

Speaker: *Michael Mills, Ioannis Papadopoulos, Olga Petintseva and Rita Faria*

Presentation title: Qualitative methodologies in Criminology

The panel will present the work and initiatives conducted by the Working Group on Qualitative Research Methodologies and Epistemologies (WG-QRME) hosted by the European Society of Criminology. The WG-QRME is dedicated to providing space and opportunities for researchers using qualitative methodologies when studying crime and crime related topics, such as deviance, crime control, harms, and victimization.

Qualitative methodologies and epistemologies, while allowing complex, relational and in-depth analysis of several topics of research, pose specific challenges to researchers collecting and analyzing data, such as gaining and maintaining access to participants, inquiring socially deprived and vulnerable groups, inquiring organizations and elite or powerful groups, use of innovative methods, ethical considerations on the participants' and the researchers' well-being. Moreover, the issues of quality control, action-research, social utility and its potential use to critically inform policies, demand that researchers in Criminology come together, exchange, and cooperate to develop and advance qualitative methodologies and epistemologies for robust criminological inquiry, especially with the ongoing global pandemics.

The thematic panel will present the goals of the WG-QRME, as well as some of the work conducted by its chairs. Ioannis Papadopoulos will be discussing the use of interpretative phenomenology in migration studies and how qualitative research allowed him to examine the criminalisation of unaccompanied migrant minors through detention processes.

Michael Mills will discuss his use of ethnography (and, in particular, the issue of access to the field) in research on the far-right American subculture of 'doomsday' prepping.

Olga Petintseva and Rita Faria will discuss reflexivity in research and argue in favor of creating spaces and mechanisms to foster a community of researchers developing shared reflexivity throughout the research process.