Jørn Jacobsen is professor and currently Dean of Research at the Faculty of Law, University of Bergen. Jacobsen's main fields of research are criminal law and legal theory. Jacobsen has written books and articles on subjects such as violent crimes and sexual crimes, as well as the history and philosophy of criminal law, and the rule of law. He is founder and editor of the online open access journal Bergen Journal of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice, co-author of the largest textbook on Norwegian criminal law and has received, among other awards, the Nils Klim Prize for his research.

# New council member 2025



Leena Mäkipää  
The Finnish Ministry of Justice

Leena Mäkipää works as a Senior Legal Adviser at the Department for Criminal Policy and Criminal Law at the Ministry of Justice in Finland. Her main responsibilities include law drafting in the area of substantive criminal law. Prior to her career as a public official she has worked in the research sector with topics relating to enforcement of punishment.



May-Len Skilbrei  
Ministry of Justice and Public Security

May-Len Skilbrei is a Norwegian sociologist and criminologist and a Professor at the University of Oslo. Her work focuses on gender, prostitution, human trafficking, migration, and sexual violence. She holds a PhD in sociology and has previously worked at NOVA and the Fafo Institute for Applied International Studies, including serving as managing director.

Skilbrei uses both qualitative and quantitative methods, with a strong emphasis on ethnography, and often examines how policies shape issues related to gender and migration. She has published extensively, contributing significantly to research and policy discussions in her field.

# NSfK Chairs 1962–2027

2025–2027	Rannveig Þórisdóttir	Iceland
2022–2024	Heidi Mork Lomell	Norway
2019–2021	Felipe Estrada	Sweden
2016–2018	Aarne Kinnunen	Finland
2013–2015	Anette Storgaard	Denmark
2010–2012	Ragnheidur Bragadóttir	Iceland
2007–2009	Per Ole Johansen	Norway
2004–2006	Jerzy Sarnecki	Sweden
2001–2003	Kauko Aromaa	Finland
1998–2000	Flemming Balvig	Denmark
1995–1997	Hildigunnur Ólafsdóttir	Iceland
1992–1994	Liv Finstad	Norway
1989–1991	Torbjörn Tédeen	Sweden
1986–1988	Patrick Törnudd	Finland
1983–1985	Ulla Bondeson	Denmark
1979–1982	Nils Christie	Norway
1974–1978	Knut Sveri	Sweden
1968–1973	Inkeri Anttila	Finland
1965–1967	K.O. Christiansen	Denmark
1962–1964	Johs. Andenæs	Norway

# Contact secretaries

Communicating Nordic criminological research and policy in the North and beyond

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NSfK has a network consisting of seven contact secretaries based in different Nordic countries, including the autonomous areas of the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

The contact secretaries deliver the latest national news in the field of criminology and crime policy to our monthly newsletter. They also support researchers, government officials and the media in the North and beyond with questions about Nordic literature and data on crime and punishment.



Frederikke Hougaard Hansen  
Denmark



Daisy J. Iversen  
Faroe Islands



Emma Villmann  
Finland



Sara Kirstine Jakobsen  
Greenland



Jónas Orri Jónasson  
Iceland



Marina Hiller Foshaugen  
Norway



Emelí Lönnqvist  
Sweden



# Funded research

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# Grants

The grants are designed to support and promote Nordic criminological research and advise Nordic governments on issues related to crime prevention and crime policy.

The project must be carried out in one or more of the Nordic countries, and it is possible to apply for funding for:

- Research projects
- Working groups
- Contact seminars
- Travel grants

Working groups gather researchers from the Nordic countries. The working group meetings are intended for researchers planning or initiating a joint Nordic research project or who wish to establish research-related cooperation.

NSfK contact seminars are an arena for researchers and practitioners in the field of criminology and criminal policy to meet in small, informal groups. The contact seminars serve as cross-professional expert forums in various areas of common concern for the Nordic countries.

Funding recipients submit an annual and/or final report. Besides a financial report documenting expenses, they provide reports on progress, changes to the project, and results.

Depending on the type of grant, these may also include various forms of dissemination such as journal articles, blog posts, and policy briefs.

# Funded projects 2025

The Nordic Research Council for Criminology (NSfK) has awarded funding to support new criminological crime, public attitudes toward crime and punishment in the Nordic countries, restorative justice, prevention of child sexual abuse, and more.

This year NSfK received a total of 23 applications: four for joint Nordic projects, 13 for individual research projects, and six for working groups. At its annual meeting in March 2025, the council selected six research projects and working groups to receive funding.



## **Mapping Drugs Policing: Drug Law Enforcement and Harm Reduction**

Tobias Kammergaard (DK)

Drugs are a pervasive feature of routine policing, with studies suggesting that up to two-thirds of all police stops are drug-related. This exploratory study examines how drugs policing unfolds across different contexts, shaped by legislation, guidelines, and officer discretion in domains such as neighbourhood policing, nighttime patrols, and drug investigation units.

Through qualitative interviews, case file analysis, and policy review, the project investigates how officers interpret and prioritise objectives such as enforcement, harm reduction, public safety, order, market disruption, and health intervention. It further explores how these priorities shape the framing of drugs – as public nuisances, health risks, or criminal commodities – each guiding distinct policing responses.



## **Police work in security zones: effects on community, legitimacy and crime**

Caroline Mellgren (SE)

Gang violence and law and order are considered one of the most important issues for Swedish society. One action taken is the establishment of security zones, which can be put in place in a pre-defined area and give the police the authority to stop and search vehicles and individuals without a formal suspicion of criminal activity. The effect of security zones is unknown in both Denmark and Sweden, and there is no other Nordic equivalent, but critics highlight the risk of negative effects on police legitimacy and the risk of racial profiling. The aim of the project is to evaluate the effect of security zones on area-level crime and the effect of both crime and security zones on the communities. The project also aims to investigate the effects on police legitimacy.



### **Criminal Behavior and Violent Victimization among Offspring of Incarcerated parents: A Finnish Total Population Study**

Ilona Nissinen (FI)

Parental incarceration (PI) is associated with criminal behavior and victimization in offspring. However, prior research has not sufficiently addressed the issue of selection. I analyze Finnish register-based data using within-individual models to examine whether children's risks of criminal behavior and victimization are particularly elevated during periods of PI, and whether the risks are different for paternal or maternal imprisonment or at different ages. The model takes into account all time-invariant factors that vary between individuals. A study using a robust research design provides more reliable insights into the potential adverse effects of PI on offspring. This is important when assessing the preventive measures appropriate for the at-risk group.



