



# BALKAN CRIMINOLOGY

Violence in the Balkans  
in the focus of Balkan Criminology's  
current research activities

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# RESEARCH ON VIOLENCE (IN EUROPE)



- Two main lines of research
  - Violence as a general vs. homicide as a particular subject
- Focus often on specific phenomena rather than on violence in general
  - Youth violence, gang violence, sexual violence, domestic violence, political violence, terrorism, hooliganism, etc.
  - Homicide/suicide, intimate partner homicide, femicide, genocide, etc.
- Growing interest in homicide
  - e.g., Liem & Pridemore, Handbook of European Homicide Research (2012); Kivivuori, Suonpää & Lehti, European Journal of Criminology, Special issue 2014(5) on homicide in Europe
  - European Homicide Monitor, European Homicide Research Group (EHRG)
- **Balkans rarely (and not systematically) covered**



# VIOLENCE IN THE BALKAN CONTEXT



- Balkan-specific stereotypes:  
"The region of violence" (Sundhaussen 2014)
  - The Balkans as a region of rough- and wilderness
  - ... as a sanctuary of violence
  - ... as a paradise of illegal markets and organized crime
  - ... as an exporter of (violent) crime
- Violent regional conflicts of the 1990s
- Regional particularities, different traditions
- Fragmented data
  - National statistics not (directly) comparable
  - Insufficient coverage of the region in international statistics (European Sourcebook) and comparative studies



# MPPG'S RESEARCH AGENDA



## RESEARCH FOCUS I: Violence, Organised Crime and Illegal Markets

PROJECT TITLE	HEAD	CATEGORY	ORGANISAT. STATUS	FUNDING	TIME-FRAME
Mapping the Criminological Landscape of the Balkans	Assist. Prof. Dr. Getoš Kalac	regional	MPPG	MPPG, MPG, PFZ, MPI	2013-2014
Violence in the Balkans	Assist. Prof. Dr. Getoš Kalac	regional	MPPG	MPPG	2015-2016
Balkan Homicide Study	Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Albrecht, Assist. Prof. Dr. Getoš Kalac	regional	MPI, MPPG	MPI, MPPG	2016-2017
Balkan Criminology – Focus on Organised Crime and Illegal Markets: Sex, Guns and ‘Balkan Rock ’n’ Roll’	Assist. Prof. Dr. Getoš Kalac	individual	MPPG PostDoc	Fulbright Visiting Scholar	2014-2017
Trafficking in Human Beings in and through the Balkans – A Qualitative Analysis	Mr. Ressler	individual	MPPG PhD	MPPG	2014-2016
Tools for the Validation and Utilisation of EU Statistics on Human Trafficking (TRAFSTAT Croatia)	Prof. Dr. Derenčinović, Assist. Prof. Dr. Getoš Kalac	international	PFZ, MPPG	European Commission	2012-2014
A Criminological and Criminal Law Analysis of Prostitution in Croatia	Mr. Mihaljević	individual	PFZ, MPPG PhD	MPPG	2015-2017
Economic Espionage in Europe (WISKOS Croatia)	Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Albrecht	international	MPPG	BMBF	2014-2016
Responsibility of Political Parties for Criminal Offences	Dr. Maršavelski	individual	joint MPPG PhD	MPI, PFZ, CSF	2013-2015
Criminal Responsibility for Severe Economic Crimes Committed in Transitional Periods	Dr. Roksandić Vidlička	individual	joint MPPG PhD	MPI, PFZ	2013-2015






# MPPG'S RESEARCH AGENDA



- Currently two major research projects
  1. Violence in the Balkans
  2. Balkan Homicide Study
- Participation in further (external) projects





# THE BALKAN HOMICIDE STUDY



- Focus on homicide in selected Balkan countries
  - AL, BiH, HR, KV, MK, RI, TK
- Macro and micro perspectives
- Focus on (disaggregate) empirical data, to be generated from different sources
  - Prosecutorial statistics
  - Prosecutorial case files (if accessible)
  - Court files and/or judicial verdicts





# VIOLENCE IN THE BALKANS



- Part of MPPG's basic 'Mapping' exercises
- Macro perspective, descriptive
- Inventory of the actual status quo in all Balkan countries
  - Concepts and definitions
  - Legal regulations
  - Prevalence
  - Phenomenology
- Country reports, comparative analyses, general conclusions, basis/incentive for further research







# PROJECT DESIGN



- The concept of violence
  - Definition and understanding of "violence" (normative, criminological, political, traditional)
  - Public perception and understanding
  - Spectacular cases that have attracted public attention in recent years
  - Discussions in media and greater public, criminal policies, political programs, significant legal changes in regard to violent crime (general, specific)
  - Potential historical factors of influence (past armed conflicts, social and economic transition, etc.)







