Crime Surveys User Conference 2021
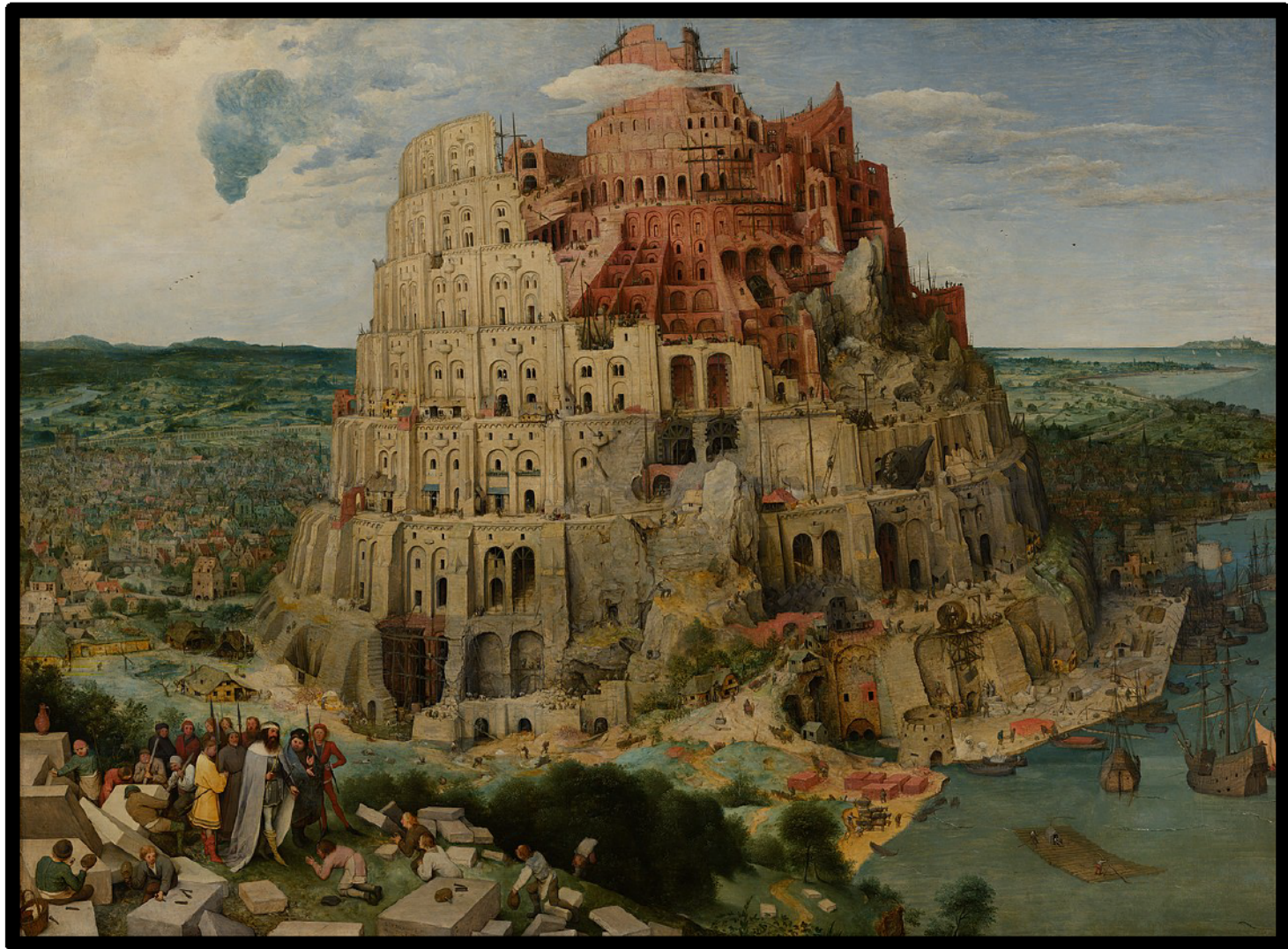
'Unveiling the un-hidden'. The data-policy nexus in Eastern and Western Europe.

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De bouw van de toren van Babel, by Pieter Brueghel the Elder, 1563

An old Russian Proverb...

The Problem

"The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there." **(Hartley, 1953).**

- The Sapir-Whorf hypothesis and linguistic relativity.

- Language separation and human progress.

- The Anglocentric nature of academic journals and research.

Criminology, or is it?

Криминалистика (Criminalistica)– a practical science about solving crimes. Focused on tactics, methods and techniques used.

(Forensic science? Penology? Crime science?)

Криминология (Criminologiya)– a theoretical science, looking at offending, victim and offender characteristics, causes for crime and ways of crime prevention.

(Criminology?)

The Solution

Facilitation of cross-national information exchange of immediate practical relevance.

- Common metrics on harm and suffering.
- Evidence-based practice solutions.

Sensitisation to data applicability.

- Emulation and complementarity.

Clarification of basic perspectives on policy issues.