### **Nordic Perspectives on Social media and crime**

Working group, Oscar Waldner (SE)

Social media is a vital part of daily life, connecting us with friends and current events, but it also enables illegal and harmful behaviour. The Nordic countries have made key contributions to research on issues like drug dealing, organized crime, and harassment—yet the field remains fragmented.

This working group will bring together young Nordic researchers in Malmö during the fall of 2025 to bridge our different perspectives. We will present research, exchange feedback, and discuss ethical and methodological challenges in social media criminality studies.

In the short term, participants will contribute to an edited volume or special issue. In the long term, this meeting will help establish a formal network, a resource for researchers seeking collaboration across the Nordic countries.



## **RYouth criminality in the Nordics: Preventive and Reactive Measures – What Works?**

Working group, Julia Korkman (FI)

Coordinated by the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control (HEUNI), this project brings together experts from the Nordic region and Estonia to discuss youth criminality, focusing on effective preventive and reactive measures to inform criminal policy making. A seminar in Helsinki (Oct 2025) will feature expert presentations and panel discussions and the seminar will be open to the public. In conjunction with the seminar, a round table meeting will be held with the aim of drafting a policy brief outlining evidence-based promising measures for addressing youth criminality, identifying ineffective approaches that should be avoided, and highlighting key open research questions.



## **Assessing the effects of the punitive turn in Nordic penal policies – working group meeting for Nordic researchers using administrative data**

Working group, Karoliina Suonpää (FI)

In recent years, Nordic countries have implemented various punitive criminal policy reforms. To find the best ways to analyze the content and consequences of these criminal policy changes and develop novel ideas for comparative work across Nordic countries, we are organizing a working group meeting for Nordic researchers using administrative data. The two-day meeting will take place in Helsinki. The goal of the meeting is to strengthen the collaboration among Nordic researchers and lead to peer-reviewed publications that will benefit both evidence-based policymaking and academic criminology.

# Travel grants

NSfK provides financial support for conference-related travel, and research stays abroad\*. The support is given to researchers in criminology based in the Nordic countries.

In 2025, 9 scholars were awarded travel grants.

- Alessandro Moretti (DK): 2024 American Society of Criminology (ASC) Annual Meeting in San Francisco, USA
- Siv Runhovde (NO): 24th Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology (EUROCRIM)
- Carola Lingaas (NO): 24th Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology (EUROCRIM)
- Sara Källman (SE): Policing and Society conference
- Terese Hartmann-Petersen (DK): Research stay at Georgia State University, United States
- Nina Korshøj (DK): Research stay at the University of Manchester
- Kasper Jørgensen (DK): Research stay at Leeds Beckett University, UK
- Lea Brinkgaard (DK): Research stay at New York University, United States
- Synnøve Ugelvik (NO): Research stay in den Haag

\*For further information, see [§ 5 – Guidelines for awarding travel grants.](#)

# Policy briefs, Working papers & Meeting minutes

NSfK publishes policy briefs, working papers and meeting minutes. These publications present results from NSfK-funded activities, and they can all be downloaded from our website. The aim is to disseminate criminological knowledge to colleagues, policymakers, and other stakeholders within the Nordic region.

Policy briefs present research findings and recommendations from research funded by NSfK that has resulted in peer-reviewed publications. In the policy briefs you will also find a list of other outputs from the respective projects.

Working papers are reports from NSfK-funded research projects that have not yet resulted in peer-reviewed publications. The working papers share ideas, methodologies, and preliminary findings.

In addition to funding research projects, NSfK provides financial support for working group meetings and contact seminars. Meeting minutes are written records of participants, discussions, and decisions during working group meetings and contact seminars.

## Outputs 2024

*Street Gang Involvement Among Nordic Youth: A comparative study on prevalence and risk factors in Nordic countries.* By Markus Kaakinen, Kim Moeller, Heidi Mork Lomell, Margrét Valdimarsdóttir, Lars Westfelt, and Amir Rostami. Policy brief 1/2024.

*Court-imposed care orders in a non-treatment paradigm: Trends, demographics and outcomes in Sweden, 1994–2020.* By Anna Kahlmeter. Policy brief 2/2024.

*Deserving and undeserving victims of crime: An analysis of applications and awards made by Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund in Iceland.* By Hildur Fjóra Antonsdóttir. Working paper 1/2024.

*Minority Women's Experiences of Desistance in Sweden (MiWoDeS).* By Linnéa Österman. Working paper 2/2024.

*Disparities in Drug Law Enforcement: Insights from Denmark's Euphoricants Act (2003–2020).* By Esben Houborg and Julie Elizabeth Brummer. Working paper 3/2024.

*Nordic victimization surveys.* By Anne-Julie Boesen Pedersen. Meeting minutes 1/2024.

*Responses to Hate Crime in the Nordics: Understanding Emergent Policy, Legislation and Policing.* By Rune Ellefsen. Meeting minutes 2/2024.

*Nordic network for register-based criminological research.* By Torbjørn Skardhamar. Meeting minutes 3/2024.

*Nordic Himpathy: The Social Construction of Responsibility and Sympathy in Cases of Sexual Violation or Rape.* By Sara Uhnöo. Meeting minutes 4/2024.



# Research activities

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# NSfK 63rd Research seminar

Middelfart, Denmark

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What are the challenges represented by new trends in crime, crime policy, and crime prevention? We are interested in contributions related to for instance organized, economic, digital, or ecological crime and the challenges these represent for control and prevention.

NSfK's 63rd research seminar will explore Nordic research into new trends, what is happening now and what may be future challenges and opportunities.

In addition to the general theme, presentations concerning other topics are also welcome, and both Nordic researchers and practitioners are encouraged to participate and present their research.

## Keynote speakers

Rasmus Munksgaard (DK) Innovation and Control: Lessons from a Decade of Research in Online Drug Markets.

Anne Alvesalo-Kuusi (FI) Trends and challenges related to corporate crime.

Heidi Mork Lomell (NO) "How could our society let this happen?" On retrospective predictability and its consequences in the aftermath of terrorist attacks.

Alberto Chrysoulakis (SE) Organized crime groups and criminal economy: lessons from encrypted chats.



# NSfK 63rd Research seminar

Middelfart, Denmark

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## Program

### Workshop A: Police studies

- *Two Decades of Diversity Representation in the Norwegian Police Organization.* Jaishankar Ganapathy (NO).
- *International Police Cooperation and Crime in Finland 1939–1944.* Juho Pitkänen (FI).
- *Gender and policing in the country of gender equality.* Nina Jon (NO).
- *Police Supervision of Sex Offenders in Denmark: Examining the Legal and Practical Challenges.* Kasper Jørgensen (DK).