# PROJECT DESIGN



- Legal framework
  - Relevant legal provisions
  - Types of regulation:  
statutory elements, mens rea, privileged/qualified forms, etc.
  - Sentencing and enforcement of sentences:  
statutory sentences (minimum/maximum), aggravating/mitigating factors, probation/parole, security detention or other security measures for violent offenders, etc.
  - Procedural particularities:  
special jurisdictions, in camera proceedings, plea/sentence bargaining, victim participation, victim/offender mediation, etc.
  - Victim protection





# PROJECT DESIGN



## ■ Prevalence

- Available data sources (statistics, scientific studies, etc.)
- Frequencies (crimes/cases, offenders, victims) and rates (per 100,000 inhabitants) for the most relevant categories of crimes
- Rates of clearance, indictments, convictions
- Regional/local particularities
- Actual and average sentences imposed
- *If available: data on recidivism*
- General trends





# PROJECT DESIGN



## ■ Phenomenology

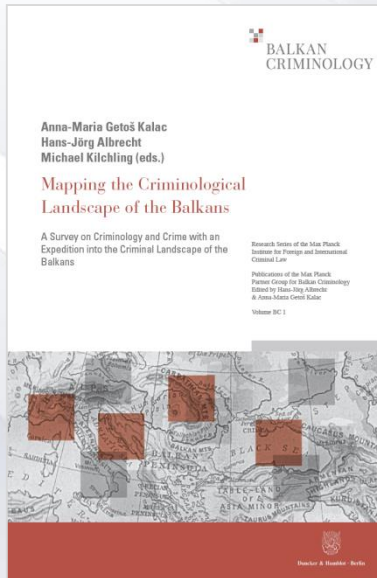
- Offender and victim profiles: sex, age (juvenile/adult), victim/offender relationship, nationality, ethnicity, educational and social status, etc.
- Predominant crime patterns: situational characteristics, use of weapons, alcohol/drug use, etc.
- Motives (*and, if available, function of the use of violence*)
- Relation to informal economy, organized crime, etc.
- Political



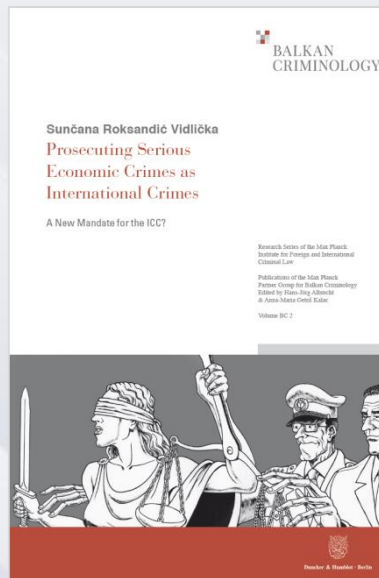
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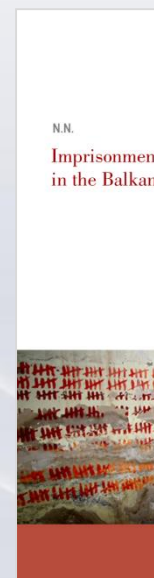
BALKAN  
CRIMINOLOGY



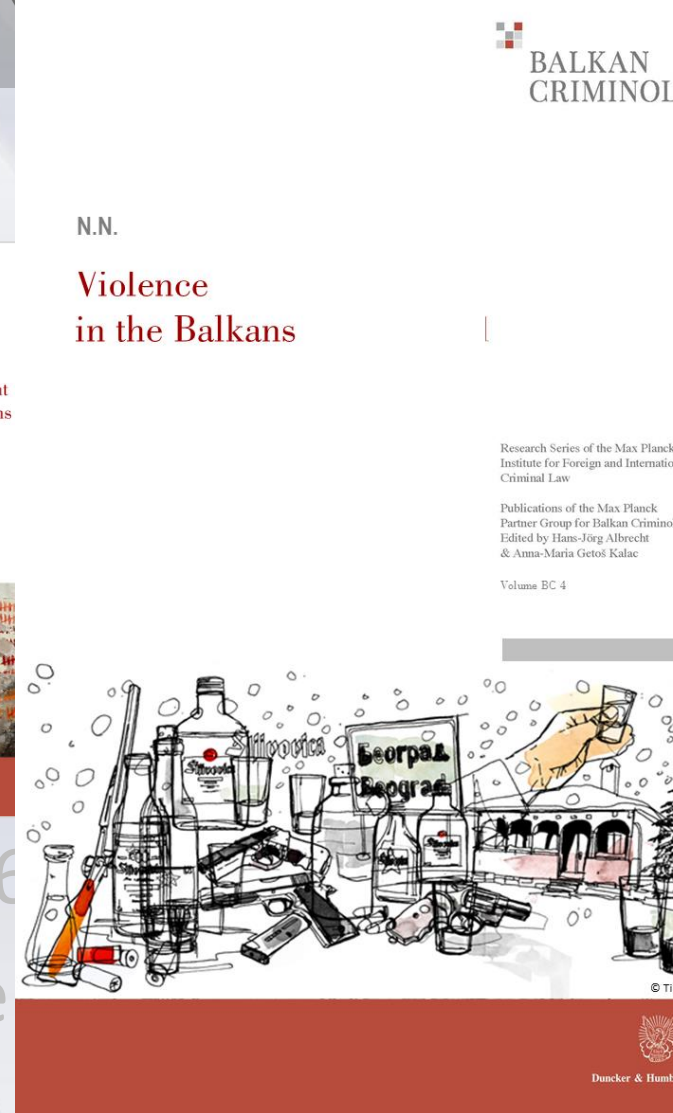
2014



2016



2016



N.N.

## Violence in the Balkans

Research Series of the Max Planck  
Institute for Foreign and International  
Criminal Law

Publications of the Max Planck  
Partner Group for Balkan Criminology  
Edited by Hans-Jörg Albrecht  
& Anna-Maria Getoş Kalac

Volume BC 4

2018: The Balkan Homicide



Thank you  
for your attention.

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