- What gets counted, counts.
- The need for criminological Ignaz Semmelweis.

Revealing horrors in plain sight.

- Maybe we are looking the other way intentionally.

Victimisation Surveys

- Common practice in the West

- Barely emerging across the rest of the world

- The function is often fulfilled by random non-academic websites and online tests

- Unquestionably practical, cheap to administer, and bring invaluable knowledge to supplement practice
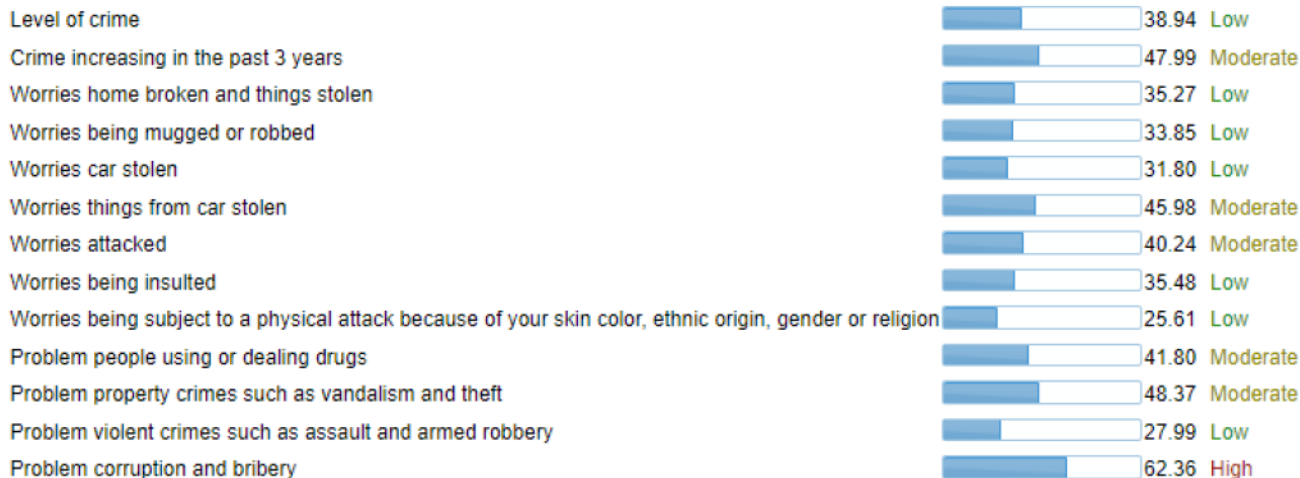
Cost Of Living ▾ Property Prices ▾ Quality Of Life ▾ Premium ▾ Jobs ▾

Crime > Latvia

Crime in Latvia

Select city in Latvia: [--- Select city--- ▾]

Do you live in Latvia? Add data for Latvia

Index ⓘ
Crime Index: 38.69
Safety Index: 61.31

Crime

38.69

Crime rates in Latvia

Level of crime	38.94	Low
Crime increasing in the past 3 years	47.99	Moderate
Worries home broken and things stolen	35.27	Low
Worries being mugged or robbed	33.85	Low
Worries car stolen	31.80	Low
Worries things from car stolen	45.98	Moderate
Worries attacked	40.24	Moderate
Worries being insulted	35.48	Low
Worries being subject to a physical attack because of your skin color, ethnic origin, gender or religion	25.61	Low
Problem people using or dealing drugs	41.80	Moderate
Problem property crimes such as vandalism and theft	48.37	Moderate
Problem violent crimes such as assault and armed robbery	27.99	Low
Problem corruption and bribery	62.36	High

Safety in Latvia

Safety walking alone during daylight	81.21	Very High
Safety walking alone during night	54.55	Moderate

Contributors: 475

Last update: November 2021

Present Research

- 2018,2019 and 2021*
- N-322, 97% fully completed
- 54% Russian/19% Latvian
- 68.1% Latvian Citizens

1. Unequal distribution of crime and key victim characteristics
2. Crime seriousness judgements of the victim
3. Reasons for non-reporting of victimisation to the police
4. Fear of crime and other emotions experiences during victimisation

1) Unequal distribution of crime and key victim characteristics

- CSEW (Ignatans and Pease, 2015) and ICVS studies (Pease and Ignatans, 2016a) show that **victimisation is unequally distributed**

- Few people experience a huge proportion of total victimisation

- **Victim characteristics** have **remained the same** over the last three decades

Figure 1. Proportion of vehicle, property and personal victimisation as experienced by the top 30 percentiles in Latvia.

Huge proportion of victimisation experienced by top percentile/decile.

Vehicle   Property   Personal   Total

Figure 2. Average numbers of vehicle, property and personal victimisation as experienced by the top 30 percentiles in Latvia.

Average numbers of victimisation experienced by top percentile/decile are worrying.

Table 1. Statistically significant characteristics distinguishing top decile of most victimised from the rest, split by vehicle, property, personal and total victimisation.