### Workshop B: Gang related crime and desistance

- *From organized crime to networks. What happened to Organized crime in Norway?* Paul Larsson (NO).
- *The Swedish National Gang Desistance Program: A Policy Analysis.* Anders Stenström (SE).
- *Talking about desistance: The potential of gang desistance programmes in Sweden.* Anita Heber (SE).
- *Personal motivation, significant others, and inclusive communities or what is required to reintegrate in democratic society.* Tina Wilchen Christensen (DK).
- *The new generation of gang defectors: Key-challenges facing gang exit support structures in Sweden and Denmark.* Anna Hedlund (SE).

### Workshop C: Youth studies

- *Children at risk or children as risk?* Emma-Lisa Gångare (SE).
- *Youth Violence in Iceland: An Examination of Knife-Related Violence.* Gudbjörg Bergsdóttir (IS).
- *Collaborative Crime Prevention for Children in "Ourtown": The GIC Project.* Agneta Mallén (SE).
- *Minors placed in remand in locked institutions - durations and uncertainties.* Britt Larsen (DK).
- *From Care to Court: The Consequences of Criminalizing Children's aggressions against Staff in Residential Institutions.* Tea Torbenfeldt Bengtsson (DK).

### Workshop D: Criminal trails and sentencing

- *Exploring Sentencing Disparities in the Nordic Context: A Multilevel Analysis of Court- and Judge-Level Variation in Sentences of 'Aggravated Driving Under the Influence' in Finnish District Courts.* Tiina Malin (FI).
- *Challenge or opportunity? Exploring digital participation in trials.* Lisa Flower (SE).
- *Conditional imprisonment, community service and monitoring sentence in the Finnish justice system: A register-based study on offenders' criminal histories and labor market attachment prior to first conviction.* Aaro Beuker (FI).
- *Effect of Early Prison Release with Electronic Monitoring.* Enes Al Weswasi (SE).

### Workshop E: Sexual offences

- *Intoxication during sexual victimization in adolescence.* Sari Hautamäki (FI).
- *Diverging realities of sexualized violence against women – An ethnographic exploration of the Danish 'manosphere'.* Katrine Bindsbøl Holm Johansen (DK).
- *Pathways towards underreporting of violent crime committed against sex workers.* Theresa Dyrvig (DK).
- *Violence in close LGBTQ+ relationships.* Susanne Boethius (SE).

# NSfK 63rd Research seminar

Middelfart, Denmark

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## Workshop F: Crime solving and prevention

- *Truth in the era of deepfakes - implication for crime solving.* Nina Sunde (NO).
- *Unveiling Hidden Networks: A Cultural Analysis Case Study of Encrypted data.* Katrín Sif Oddgeirsdóttir (IS).
- *Exploring Bystander Dynamics in Religious Hate Crimes: Experimental Insights from Four Countries.* Sophie Litvak (FI).
- *The co-occurrence of intimate partner violence and physical child maltreatment in families: A register-based Study.* Laura Mielityinen (FI).

## Workshop G: Prison studies

- *Layered abandonment. The moral work on the self in places of intense confinement.* Frederik Taxhjelm (DK).
- *Enabling Justice – Learning with incarcerated women how to practice prevention differently.* Merethe Gjørting (DK).
- *The Importance of Education, Treatment, and Work During Incarceration for Labor Market Attachment.* Lena Roxell (SE).

## Workshop H: Criminal justice challenges and trends

- *Legal for Some, Risky for Others: How Finland's Aliens Act Creates Inequality for Foreign Sex Workers.* Rapala Fanny (FI).
- *The Danish Punitive turn and its implications for the quality of criminal law legislation.* Birgit Feldtmann (DK).
- *The affective dimensions of victims' counsels in restorative terror litigation. Political, legal & cultural trajectories.* Tatanya Valland (NO).
- *(Re)Imagining the Citizen: Citizenship Revocation for Crime in Denmark.* Kerstin Carlson (DK).

## Workshop I: Youth and drugs

- *Assessing Online Victim-Offender Overlap Patterns Among Danish Adolescents: Insights from the Youth Profile Survey.* Serena Zhang Yunran (DK).
- *The drug/violence nexus in the lives of Finnish youth who are actively using drugs.* Teemu Kaskela (FI).
- *Competing through service: Entrepreneurial bricolage and the servitisation of local drug markets.* Thomas Friis Søgaard (DK).

## Workshop J: Street crime and disorder

- *Snösåtra: the ambiguity of disorder in the urban margin.* Siri Haavimb (SE).
- *Street Crime as a Wicked Problem.* Mette-Louise E. Johansen (DK).
- *The Street Crime Paradox.* Sébastien Tutenges (DK).

## Workshop K: Power, regulation, and resistance

- *Controlling the Powerful: State-Corporate Relations in a Changing Regulatory Space.* Elin Jönsson (SE).
- *Counter-Policing and the performative practices of Swedish 'Citizen patrols'.* David Assadkhan (SE).
- *The Crimes and Disorganization of War – Experiences from Nordic Volunteers in Ukraine.* David Wästerfors (SE).

## Workshop L: Nordic Justice

- *The Idea of Nordic Exceptionalism, 1897-2025.* Per Jørgen Ystehede (NO).
- *Perceptions of the public and public perceptions. A Nordic study on sentiments on justice.* Klara Hermansson (SE).
- *A Public Cry for Tougher Sentencing Practices: Attitudes of Icelanders Toward Crime and Punishment.* Helgi Gunnlaugsson (IS).
- *Sentiments of justice related to non-consensual sharing of sexual images among young Danes.* Annick Prieur (DK).

# Keynote

Middelfart, Denmark

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## Retrospective predictability and its consequences

*“With this report, the 22 July Commission concludes its review of the terrorist attacks on the Government Complex and on the Labour Party Youth camp on Utøya Island. Every day for a whole year, we have worked together to find the answers to three key questions: What happened on 22 July? Why did it happen? And more fundamentally: How could our society have let this happen?”*

This is the beginning of the almost 500-page commission report that was published after the terrorist attacks on 22 July, 2011 in Norway, when Anders Behring Breivik first detonated a bomb in the government complex in Oslo, killing eight, before driving to the Labour Party youth camp at the small island of Utøya, around 40 minutes from Oslo, where he brutally massacred 69 people, mostly teenagers.

