

## **‘Cultural Criminology – understanding drug use, crime and youth subcultures’**

**Ph.D.-course, *Copenhagen*, January 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**University of Aarhus, Graduate School of Social Sciences**

During the last decades, Nordic societies as well as many other Western societies have faced new challenges in terms of youth deviance and crime. This has made traditional criminological explanations based on e.g. rational choice theory or deprivation theories appear insufficient, and calls for new approaches to understanding young people’s crime and deviance. This Ph.D. course aims at exploring the possibilities for new research developments within the perspective of Cultural Criminology.

Cultural Criminology is a relatively new tradition founded in both the UK and the US, emphasising the importance of including the cultural dimension when trying to understand crime. Cultural Criminology focuses on the cultural processes of crime and the construction of crime and crime control as social products, and situates this in theories of everyday life and transgression. On a methodological level, Cultural Criminology argues in favour of incorporating qualitative approaches in a world dominated by numbers and measures. The topics of Cultural Criminology are many and diverse, covering topics such as youth subcultures, drug use and intoxication, style, media culture, surveillance society, gangs and street culture, crime control and many more.

The focus of this course will be on youth culture, drugs and deviance within the theoretical and methodological traditions forming Cultural Criminology. Cultural Criminology draws upon the rich tradition of criminological work within sociology, and many of the key themes and ideas are therefore not in themselves new. However, with Cultural Criminology they are placed within the particular challenges of theorising and studying deviance and crime in late modern society.

### **Aim of the course**

The course seeks to introduce participants thoroughly to the theoretical and methodological dimensions of Cultural Criminology. Through lectures, active workshops and paper presentations course participants will become familiar with key aspects of Cultural Criminology and advance their critical reflection on this approach. The ambition is to create a forum for discussion and for trying out new ideas together. In addition, the course provides a setting for participants to form networks within the area of criminology in the Nordic countries.

**Invited speakers:**

- Keith Hayward (Ph.D, Senior Lecturer in Criminology and Sociology, University of Kent, UK)
- Geoffrey Hunt (Ph.D., Senior Research Associate, Institute for Scientific Analysis, California, US)
- Sveinung Sandberg (Ph.D., University of Bergen, Norway)

**Time and location:**

The course will be held in **Copenhagen** on January 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Details on the venue will be announced later.

**Course readings, papers and preparation for the course:**

The course comprises three steps of preparation:

## 1) Course readings

Course readings will be announced in November on the course website. The following book will be compulsory:

Ferrell et al. (2008): Cultural Criminology – an invitation. London: SAGE

Participants are expected to read the submitted papers.

## 2) Papers

All participants are expected to submit a very short paper (maximum 3 pages) positioning (part of) their own research project within the field of Cultural Criminology on the basis of the course literature. These papers will form the basis of the group discussions on day two, but will not be commented upon in detail.

In addition, participants can submit a full research paper, if this is related to the field of Cultural Criminology. Accepted papers will be presented and discussed on day three on the course. Participants with a full paper will be entitled to an additional course credit (cf. below).

## 3) Group work

Participants will be divided into small groups and assigned a task which must be prepared in advance. Each group will give a presentation on the basis of this task during the workshop sessions on day two. The workshop session on the first day is reserved for group work, but participants should expect to communicate with group members before course commencement. Detailed information on tasks and groups will be given to accepted participants after the deadline for application.

**Language:**

English

**Deadlines:**

The deadline for signing up for the course is December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Information on acceptance will reach you no later than 23<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

The deadline for submission of papers (short papers as well as full papers) is January 11<sup>th</sup> 2010.

NB: The course has a maximum of 25 participants due to the focus on creating a productive environment which facilitates discussion.

**Fee:**

For Ph.D.s within the Danish open market: DKR. 500,-

For Ph.D.s outside the Danish open market: Fee will be announced later.

The fee covers coffee/tea and lunch during all three days and a welcome reception on the first day.

Participants pay for transportation costs and accommodation in Copenhagen. Participants are required to arrange their own accommodation and travel.

*Possibilities for partial funding will be announced later.*

**ECTS (suggested – check with your own institution):**

3 ECTS without paper

4 ECTS with full paper

**Registration:**

You apply for the Ph.D. course by sending an email to [culturalcrim@crf.au.dk](mailto:culturalcrim@crf.au.dk) no later than December 15<sup>th</sup> 2009. The email should contain the following information: Name and department, address of

university and, for Danish participants EAN number, for foreign participants University VAT number.

Please write “Application Ph.D. course” in the subject and attach a short CV and a short description of your Ph.D. project (½ page).

Important: If you will be submitting a **full** paper, also attach an abstract of this in your application.

### **Organisers:**

The course is being offered by the Aarhus Graduate School of Social Sciences, University of Aarhus in collaboration with SFI – The Danish National Centre for Social Research. The organizing committee consists of:

- Jakob Demant (assistant professor, Centre for Alcohol and Drug Research, University of Aarhus, DK)
- Tea Torbenfeldt Bengtsson (Ph.D. student, SFI - The Danish National Centre for Social Research)
- Signe Ravn (Ph.D. student, Centre for Alcohol and Drug Research, University of Aarhus, DK)

### **Contact:**

If you have any questions regarding the course, please contact us at: [culturalcrim@crf.au.dk](mailto:culturalcrim@crf.au.dk)

<http://www.samfundsvidenskab.au.dk/en/research/aarhus-graduate-school-of-social-sciences/phd-programmes/social-sciences/courses/>

### **Preliminary programme**

#### Day 1: Introduction

- 11-12: Welcome session; registration, brief presentation of course participants and their Ph.D. projects.
- 12-13: Lunch
- 13-15: Workshop (working in groups)
- 15-17: Opening lecture (public): “Cultural Criminology – introducing the field” (preliminary title). Keith Hayward, University of Kent, UK.
- 17-18: Welcome reception
- Evening: Potentially meeting up in groups

## Day 2: Cultural criminology: Theoretical approaches

- 9-10.30: “Narrative criminology” (preliminary title). Sveinung Sandberg, University of Bergen, Norway.
- 10.30-11: Break
- 11-12.30: “What is distinct about cultural criminology?” (preliminary title). Keith Hayward, University of Kent, UK.
- 12.30-13.30: Lunch
- 13.30-15.30: Workshop – group presentations
- 15.30-16: Break
- 16-17.30: Workshop – group presentations (continued)

## Day 3: Doing Cultural Criminology

- 9-10.30: ”What constitutes “the good cultural criminology study?” Considerations on mixing methodologies and approaches” (preliminary title). Geoffrey Hunt, Institute for Scientific Analysis, USA.
- 10.30-11: Break
- 11-12.30: Workshop/paper session
- 12.30-13.30: Lunch
- 13.30-14.30: “Criminology in the Nordic Countries”. Jakob Demant, Centre for Alcohol and Drug Research, University of Aarhus, Denmark.
- 14.30-14.45: Break
- 14.45-16.15: Workshop/paper session
- 16.15-16.30: Recapitulation, concluding remarks