	Vehicle	Property	Personal	Total
Gender	Ns	Ns	Ns	Ns
Marriage (No)	Ns	<.05	<.005	<.05
Citizen (Yes)	<.005	<.1	<.1	<.05
Living In the Region (Less than a Year)	Ns	Ns	<.1	Ns
Living In the Address (Less than a Year)	Ns	Ns	<.1	Ns
Working (Yes)	<.001	Ns	Ns	Ns
Working (No)	Ns	<.1	<.1	Ns
FT or PT (FT)	Ns	Ns	Ns	<.1
Housing (Flat or House)	<.05	Ns	Ns	<.05
Renting (Yes)	Ns	Ns	<.001	<.1
Seen Crime (Yes)	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001
Age (Younger)	<.001	Ns	<.001	<.001
Age (Older)	Ns	<.001	Ns	Ns
N Adults (Fewer)	Ns	<.001	<.001	<.001
N Children (Fewer)	<.05	<.001	<.001	<.001

Predicting repeat victimisation is quite straight forward.

2) Crime seriousness and the victim

- CSEW (Ignatans and Pease, 2016b) shows that **victimisation is perceived as much more serious by repeat victims** and is **distributed unequally**

- **Ethnic minorities** in the UK are proven to **perceive victimisation as more serious** than the native population (Los, Ignatans and Pease, 2017)

Figure 3. Proportion of victims choosing crime seriousness scores from 1(least serious)-20 (most serious) by vehicle, property and personal crime.

Huge proportion of victimisation is rated as 20. Vehicle-related victimisation rated as most serious.

■ Vehicle ■ Property ■ Personal □ Total

Three most victimised top deciles of population (all repeat victims) experience 15.7% of seriousness each.

3) Non-reporting to the police and the reasons for it

- CSEW data shows that **people who cooperate with the police** generally **have a good experience** and perceive them well.

- **Ethnic minorities** in the UK **report victimisation to the police less** than the native population (Los, Ignatans and Pease, 2017), all while viewing their victimisation incidents as more severe.

Table 2. Examination of citizenship and ethnicity upon reporting of crime to the police, reasons for not doing so and the experiences when cooperating.

		Citizenship		Ethnic Belonging		
		Citizen	Non-Citizen	Latvian	Russian	Other
	% Victimised	72.6	53.8	69.8	73	52.2
	% Reported to Police	44.7	39.3	45	44.2	34.5
	Cooperation Rating	9.72	11.3	9.56	10.41	8.1
Reasons for non-report	% Police does not care	27.8	22.2	15.4	33.3	38.9
	% Police could not help	31.5	33.3	61.5	21.4	16.7
	% Other ways to deal with	24.1	38.9	15.4	28.6	33.3
	% Did not care enough	16.7	5.6	7.7	16.7	11.1
	Expected Cooperation Rating	4.6	3.8	3.33	1.2	5.3

Difference between cooperation ratings and expected cooperation is vast, and greatest for people identifying as Russian.

Reasons for non reporting drastically vary between the national identities.

4) Emotions experienced after victimisation

- CSEW data shows that people are **usually not afraid of crime but angry/annoyed** about it (Ignatans and Pease, 2019).

- "Fight" – anger/annoyance and "flight" – fear/weakness responses are directly associated with different attitudes to solving crime. Fight = self policing, flight = delegating to the police.

Table 3. Emotional responses to victimisation by victimisation status, crime seriousness rating, citizenship and ethnicity.

	Victimisation		Seriousness	
	Single	Repeat	Low (1-9)	Medium to High (10-20)
Anger	33.3	33.8	46.4	28.2
Fear	32.1	22.5	7.1	24.1
Weakness	12.3	26.3	17.9	23.5
Disappointment	22.2	17.5	28.6	14.1

Anger is the dominant emotion in all these groups.

	Citizenship		Ethnic Belonging		
	Citizen	Non-Citizen	Latvian	Russian	Other
Anger	35.2	24.1	16.7	37.3	32.1
Fear	25	39.9	44.4	25.4	25
Weakness	22.7	21	27.8	19.4	21.9
Disappointment	17	15	11.1	17.9	21

Difference between experiencing anger and fear is linked with national identity.

Data Conclusions

1) **Victimisation** in Latvia **is unequally distributed** and **super victims** are **easy to identify**.

2) Reported **crime seriousness ratings are much higher for repeat victims** (of whom there is plenty) further supporting the first point and requiring intervention on a local level.

3) **Ethnic and national groups** not represented in the police forces are **less likely to cooperate with the police** and trust them, but will find their own ways to deal with crime.

4) **Same groups of people will be more angry than afraid** about their victimisation incidence, further explaining the third point.

Theoretical Conclusions

1) Integration of Europe in scholarship about crime.

2) Research (after some cultural contextualisation) is highly likely to have similar/same practical implications.

3) There is plenty we can learn from existing crime surveys, the bicycle does not need to be reinvented.

4) Uniting/reuniting криминалистику and криминологию.

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