After a terrorist attack, a government not only have to deal with grief and the immediate loss and damage inflicted upon victims, families, communities and infrastructure, they must also deal with the vulnerabilities revealed and public fear and anger. One way of dealing with this, is to launch an investigation or inquiry into what happened, why it happened, and what can be learned. The fact-finding is only one aspect of these inquiries. The sense-making is in my opinion far more important, and in my keynote address at the 2025 NSfK research seminar, I focused on this, especially how the preventability of crime in general, and terrorist attacks in particular, is articulated in the reports.

To me, the last question in the quote has always been a puzzle: “How could our society have let this happen?” Why did the commission choose this wording? The question is both normative and rhetorical, as it presupposes not only that the terrorist attacks could have been prevented, but further, that “our society”, whoever that may be, let it happen. The question implies that someone was aware, or had information, or knowledge, that could have prevented the terrorist attacks from happening, but they did not act. It implies not only a lack of action but also points to accountability or responsibility for the terrorist attacks beyond the terrorist himself. “Our society” let this happen. “Our society” is partly accountable and responsible for the terrorist attacks.

The 22 July commission was neither the first nor the last to imply that a terrorist attack could have been prevented. After nearly all terrorist attacks over the last 25 years, commissions have come to the same conclusion. If the perpetrators name is found in police or intelligence registers, the conclusion is given: The terrorist attacks could have been prevented. Why is that? I suggest that the answer is found in a phenomenon I call Retrospective predictability. Prior to a terrorist attack you don't know what or who you are looking for. After a terrorist attack, the commissions know exactly what and who they are looking for.

*In hindsight, it is, however, easy to forget that before the attack this information competed for attention amid many other hints and threats and names. Sorting the false negative from all the true negatives in intelligence registers is a challenge that the police and intelligence service must deal with, every day. Mistakes and misinterpretations are unavoidable in all systems. Concluding that the terrorist attacks could have been prevented, just because the name was one of many hundred in the system, is naïve, at best.*

*One underlying premise for the conclusion that a terrorist attack could have been prevented is that terrorist acts are predictable. The problem is that terrorism is a low-frequency event. While volume crime have several distinct and recurring patterns that make at least some of them predictable on an aggregate level, terrorist acts are rare. They are also all the time changing and evolving, both because a central aspect of a “successful” terrorist act is to do something nobody has thought of before, in order to maximise media attention and increase fear and political overreaction, but also because terrorists adapt to new security measures.*

That does not mean that I don't think terrorist acts – or crime - can be prevented. Of course they can! Crime and terror is prevented every day, by the police and the security services, but also by “our societies”. How our welfare system is organized, our democracy, our schools, our police, our childcare system, our system for helping people with mental illness. And I could go on. All these institutions and practices are constantly preventing crime and terror. The most effective preventive measures are those that are least interventionist and inscribed into the basic functioning of our societies. However, they are notoriously difficult to measure effects of. They are also the ones that tend to be forgotten or ignored when terrorist attacks are being evaluated.

By basing our understanding of how terrorism can be prevented on completed or “successful” terrorist acts, we further risk getting a distorted picture of both the phenomenon but also on which prevention measures actually work.

The 22 July commission is one example. They chose to focus on the Police security service, the weapon legislation and the security measures around the government complex when they looked for an answer to their question – could the terrorist acts have been prevented? What they chose not to do, was the following: “We have forgone issues related to the perpetrator’s motive, childhood and state of health, and we have not explored the measures society puts in place for the early prevention of radicalisation.” (p. 14)

The justification they gave for this, was time pressure. It took more than 12 years before we got an Official Norwegian Report on the prevention of radicalization and extremism in Norway.

We can only speculate on what conclusions the commission would have had, and which political implications it would have had, if they instead had chosen to focus on these issues – the ideological and political aspects of the terrorist act, the terrorist’s childhood and state of health, and last, but not least, the early prevention of radicalization. How could the commission have missed this opportunity to explore precisely what they intended – how our society «could let this happen»?

Heidi Mork Lomell  
Chair 2022–2024

# PhD Network Seminar

Tampere, Finland

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The NSfK PhD seminar was this year hosted in Finland by Tampere University. A few years back, Tampere University launched its criminology program, and it was therefore a pleasure to welcome Nordic PhD fellows in criminology to Tampere.

The local organizers were PhD fellows Venla Hakala and Hanne Lemberg, together with an organizing committee comprising Emma Villman, Ira Salo, Minni Teerikangas, and Malin Fransberg.

The seminar brought together 32 PhD fellows from all five Nordic countries working on criminological topics. Participants presented and discussed their ongoing research projects in small groups with peers and a senior researcher. The programme also included a lecture on the history of policing in Finland and a workshop on “the joys and anxieties of PhD life.”

Photo: Private, used with permission.

# PhD Network Seminar

Tampere, Finland

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*"I recently attended the NSfK PhD seminar for the first time, and it was an excellent experience. Having just begun my doctoral project, I was very nervous about presenting my work, but the atmosphere in the working group was really relaxed and supportive. The seminar was well organized, offered great opportunities to meet new people, and maintained a welcoming feel throughout the event. I can warmly recommend it to anyone interested!"*

Anna Hálen, University of Helsinki



Photo: Private, used with permission.



# Communication and dissemination

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# Communication platforms

## Newsletter — Nordic Criminology

The newsletter provides information about NSfK activities and international conferences and events, as well as reminders of application deadlines. In addition, the letter contains national developments relevant to criminologists and criminal justice professionals in the public and private sector in all of the member countries. The information is provided by the national contact secretaries.

The newsletter reaches a large audience and is sent out each month to 916 subscribers as of December 2025.



**[Sign up for the newsletter at nsfk.org.](https://nsfk.org)**

## Blog posts

The Nordic Criminology Blog is a joint initiative of *Nordic Journal of Criminology* (NJC) and NSfK. Our ambition is to publish high quality insights into Nordic criminology. We encourage discussions on topics including — but not limited to — contemporary criminology, new empirical studies, criminal policy, crime prevention, and advances in criminological theory.

Several blog posts are published on the website each month, and we have an open call for blog contributions.

## Social media

NSfK is present on four social media platforms: Facebook, YouTube, X and LinkedIn. In 2025, the organisation was most active on LinkedIn and Facebook. On both platforms, the followers receive updates on the research funded by NSfK and general information about NSfK activities. This includes sharing the blog posts and content from the newsletter, and reminders of events and application deadlines.



**Nordic Research Council for Criminology @ LinkedIn**

The account has 363 followers and aims to reach practitioners, academics and policymakers.



**Nordic Research Council for Criminology @ Facebook**

The account has 1016 followers and aims to reach practitioners and students.

