

Presentation title:

Interpreting and using 'culture' in comparisons of crime and justice

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International and comparative research in criminology has noticeably increased in recent decades, and so has a particular term within it: culture. This coincided with several scholarly milestones that centre culture as an important concept in explaining crime and justice phenomena. Yet in the context of Westerncentrism, who uses the term and how it is used remains unarticulated. Using a systematic search of the literature, this scoping review on the use and interpretation of culture attempts to illuminate the relationship between Westerncentric bias and the current state of criminological knowledge production in international and comparative research. The findings address patterns of culture's appearance in criminology journals in the past two decades and its meaning among 230 select publications.