**NSfKorg @X**

The account has 845 followers and aims to reach academics and politicians.

# Experiences With and Barriers to Reporting Anti-LGBTQI Hate Crimes

Blog post by Kristina Os, Rune Ellefsen and Mona Hovland (NO)

Despite Norway's reputation as an international leader in protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queers and intersex (LGBTQI) people's rights, our recent study published in [Nordic Journal of Studies in Policing](#) reveals major barriers that prevent LGBTQI individuals from reporting hate crimes. In our [HATECYCLE project](#), we collaborated with The National Police Competence Group on Hate Crime and gained access to survey data gathered during Pride 2022 aimed at the LGBTQI community. By using the data from over 3000 open-ended survey responses, our study sheds light on why non-reporting is so widespread and how mistrust in the police, procedural obstacles, and fear of personal costs prevents LGBTQI persons from reporting.

The study reveals that only 8% of the respondents who had experienced hate crime reported it to the police. Of those who did report, many described discouraging encounters, including cases dismissed despite substantial evidence and instances of unsympathetic or condescending treatment by police officers. Others noted dismissive attitudes or a lack of follow-up, which amplified feelings of neglect. Encouragingly, some positive experiences were also reported. LGBTQI individuals who encountered respectful and understanding police officers felt validated, even when their cases were dismissed. Such interactions underscore the importance of procedural justice in raising trust and how in some cases, being taken seriously by the police is more important for trust than their report having a positive outcome.

The study identifies several reasons why LGBTQI individuals avoid reporting hate crimes. A prevalent theme is the belief that reporting "leads nowhere." Many victims perceive police's failure to act as an inevitability, often reinforced by stories from other LGBTQI persons within their social networks. A significant proportion of respondents also felt that their incidents were not serious enough to warrant police attention, reflecting both potential internalized stigma and uncertainty about what constitutes a reportable hate crime. The personal costs of reporting further discourage victims. These include fears of retaliation, the emotional toll of recounting traumatic experiences, and concerns about being outed as LGBTQI. For some, these risks outweigh the potential benefits of seeking justice through police reporting.

The findings highlight a profound gap between official policy aspirations to protect LGBTQI citizens and the lived experiences of these individuals. While Norwegian police have taken steps to prioritize hate crime, including establishing a dedicated hate crime unit, the study shows that trust in law enforcement among LGBTQI individuals remains low.

This study offers valuable insights into the barriers LGBTQI individuals face when considering whether to report hate crimes. Findings can thus also be used as a basis for initiating change in the police and beyond to make hate crime victims better supported, and to counteract the widespread lack of trust among LGBTQI citizens in the police's ability to provide justice and protection in relation to hate crime victimization. Potential measures could include ensuring officers have knowledge concerning LGBTQI-issues through training to improve interactions and reduce bias; considering reporting options outside the police to lower the perceived personal risks and costs of reporting; and public awareness raising efforts to clarify what constitutes a hate crime.

## About the authors



Kristina Os is a research assistant at the Center for Research on Extremism (C-REX) in the research project HATECYCLE. The project examines the life cycle of hate crimes in Norway, with the aim of strengthening our understanding of the patterns, consequences of and society's reactions to hate crimes.

Photo: UiO/Erik Engblad



Rune Ellefsen is a researcher at C-REX in the HATECYCLE project and at RusForsk (Oslo University Hospital). He holds a PhD from the Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law, University of Oslo. He has conducted research on the policing of radical protest movements, politically motivated crime and political violence.

Photo: UiO

Mona Hovland Jakobsen is a senior advisor in the Norwegian police's IT unit (PIT). She conducted the survey during Pride 2022 and has written a report published by the police directorate summarizing the results from the survey.

# Corporate Responsibility, 25 Years into the Millennium

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Blog post by Elin Jönsson (SE)

At the time of publishing this post, it has been a year and a half since I defended my PhD thesis (Jönsson 2024a). The thesis traces how the social and environmental responsibility of large corporations has been changing over the years. At the European level, one example of such a change is the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD). It establishes a duty for corporations to identify and address “potential and actual adverse human rights and environmental impacts in the company’s own operations, their subsidiaries and, where related to their value chain(s), those of their business partners” (European Commission 2025a). The Directive is not necessarily hard on companies – but it is an example of a hardening of corporate social responsibility.

This hardening, then, was my area of interest. The thesis suggests that these changes should be understood as a temporary stabilization of the fundamental contradiction between profitability and sustainability, in times when corporations are responsabilized as neoliberal subjects. The key word here is temporary – something “not lasting or needed for very long”, with synonyms including “short-lived”, “provisional”, and “disposable” (Cambridge Dictionary 2025). The theoretical perspective taken here proposes that law and regulation respond to the contradictions and conflicts of our time. Rather than resolving them, however, regulation works primarily to stabilize them – but only temporarily.

Recent developments illustrate just how short-lived, provisional, disposable – indeed, temporary – these new changes are. In February 2025, the European Commission proposed regulatory simplification through Omnibus I and II; this included amendments of Directives such as the CSDDD. In June 2025, the European Council agreed to such simplification. For the CSDDD, this includes e.g. adjusting the scope of the Directive to focus on the “largest companies”; not including indirect business partners in due diligence requirements; requiring “general scoping” exercises instead of “comprehensive mapping” by companies; and postponing the Directive’s transposition to 2028 (European Council 2025). What the Commission is doing is “recalibrating some EU rules in a growth-friendly manner” (European Commission 2025b). The overarching aim is clear: to “boost our competitiveness and unleash growth”, which will benefit companies “across the EU” (ibid.).

The CSDDD entered into force in 2024. A year later, it is already being amended. From my theoretical perspective, this can be traced back to the fundamental contradiction between profitability and sustainability – indeed, the Commission cites a need to “get the balance right” (European Commission 2025b). But above all, it illustrates law and regulation as temporary stabilizations – and therefore, vulnerable in the face of powerful interests. Importantly, the Commission references the “difficulties” highlighted by companies as a reason for introducing the Omnibus package (ibid.; for an analysis of Swedish companies’ position on the CSDDD, see Jönsson 2024b).

In light of this year’s theme for the NSfK research seminar, 25 years into the millennium: New challenges for crime control and prevention, what does this development mean? What appears to be at stake is perhaps not so much a new challenge, but rather a well-known one: the challenge of curbing harmful corporate conduct and ensuring accountability. For us as criminologists, our challenge remains as well: to research crimes and harms by powerful actors, as well as the attempts at regulating their conduct. Let us hope for continued analyses of this in the 25 years to come.

#### References

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Jönsson (2024a), [Hardened Responsibility?](#)  
Jönsson (2024b), [Navigating Contradictory Demands](#).



Photo: Lund University.

#### About the author

Elin Jönsson is a postdoctoral fellow at the Sociology of Law Department, Lund University. She also works part-time at the Department of Criminology, Stockholm University.

University profile: <https://www.soclaw.lu.se/en/elin-jonsson>

# Is the Public More Punitive than the Criminal Courts: Attitudes of Icelanders Toward Crime and Punishment

Blog post by Helgi Gunnlaugsson (IS)

The attitudes of Icelanders toward crime and punishment have long been a subject of public debate. Discussions frequently revolve around the perception that existing sentencing practices are overly lenient and fail to adequately address the consequences of criminal behavior. In modern democratic societies, it is essential for sentencing policies and crime control practices to align with the public's sense of justice. A failure to do so risks undermining the legitimacy of the criminal justice system. Consequently, understanding public opinion on crime and punishment is of critical importance and warrants comprehensive research.

In May 2025, I had the privilege of participating in the Nordic Research Seminar held in Middelfart, Denmark. These annual seminars provide valuable opportunities to engage with Nordic scholars and practitioners working in the fields of crime and criminology. My presentation was part of a larger Nordic NSfK collaborative research project on crime and punishment, which includes scholars from five Nordic countries.

My talk focused on one segment of this project: an analysis of public attitudes toward punishment in Iceland, based on a questionnaire adapted from a similar survey conducted in Norway. Central to this investigation was the question of whether Icelanders' sense of justice aligns with current sentencing practices.

## Methodology

The survey was conducted by the Social Sciences Research Institute at the University of Iceland in the spring of 2024. Data collection was carried out via an online survey targeting a nationally representative sample of 2,500 individuals aged 18 and older.

## Key Findings

The findings reveal several noteworthy trends in public attitudes toward crime and punishment in Iceland. A majority of respondents—approximately two-thirds—perceived punishments as generally too lenient. More than half supported longer prison sentences overall. This punitive sentiment was particularly pronounced in relation to violent offenses and rape. For example, a vast majority (90%) of respondents believed that sentences for rape are “too light” or “much too light” (RÚV, 2024).

However, attitudes toward other offenses were more nuanced. More than half of respondents expressed the view that cannabis possession for personal use should not be punishable at all, while nearly half believed that sentencing for hate crimes was reasonable or too harsh.

Another significant finding was the emphasis placed on the rehabilitative goals of punishment. The majority of respondents—despite perceiving certain sentences as too lenient—believed that the primary objective of punishment should be to help offenders avoid reoffending. Furthermore, there was substantial support for alternatives to incarceration, such as community service and electronic monitoring, particularly for specific types of offenses.

### **Implications**

These findings suggest the need for caution in interpreting claims that Icelanders hold predominantly punitive attitudes toward crime and punishment. While punitive attitudes are indeed evident, they appear to be concentrated on specific offenses, such as violence and rape, rather than on crimes like drug possession or hate crimes. Additionally, the broad support for non-custodial sanctions and the prioritization of rehabilitation over retribution underscores the complexity of public opinion on this issue.

The results highlight that, although Icelanders may perceive sentencing practices as too lenient in some cases, there remains a strong belief that the criminal justice system should focus on rehabilitation rather than retribution. This nuanced perspective suggests that public opinion cannot be easily categorized as purely punitive but rather reflects a balanced view that supports both accountability and rehabilitation.



Photo: Kristinn Ingvárunn.

### **About the author**

Helgi Gunnlaugsson is a Professor of Sociology in the School of Social Sciences at the University of Iceland. He received his PhD from the University of Missouri in 1992.

Gunnlaugsson's main research interests include criminology, penal policies, and the problem of drugs and alcohol in society.

Curriculum Vitae: <https://english.hi.is/staff/helgigunorcid.org/0000-0003-4473-7533>

# Nordic Journal of Criminology

*Nordic Journal of Criminology* (NJC) is an international, peer-reviewed journal publishing original research articles in the field of criminology and crime prevention.

The journal provides a forum for criminological research across a wide range of disciplines and methodologies. Priority is given to research with a Nordic relevance, such as studies based on Nordic data.

Scandinavian University Press offers diamond open access, meaning that all journal content is published online with immediate free access.

## Highlights and key figures

- NJC aims to give fast and thorough feedback.
- In 2025, NJC published 14 articles.
- This year the journal additionally featured one short report and one book review.
- 2025 was also a record breaking year with downloads from our website, with 161.018 downloads in total. This does not include downloads from other websites.

NJC

Nordic Journal of  
Criminology

 Scandinavian University Press

Editor-in-chief: Sébastien Tutenges

# The Nordic Journal of Criminology Best Article Prize

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*The NJC Best Article Prize is awarded annually for the best article published in the previous year's volume of NJC.*

The prize recognises excellent research and scholarship that engages with current and emerging issues in Nordic criminology.

## **The best article of 2025 goes to Lars Højsgaard Andersen for his article**

*Thirty years of prison alternatives in Denmark: Policy efficiency and inequality before the law*

### **Previous winners**

#### **2024**

Klara Hradilova Selin, Katharina Krüsselmann, Karoliina Suonpää and David Shannon. for their article "Trends in firearm homicide in 23 European countries – is Sweden an outlier?"

#### **2023**

Emelí Lönnqvist

"Prisoners of process: The development of remand prisoner rates in the Nordic countries".

#### **2022**

Thomas Ugelvik

"Three burglars, a friendly police inspector, and a vegetarian fox: Scandinavian exceptionalism, children's literature, and desistance-conducive cultures"

#### **2021**

María Hansen, Kari Stefansen & May-Len Skilbrei

"Non-reporting of sexual violence as action: acts, selves, futures in the making"

#### **2020**

Susanne Boethius & Malin Åkerström

"Revealing hidden realities: disclosing domestic abuse to informal others"

#### **2019**

Synøve Nygaard Andersen

"Partners in crime? Post-release recidivism among solo and co-offenders in Norway"

#### **2018**

Klara Hermansson

"The role of symbolic politics in exceptional crime policy debate: a study of the 2014 Swedish general election"

## The Nordic Journal of Criminology Best Article Prize

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Lars Højsgaard Andersen  
research professor at the  
ROCKWOOL Foundation in  
Copenhagen, authored of the  
winning article of 2023:  
**“Thirty years of prison  
alternatives in Denmark: Policy  
efficiency and inequality before  
the law”.**



**Congratulations, Lars You just won a prize for a research article published in NJC.  
What made you write this particular text?**

*“Working with this research has been tremendously fun and I am both deeply honored and super excited that the resulting article has been awarded the Article of the Year Award. Many thanks to the editorial board members who voted for it - and to each and every editorial board member, reviewer, and not the least Editor Tutenges for their devotion to this important journal. The article focuses on the type of policy tension which welfare states and punishment systems indirectly struggle with all the time: Balancing the efficiency of policies against their distributional consequences. In an increasingly punitive era in our Nordic region, this tension is all the more relevant - and I thank Editor Tutenges and the stellar reviewers for both embracing this relevance and for guiding me to the tension's historical roots in our region. The study uses register data on sentenced people over the past 30 years in Denmark and analyzes the gradual expansion of noncustodial alternatives to imprisonment. Put only too briefly, the results show that these alternatives have succeeded in landing the same individual-level rate of criminal recidivism (no individual level causal effect, which is not the same as saying that the shifts in punishment tools did not affect the population level crime or recidivism rate, as one reviewer cleverly pointed out). But more theoretically (and, I guess, politically) important, the results also document substantial inequality in who is allowed to serve their sentence in the noncustodial alternatives. People are sentenced for the same acts but are assigned to the alternatives based on risk factors, producing inequality before the law along lines that we as social scientists typically care a lot about: educational background, prior income, and, although to a lesser degree, ethnic minority background. Sadly, the study or article cannot solve this challenge or solve the fundamental tension between policy efficiency and the aim of equality before the law. But it is my hope that it can push politicians and policy makers to be mindful of the tension in the policies that they design. Again, thank you so much for awarding me this honor.”*

# Nordisk Tidsskrift for Kriminalvidenskab

*Nordisk Tidsskrift for Kriminalvidenskab* (NTfK) is a scientific journal aimed at researchers and other professionals with an interest in criminal law or criminological topics.

NTfK also fulfills a criminal policy function in a common Nordic context. NTfK publishes in Danish, Norwegian, Swedish and English. NSfK has supported the journal, as well as the research providing its content, for years. NSfK became co-owner of NTfK in 2022.

In 2025, the journal published x articles.

**NTfK is one of the oldest and most prestigious Nordic and international journals within criminal justice and criminological studies.**

NTfK has been published under the name *Nordisk Tidsskrift for Kriminalvidenskab* since 1949. During the period 1913–1948, the journal was published under the name *Nordisk Tidsskrift for Strafferet*.

In 1949, the name was changed into *Nordisk Tidsskrift for Kriminalvidenskab*. Since then, NTfK has been the member journal for all Nordic Associations for Criminalists.

However, the journal has an even longer history starting in 1878 with *Nordisk Tidsskrift for Fængselsvæsen og praktisk Strafferet*, which was published up til 1912 (for a period under the more precise and detailed name: *Nordisk Tidsskrift for Fængselsvæsen og øvrige penitentiære Institutioner: Organ for den nordiska Penitentiærföreningen*).

The journal's content back to 1878 can be accessed through its [online archive](#).



Editor-in-chief: Anette Storgaard

# Facts and figures

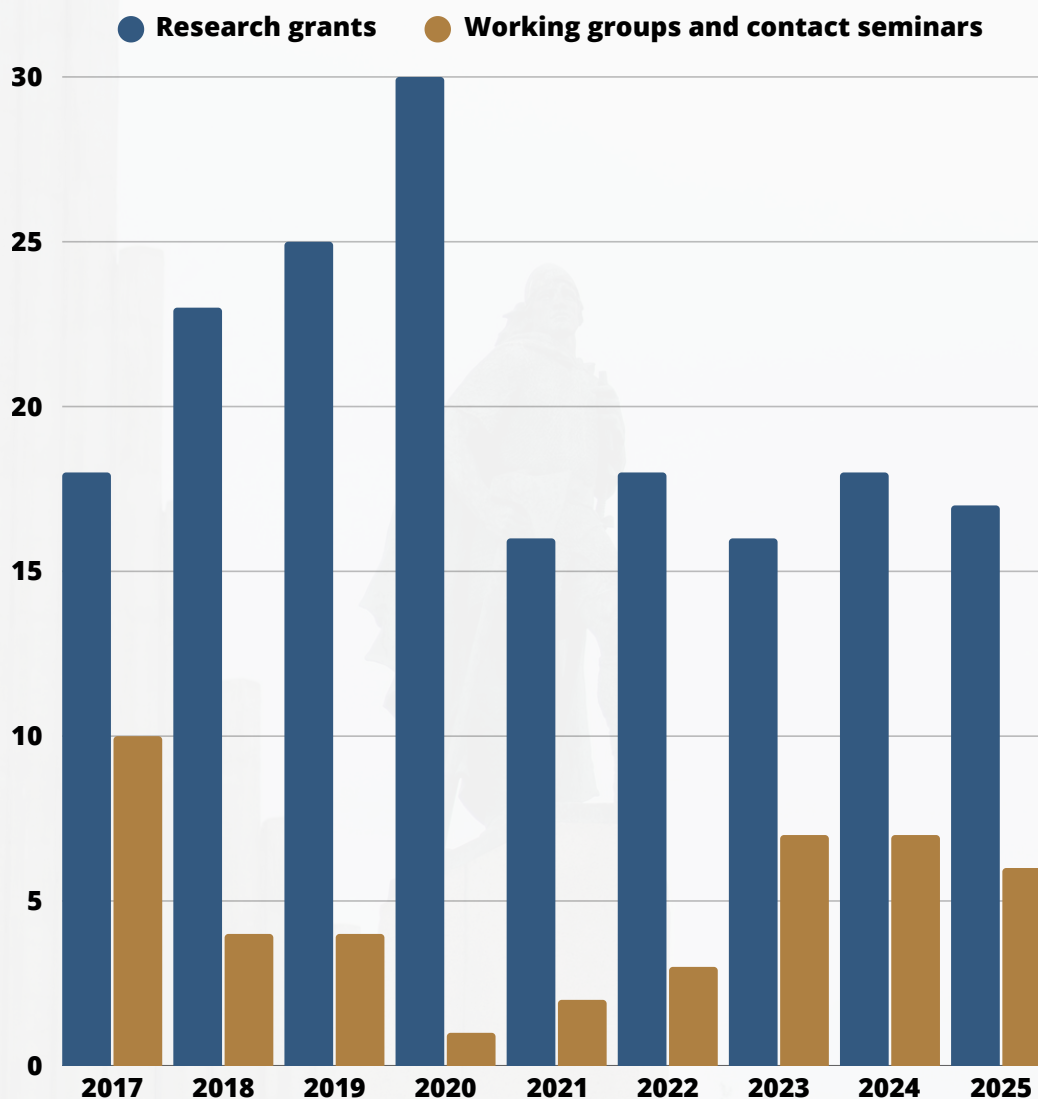
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## Total amount granted 2017–2025

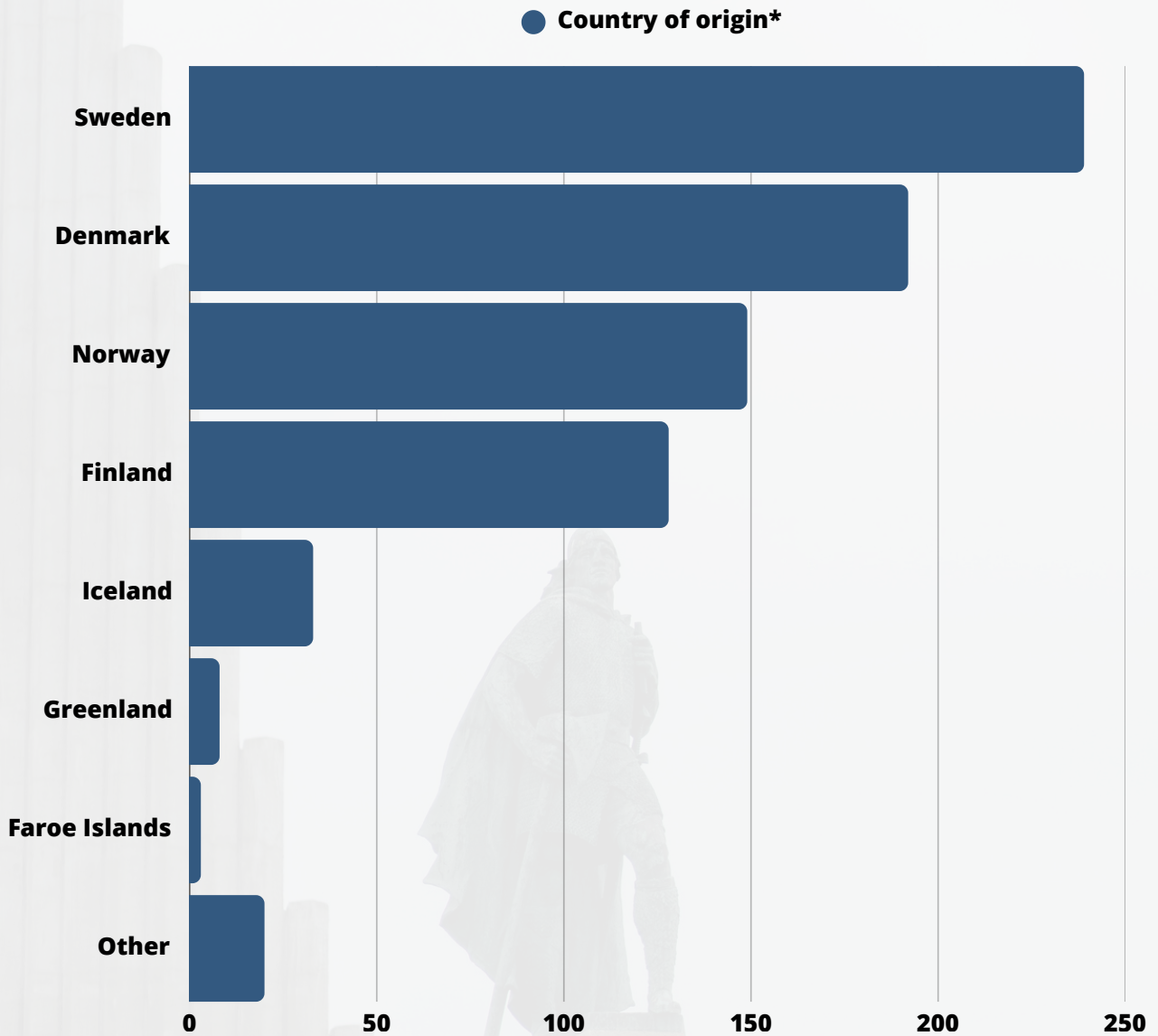
Research grants: 443.312.000 ISK to a total of 42 projects  
Travel grants: 12.921.000 ISK for a total of 115 trips  
Working groups/Contact seminars: 31.336.000 ISK to a total of 32 WG/CS

## Applications 2017–2025



\*The total number of applications received, 2017–2025.

## Applications by country of origin — 2017–2025



\*All application types, 2017–2024.



# Financial statements

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# NSfK accounts 2025

<b>Incoming Balance</b>	<b>18.345.593</b>
Incoming balance NSfK*	17.098.593
Incoming balance NTfK*	1.247.000
<b>Income</b>	<b>69.514.903</b>
Government contributions	69.514.903
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>67.549.273</b>
<b>Grants</b>	<b>26.461.379</b>
Research Grants (Call)	22.140.000
Working Groups (Call)	3.000.000
Travel Grants	1.321.379
<b>Annual meetings</b>	<b>14.421.769</b>
Council meeting	1.477.492
Research seminar	10.556.277
PhD meeting	2.388.000
<b>Administration</b>	<b>17.552.611</b>
Chair	0
Secretariat	16.144.915
Administration - operating costs	1.407.696
<b>Communication</b>	<b>2.626.464</b>
Web pages, Email services & Grant application portal	1.034.498
Contact secretaries	1.591.966
Other communication costs	0

\*) All sums are in ISK

<b>NJC</b>	<b>6.487.050</b>
Publishing fee (yearly cost + language editing) NJC	3.850.083
Editor-in-Chief (Tutenges) NJC	1.758.848
Editorial assistant / Co-Editor (Boethius) NJC	878.119
<b>NTfK * see separate budget</b>	<b>1.199.067</b>
NSFK contribution to NTfK	1.074.600
<b>Balance</b>	<b>19.122.156</b>

**Nordisk Tidsskrift for Kriminalvidenskab balance 2024–2025\***

Balance received from Norway 2025	3.289.221
Income from other criminal organizations	875.696
Grants NSfK	1.074.600
Total expenses 2025	1.952.423
<b>Correct balance NTfK pr 31.12.2024</b>	<b>3.867.836</b>

**Total balance 31.12.2025**

NSFK	15.244.320
NTfK	3.867.836
<b>Total</b>	<b>19.122.156</b>

\*) All sums are in ISK

